

A large, stylized number '3' is the central graphic of the page. It is composed of thick green lines with rounded corners. The top loop of the '3' contains the text 'Corporate Governance'. The middle bar of the '3' contains the number '3'. The bottom loop of the '3' is empty.

# Corporate Governance

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# Corporate Governance

## Governance Framework

Governance holds the department and its people to account through defined responsibilities, policies, systems and processes. It is the system through which the department is controlled and operates to achieve its performance objectives and accountability.

The department's governance framework is based on the Australian Securities Exchange's principles of corporate governance which have been reworked for a public sector environment.

The department is governed by the framework's nine principles, each of which has operational elements used to assess governance maturity level and identify opportunities for improvement.

## Governance Principles

### 1. Government and Public Sector Relationship

The department's relationship with the government is clear

### 2. Management and Oversight

The department's management and oversight is accountable and has clearly defined responsibilities

### 3. Organisational Structure

The department's structure serves its operations

### 4. Operations

The department plans its operations to achieve its goals

### 5. Ethics and Integrity

Ethics and integrity are embedded in the department's values and operations

### 6. People

The department's leadership in people management contributes to individual and organisational achievements

### 7. Finance

The department safeguards financial integrity and accountability

### 8. Communication

The department communicates with all parties in a way that is accessible, open and responsive

### 9. Risk Management

The department identifies and manages its risks.

1. Our Department

2. Our People

3. Corporate Governance

4. Outputs and Performance

5. Financial Statements

## Accountability and Standards

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is supported by the Governance Board through a clearly defined administrative structure. As needs change and restructures occur, the organisational chart, which clearly sets out the accountability pathway, is updated and published on the intranet.

When this structure is changed, each corporate delegation and internal control mechanism is reviewed to ensure relevance and currency.

## Executive Committees

### Governance Board

The Governance Board provides governance and leadership to a number of committees that support the department's key objectives and purpose.

The Governance Board is the department's principal planning and decision-making body on corporate governance matters. The CEO is primarily responsible for providing strategic leadership and system development for the department.

The Governance Board includes representatives from all output groups of the department. Other department officers attend Governance Board meetings as required to provide presentations.

Members of the Governance Board:

- Chief Executive Officer (Chair)
- Executive Director, Rangelands
- Executive Director, Corporate Services
- Executive Director, Water Resources
- Executive Director, Flora and Fauna
- Executive Director, Water Directorate
- Executive Director, Bushfires NT
- Regional Director, South
- Manager, Katherine Region
- Executive Officer to the Chief Executive Officer

The key responsibilities of the Governance Board are to:

- a. act as a consultative forum that provides advice on current and future direction for the department
- b. set strategic direction
- c. provide advice and support on the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the department's performance against its corporate responsibilities and objectives and to report against deliverables identified in the department's strategic plan through the annual report and budget papers
- d. provide a forum to consider issues arising from divisional activity that may be relevant to other Board members
- e. act as a decision-making body that considers and determines responses to policies that impact on the wider community
- f. act as the decision-making body for department-wide policies and systems, such as:
  - management of risk and assurance in relation to compliance with statutory requirements
  - strategic human resource and workforce planning and management
  - workplace health and safety
  - financial and budget management
  - information and records management and technology and telecommunications planning and management
- g. maximise opportunities for partnerships, networking and information sharing.

### Executive Management Group

The Executive Management Group (EMG) was established by the CEO and is a functional part of the department's strategic governance framework.

The EMG is the department's senior review body and is responsible for supporting the Governance Board and the CEO to meet strategic responsibilities and objectives.

Members of the EMG:

- Executive Director, Corporate Services (Chair)
- Executive Director, Rangelands
- Executive Director, Water Resources
- Executive Director, Water Directorate
- Executive Director, Flora and Fauna
- Executive Director, Bushfires NT
- Regional Director, South

The key activities of the EMG are to:

- act as a review body for department wide policies, frameworks and systems
- offer advice and feedback on division activities, policies and systems, as required
- promote alignment through divisional collaboration
- provide a forum to consider issues and opportunities arising from department and whole of government activities.

## Divisional Work Health and Safety Committees

As part of the Work Health and Safety (WHS) framework, committees are established within each division across the department. Each WHS Committee is chaired by the relevant Governance Board member.

All divisional committees:

- act as a consultative forum that provides advice on safety matters
- keep informed about standards of health and safety
- recommend maintenance and monitoring of programs, measures and procedures relating to the health and safety of workers
- conduct regular workplace inspections, including, when requested, a workplace relocation/redesign, or when an incident occurs

- consider, and make recommendations about, proposed workplace changes that may affect the health and safety of the workers
- review hazard and incident report trends and make recommendations as required.

In addition, the Bushfires NT WHS Committee, also:

- coordinates all WHS and risk management frameworks across Bushfires NT and volunteer bushfire brigades
- monitors and manages all WHS incidents
- reviews and manages all standard operating procedures, fire-ground practices, and general occupational policies
- manages feedback links to staff and volunteers in relation to any WHS matter

## Counter Disaster Committee

The Counter Disaster Committee:

- leads department activities prior to, and conducts appropriate reviews and evaluations after, an event
- ensures that the department meets its legislative responsibilities and obligations as a representative on the Counter Disaster Committee
- ensures that the department has an emergency management plan in place
- assists in coordinating the department's cyclone plans and monitoring cyclone preparedness and preparations.

Members of the Counter Disaster Committee:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Executive Director, Rangelands (Chair)
- Director, Land Development Coordination, Rangelands
- Director, Corporate Communications and Media, Corporate Services

## Audit and Risk Management Committee

The Audit and Risk Management Committee:

- monitors the department's strategic, corporate and operational risk management function and activities and the adequacy of the internal controls established to manage identified risks
- monitors the internal audit function (including development and implementation of the annual internal audit program, review and monitoring of terms of references, audit outcomes, management responses and implementation of the audit recommendations)
- monitors the external audit program (including audit outcomes, the department's responses and implementation of the audit recommendations)
- comments on the state of organisational governance within the scope of the committee's terms of reference in the areas of the department's risk management framework, the internal controls framework and external accountability.

Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee:

- Executive Director, Bushfires NT (Chair)
- Senior Scientist, Flora and Fauna
- Business Manager, Water Resources
- Director, Corporate Governance (Observer)
- Business Manager, Bushfires NT (Secretariat)

## Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Governance Committee

The ICT Governance Committee:

- reviews and endorses the business cases and project plans for ICT initiatives and investment decisions
- oversees the delivery of ICT initiatives and performance review of project delivery
- oversees the development and monitoring of ICT strategic directions and policies

- periodically monitors the department's ICT environment to ensure risks and issues are identified and appropriately managed
- reviews and endorses submissions for major ICT investments or initiatives for approval by the Northern Territory Government ICT Governance Board.

Members of the ICT Governance Committee:

- Regional Director, South (Chair)
- Executive Director, Flora and Fauna
- Executive Director, Water Resources Division
- Spatial Systems Development Manager, Water Resources Division
- Spatial Data Manager, Weed Management Branch, Rangelands
- Senior Policy Advisor, Bushfires NT
- Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Services
- Chief Information Officer, Corporate Services

## Governing Legislation

The department is responsible for administering 14 pieces of legislation, including eight Acts and six pieces of subordinate legislation.

This legislation provides an overriding direction for many department functions and is the foundation to a number of output groups. A department process of review is aimed at ensuring its legislation remains contemporary and relevant to its functions and incorporates best practice in the areas it administers.

Legislation administered:

1. **Bushfires Act**
  - a. Bushfires Regulations
  - b. Bushfires (Volunteer Bushfire Brigades) Regulations
2. **Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement Act**
3. **Pastoral Land Act** (except provisions about Aboriginal community living areas)
  - a. Pastoral Land Regulations

4. **Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act**
5. **Water Act**
  - a. Water Regulations
6. **Weeds Management Act**
  - a. Weeds Management Regulations
7. **Planning Act**
  - a. Land clearing approvals on un-zoned land (under a delegation from the Minister for Lands and Planning)
8. **Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, Part IV, Divisions 1-5**

## Legislative Changes 2015-16

### Bushfires Act

A review of the *Bushfires Act* included extensive public consultation throughout 2014-2015. The *Bushfires Management Act* was introduced and passed by the Legislative Assembly with bi-partisan support in the first half of 2016, and received assent on 7 June 2016. This new Act is expected to commence on 1 November 2016 and includes the following key changes:

- Recognition, authorisation and protection for volunteer fire fighters. Volunteers will be authorised to participate in fire management operations, and will enjoy protection from liability for fire management actions undertaken in good faith
- Introduction of a fire management planning framework incorporating annual regional planning and requirements for district and property level planning when a need is identified through risk assessment. This framework can accommodate a range of fire management regimes, including traditional fire management in the Indigenous estate, and can support projects associated with carbon emission abatement
- Strengthening the roles of the Bushfires Council and Regional Bushfires Committees
- Clarification of fire management responsibilities in different areas, and strengthening of requirements to manage fire risk, particularly in Fire Protection Zones which are areas of rural residential development.

### Weeds Management Act

- Finalised and approved the first statutory weed management plan for neem under the *Weeds Management Act* following public consultation in 2014-15
- Finalised and approved statutory weed management plans for chinee apple, mesquite and prickly acacia following public consultation in 2015-16
- Developed a draft statutory weed management plan for athel pine in collaboration with the Alice Springs Regional Weed Reference Group for public consultation in 2016-17
- Developed and released for public consultation, a draft statutory weed management plan for grader grass.

## Future Legislative Priorities

### Bushfires Act

The *Bushfires Management Act* received assent on 7 June 2016 and is scheduled to replace the *Bushfires Act* from 1 November 2016.

### Water Act

A review and amendment is required to the *Water Act* to:

- give a clearer and more explicit alignment to the National Water Initiative
- implement the decision by government to bring water resource management and regulation of mining and petroleum activities directly under the Act.

### Weeds Management Act

- Conduct public consultation on the statutory weed management plan for athel pine and obtain approval for its implementation
- Approve and initiate implementation of the statutory weed management plan for grader grass

- Review the statutory weed management plans for gamba grass, mimosa and bellyache bush
- Declare all Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) under the *Weeds Management Act*. These weeds include invasive opuntiod cacti, such as prickly pears and rope cacti
- Commence a review to ensure legislation meets the requirements of contemporary practice and development within the Northern Territory.

### Pastoral Land Act

- Commence a review to ensure legislation meets the requirements of contemporary practice and development within the Northern Territory.

## Statutory Committees and Bodies

As at 30 June 2016, the department was responsible for the following statutory committees and bodies:

### Water Advisory Committees

There were three Water Advisory Committees in operation in 2014-15; Alice Springs, Katherine and Berry Springs. Water Advisory Committees are established under section 23 of the *Water Act* to consider and advise the Controller of Water Resources on water management and allocation in specified areas. Committee members are appointed by the Minister for Land Resource Management. In late 2015 and early 2016 expressions of interest for members for a further four Water Advisory Committees were publicly advertised.

## Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory

The Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory recommends measures to the minister for effective fire management on all Territory land apart from the largely urban Emergency Response Areas serviced by the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service. The council meets twice yearly and this year considered a variety of strategic fire management issues including community and stakeholder engagement, fire mitigation priorities, seasonal risk analysis and support for the development of carbon emission abatement projects. The council also played a key role in the review of the

*Bushfires Act* and had significant input into shaping the new *Bushfires Management Act* which is scheduled to commence in November 2016.

Council members include landholders from all Territory regions, and stakeholder representatives from the Northern Territory Bushfire Volunteers Association, Northern and Central Land Councils and each of the six Regional Bushfires Committees. The council also includes members appointed as experts including representatives of the CSIRO, Bureau of Meteorology, and Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service.

## Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory

The council comprises:

- Mr Paul Blore (Chair)
- Mr Shaun Ansell
- Mr Chris Whatley
- Ms Alice Beilby
- Mr Bruce Sawyer
- Ms Elizabeth Bird
- Mrs Dianne Tynan
- Mr Len Rule
- Mr Norman Hooker
- Mr Garry Cook
- Mr Todd Smith
- Mr Robert Bright
- Ms Trish Rigby-Christopherson
- Mr Otto Champion
- Mr Paul Swain
- Mr Matt Braitling

## Regional Bushfires Committees

The Northern Territory is divided into six fire control regions that reflect varying land use, population density, climate, soils and vegetation type. Each region is represented by a Regional Bushfires Committee.

The regional committees advise the Bushfires Council

on strategic fire management issues from within their areas. The role is crucial to ensuring land owner fire management priorities are considered by the Bushfires Council in its recommendations to the minister. Regional committees are also key components of regional planning and consultation networks.

Committee members are selected on the basis of experience or skills in bushfire management and maintaining a spread of representation across each region.

## Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee

The Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee develops draft weed management plans and advises the Minister on weed issues and the progress of regional weed management through the auspices of the *Weed Management Act*.

Committee members include representatives from the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association, the Departments of Transport and Primary Industry and Fisheries, the Nursery and Garden Industry Association, the Environment Centre of the Northern Territory and the Regional Weed Reference Groups.

The committee comprises:

- Ms Jane Dellow (Chair)
- Ms Dionne Walsh
- Mr Anthony Cox
- Mr Garry Fischer
- Mr Jay Mohr-Bell
- Ms Anna Gazzard (nee Boustead)
- Dr Margaret Friedel
- Mr Anthony Kerr

## Pastoral Land Board

The board is a statutory authority charged with administering Northern Territory pastoral leases in accordance with the *Pastoral Land Act*. Its charter is to monitor the condition and use of pastoral land to facilitate both its sustainable use and the economic viability of the pastoral industry.

The board is made up of five members including a chairman, experienced pastoralists and a suitably qualified scientist.

The Board comprises:

- Mr Paul Zlotkowski (Chair from 26 June)
- Mr Richard Galton (Chair until 25 June)
- Mr Steven Craig
- Ms Anne Kilgariff
- Dr Leigh Hunt
- Mr David James

In addition to the statutory committees mentioned, the department also had the following non-statutory committee:

## Northern Territory Catchments Advisory Committee

The Northern Territory Catchments Advisory Committee (NTCAC) was established by the Minister for Land Resource Management, and the department, to advise on the use and management of the Territory's water resources and the catchments that support them. Members are drawn from areas with experience and knowledge in water policy, use and management.

NTCAC has held 13 meetings since its formation in 2014 and has developed a draft Water Stewardship Framework and Action Plan for consideration as part of the development of the Territory Strategic Water Plan.

The committee comprises:

- Mr George Roussos (Chair)
- Mr Colin Beard
- Ms Kate Peake
- Mr Kit Jolley
- Mr Tom Harris
- Ms Maria Kraatz
- Ms Alison King



## Risk Management

The ability to remain responsive to risk is a key focus for the department.

During 2015-16, the Governance Board reviewed strategic business risks that may prevent delivery of department strategic priorities and goals.

The annual Strategic Risk Assessment was centred on the department's Risk Management Framework. This framework guided the assessment of identified risks within the current operating and internal control environment, with treatments identified for all new and emerging risks. Agreed risks and actions to treat risks were detailed in the department's Strategic Risk Register. The audit of controls in place for managing

risks was considered when developing the department's Internal Audit Plan.

Throughout the year, the Governance Board reviewed the department's strategic risks and considered any new and emerging risks. The Audit and Risk Management Committee reviewed the Strategic Risk Register every quarter to monitor the progress of identified risk treatments.

The Risk Management Framework is accessible to all department divisions to guide their management of risks specific to their operations.

Detailed Work Health and Safety (WHS) Risk Registers have also been established for each division and are managed by divisional WHS Committees.

## Controls and Compliance

### Internal Controls

The department has a number of internal control mechanisms in place to mitigate workplace risks.

Corporate Delegations	The CEO delegates certain powers to other employees under the <i>Financial Management Act</i> , <i>Public Sector Employment and Management Act</i> , <i>Contracts Act</i> and <i>Procurement Act</i> . The CEO approved, and had in place, the following delegations in 2015-16: Financial delegations Human Resources delegations Procurement delegations Instrument of Delegation - <i>Contracts Act</i> Instrument of Delegation - Guarantees and Indemnities.
Conflict of Interest	Conflicts of interest, whether real or perceived, can erode confidence in the integrity of the department. All employees are responsible for declaring any conflicts. Employees, executive directors and branch managers must also take all reasonable steps to prevent involvement in the declared conflicts.
Whistle-blowers	Staff can report wrongdoing in accordance with the <i>Public Interest Disclosures Act</i> . The Executive Director, Corporate Services is the department's 'Protected Disclosure Officer'. No public interest disclosures regarding the department's officers were lodged during the year.
Code of Conduct	Through internal training initiatives, such as the Corporate Induction program, staff are regularly reminded of their responsibility to act in accordance with the NTPS Code of Conduct. The department may begin disciplinary proceedings against any employee who acts in contravention of the Code of Conduct.
Freedom of Information and Privacy	In accordance with the <i>Information Act</i> , a range of NT Government policies and procedures are in place to enable individuals to access records and information held by the department.

## Records and Information

### Information Requests

The Northern Territory *Information Act* came into effect on 1 July 2003, creating a general right of access to government information held by departments, limited only in those circumstances where the disclosure of certain information would be contrary to the public interest. The Act also protects the privacy of personal information held by the department.

The *Information Act* covers Freedom of Information (FOI) issues, privacy, records and archives management, and affects how the department collects, uses and stores personal and government information.

The Act is designed to protect personal information, promote the free flow of government information, protect public interests and prevent public sector agencies from the unauthorised disclosure of

information on individual private and business interests held by public agencies.

The department is subject to the *Information Act* and is required to meet the obligations placed on it under that Act. Under the *Information Act* members of the public can gain access to documents or records held by the department unless the document is within an exception or exemption category specified in the legislation.

The *Information Act* also defines strict timeframes for dealing with these requests for information.

Further assistance can be provided by contacting:

FOI Contact Officer  
PO BOX 496  
PALMERSTON NT 0830  
T: 08 8999 3479  
W: [www.lrm.nt.gov.au/lrm/foi](http://www.lrm.nt.gov.au/lrm/foi)

During the reporting year, the department received four applications for access to government or personal information under the *Information Act*.

The table below provides statistical data about the formal access applications received by the department:

<i>Information Act</i> Requests	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Applications carried over from previous year	1	1	0
Applications to access personal information	8	0	0
Applications to access government information	5	8	4
Applications to access personal and government information	1	0	0
Applications to correct personal information	0	0	0
Applications transferred	1	0	0
Requests withdrawn	1	0	0
Requests refused	0	0	1
Internal reviews	1	0	0
Responses completed within 30 day period	15	9	4
Responses completed exceeding 30 day period	0	0	0
Applications handled as at 30 June 2016	14	9	4

## Information Awareness Month

Information Awareness Month was held in May 2016 to increase public awareness of information and promote the value of good information practices and policies.

The Alice Springs and Darwin records teams held open house events and activities to celebrate and promote awareness of the information service industry in government.

## Records Management

During 2015-16, the department continued to improve record management practices and procedures to ensure compliance with Part 9 of the *Information Act*.

Part 9 of the *Information Act*, and the Records Management Standards, require that the department develops and implements plans and processes to ensure full and accurate records are created, captured, discoverable, secure and disposed of in line with approved Records Disposal Schedules to potentially reduce storage costs.

During the reporting year, the records training program continued to provide whole-of-department guidance, support and training in information management best practice and use of the whole of government mandated record keeping system. This program had a particular focus on increasing the electronic management of records across the department.

The Corporate Services Division has achieved full electronic recordkeeping; ongoing development of electronic recordkeeping is being adopted by other business units.

## Ombudsman Enquiries

The department received no inquiries from the Ombudsman during the reporting year.

# Monitoring Through Audits and Reviews

## Internal Audits

The following risk based internal audits were conducted under the department's 2015-16 Internal Audit Plan. Management's implementation

of audit recommendations is monitored by the department's Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Internal Audit	Focus	Outcome
Cabinet Information Security Measures	Assess the department's compliance with the required Cabinet information security measures	The audit found a satisfactory level of compliance. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
Official Duty Travel	Review of the department's Official Duty Travel against the new NTG Air Travel Policy	There is a satisfactory level of compliance with official duty travel. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
Tier 2 Procurement	Test the department's Tier 2 Procurement activities against the <i>Procurement Act</i> and Procurement Directions	No material issues or risks were identified. The audit found existing controls were satisfactory.
Corporate Credit Card Purchases	Evaluate the compliance of departmental Corporate Credit Card Purchases against the <i>Financial Management Act</i> , Treasurer's Directions and NTG policies	The audit identified opportunities for improving internal controls and recommendations have been made to address these.
Petty Cash	Examine the department's petty cash electronic reimbursements and petty cash advance tills against the <i>Financial Management Act</i> and relevant NTG and department policies	Several audit issues were identified during this audit and recommendations have been made to strengthen internal controls.
Firearms Audit	Determine the department's compliance with the <i>Firearms Act</i> and Corporate Firearms Licence requirements and review associated internal administration processes.	The audit found no material issues or risks and there was a satisfactory level of compliance. Recommendations were made to improve existing internal controls and update processes.

## External Audits

### Northern Territory Auditor-General Audits

The Office of the Northern Territory Auditor-General selected the department for the following external audits during 2015-16. Results from all the audits

are published in the Auditor-General's reports to the Legislative Assembly.

External Audit	Focus	Outcome
Compliance Audit	Assess the extent to which the department has complied with the provisions of the <i>Financial Management Act</i> , Treasurer's Directions and Procurement Directions in relation to the responsibilities of the Accountable Officer.	The audit found reasonable assurance that the Accountable Officer's responsibilities are being met and two identified audit issues were noted by the Accountable Officer.
Performance Management System Audit – Evaluation of Internal Audit Framework	Examine the systems developed by the Accountable Officer to achieve compliance with their accountability and control requirements and form an opinion on whether the department's internal audit function is adequate.	The audit identified some improvements in order to better demonstrate an effective internal audit function. Several recommendations were made and focus on better practise activities relating to independence, quality assurance, KPI monitoring and reporting and documentation of the assessment of the adequacy of the department's internal audit function.

## Insurable Risk

Under the Treasurer's Directions (M2.1), departments are required to detail mitigation strategies and processes they have in place to reduce the likelihood or severity of their insurable risks.

Insurable risks are generally related to workers

compensation, assets and inventories, public liability and indemnities. They exclude financial risks and legal costs in action.

The table below outlines the department's identified insurable risks and the strategies implemented to reduce those risks.

Insurable Risk Category	Mitigation Strategies	Total Number/Total value of Claims 2015-16
Public Liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal risk assessments completed</li> <li>Repairs and maintenance program to reduce risks associated with physical assets</li> <li>Ongoing review of practices and procedures to ensure public safety</li> <li>Appropriate signage</li> <li>Education campaigns for staff and public</li> <li>Independent reviews</li> <li>Building audits, e.g. Security, maintenance, compliance</li> <li>Appropriate security and testing, e.g. Fire systems, alarms, patrols, staff</li> </ul>	1 claim valued at \$150 000
Workers Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal risk assessments completed</li> <li>Workplace health and safety (WHS) framework developed and implemented</li> <li>WHS policies and standard operating procedures</li> <li>Work site assessments</li> <li>Job specific training and support</li> <li>Utilisation of Employee Assistance Program</li> <li>Early intervention program</li> <li>Critical incident debriefings</li> <li>Worklife balance strategies</li> </ul>	<p>Four open worker's compensation claims were carried forward from the previous year.</p> <p>There were seven new cases raised during 2015-16.</p> <p>There were eight cases closed during 2015-16.</p> <p>In 2015-16, workers compensation cost \$308 262.</p>
Assets and Inventories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal risk assessments completed</li> <li>Ongoing review of policies and practices to guide standard operating procedures to protect assets and inventories</li> <li>Asset registers were maintained for fixed and leased assets.</li> </ul>	1 claim valued at \$1500
Vehicles (e.g. Motor vehicles, quad bikes and boats)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular service and maintenance checks</li> <li>Driver training (4 wheel drives, quad bikes, boat handling)</li> <li>Safety equipment and accessories (particularly for off-road vehicles etc)</li> </ul>	12 claims valued at \$32 064
Indemnities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal risk assessments completed each year and with each new agreement executed</li> </ul>	0 claims

Details of the department's commercial insurance premium arrangements are:

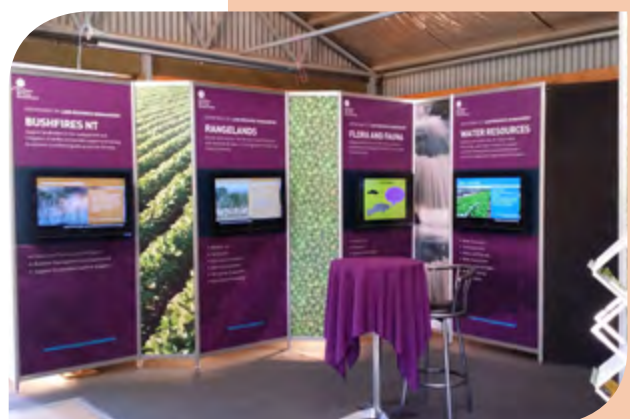
Commercial Insurance Premium	Total Number/Total Value of Claims		
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Department - overseas travel insurance, small value one-off insurance	\$88 No claims	\$105 No claims	\$0 No claims
Department - marine insurance to transport drilling rig by barge	\$0 No claims	\$9000 No claims	\$0 No claims

# Corporate Social Responsibility

## Communications and Community Engagement

The department undertook a range of community engagement activities during 2015-16. These included:

- Developing a cross-tenure approach to preventing weed spread with extensive industry consultation, including the development of the industry-based publication, *'Preventing Weed Spread is Everybody's Business'*
- Drafting a Weed Spread Prevention Strategy for the Northern Territory for consideration by the Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee
- Developing the Barkly Regional Weed Management Plan through the region's Weeds Working Group to form part of a strategic approach to protect the region's economy, community and environment from the adverse impacts of priority weeds
- Administering the Gamba Grass Assistance Program for the sixth consecutive year. Some 2 058 individual landholders participated with about 26 460 litres of herbicide being provided for gamba grass control across the Top End
- Promoting the department's key activities and responsibilities to the community by participating in the annual Northern Territory Show Circuit (Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine) and the Fred's Pass Show. The department was also promoted during the year at the NT Farm and Garden Day in Katherine. Information covered, but was not limited to, amendments to the *Pastoral Land Act*, weed management priorities, feral animal management, Bushfires NT and spatial data and mapping. The 2015 show circuit display received great feedback with fantastic support from our regions helping the department to take away the award for Best Government Stand at the Alice Springs Show (jointly with the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries)



- Sponsoring the 2016 Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Annual General Meeting and Industry Conference in Alice Springs and Northern Territory Farmers Food Futures Conference in Darwin. A departmental information booth was set up at both events to engage with association members and industry professionals. Staff at the booth provided information about diversification opportunities created by the non-pastoral use provisions introduced to the *Pastoral Land Act*. The new provisions, enabling pastoralists to diversify, use and develop new income streams without having to change the tenure of a pastoral lease, were a key focus of the display. Integrated ground and satellite-based monitoring, weed management, land assessment and development and rangeland monitoring was also promoted
- Sponsoring the 2016 Territory Natural Resource Management Conference and Awards held in Darwin, in November 2015
- Presenting the Agricultural Land Suitability and Water Resource Program to the Indigenous Economic Forum in Alice Springs, 2015
- Promoting community awareness and reporting of strandings of marine megafauna in Northern Territory coastal waters through the online portal NT WildWatch
- Hosting the annual NT Water Forum, officially opened by the Minister for Land Resource Management in Katherine in May 2016. A total of 95 stakeholders attended the forum, where, the key note address given by the Controller of Water Resources followed by expert presentations on a wide range of topics relating to contemporary water resource assessment and management
- Invited public comment on discussion and summary papers as part of the review of the *Bushfires Act*. The review of the 30-year-old Act focused mainly on the structural alignment of Bushfires NT within the Northern Territory Government and how to best support and develop volunteer bushfire brigades which underpin wildfire management delivery throughout the Territory

- In November 2015, the department hosted a delegation from the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, including water experts from the Ministry for Infrastructure and Environment.



The delegation observed the department's Mary River Saltwater Intrusion Program and inspected the newly constructed barrages near Shady Camp to slow saltwater intrusion. The delegation also observed the changes which had occurred to the Mary River floodplain system over the past 40 years and the impact of saltwater intrusion on the floodplains. This visit also focused on riverine and stormwater flood mitigation in the Top End and an inspection of key flood-prone areas in the Northern Territory.

- Many departmental representatives attended the annual Women in Agriculture Conference in Alice Springs in August 2015. This year's conference focussed on the theme of Celebrating Diversity: Cultivating central connections and also included a food security field trip to the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries' Old Man Plains Research Station



- As part of the annual Movember event, the Water Resources' 'Mo-Bros' crew held a sausage sizzle to raise funds to support men's health, resulting in \$152 being raised for this important cause
- On 30 October 2015, the department participated in National Bandana Day to raise money to support young people living with cancer. Over \$350 was raised within the department through sales and donations.



## Grants Programs

The department provides one-off special purpose grants, which, regardless of their type, are distributed under an agreement that includes the purpose of each grant and the reporting process for confirming that the funded objective has been achieved.

A full list of the grants administered by the department, are shown below:

Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Volunteer Bushfire Brigades	Two categories: grants to support the operations of 22 volunteer bushfire brigades, and replacement of volunteer brigade firefighting vehicles	\$1 091 850
Various – Bushfire grants for equipment subsidies and personal protective clothing	Subsidy is provided for landholders to purchase firefighting equipment and radios at 50 percent of the purchase price (exclusive of GST) with maximum value of \$1 200 per applicant. Funding for personal protective clothing and equipment is provided to volunteer firefighters on completion of basic training	\$71 599
University of Technology	Australian Research Council Linkage Grant cash contribution for project titled <i>Preventing and reversing population declines of northern quolls</i>	\$10 000
Northern Territory Field and Game Association	To facilitate weed control at Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve. The grant will be used for aerial weed control and ground work to control olive hymenachne and mimosa infestations, facilitating the continued use of this reserve for waterfowl hunting purpose	\$25 000
Department of Science Information Technology Innovation and the Arts (DSITIA)	A collaborative research project between the Northern Territory Government and the Queensland DSITIA to provide an integrated system that will inform both governments and land managers on the condition of Northern Territory Rangelands	\$100 000
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Contribution to the Four Tropical Weeds Eradication Program and the Koster's Curse transition to management plan for 2015-16	\$52 069
Centrefarm (through Department of the Chief Minister (DCM))	Contribution to the Northern Australia Development Office (NADO) together with the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and DCM to support the operations of Centrefarm conduit services	\$30 000
Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Contribution to the Larrakia Nation, which along with the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment supports funding for Indigenous traineeships relating to work on Darwin Harbour	\$170 000
Northern Land Council Charles Darwin University	The West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement between the Northern Territory Government and Conoco Phillips – Darwin Liquefied Natural Gas provides funding to the Adjurmarlari, Jawoyn, Djelk and Mimal ranger groups. This is used to conduct fire planning, mitigation and suppression activities on country in western Arnhem Land.	\$1 695 936
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3 246 454</b>