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OUR DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources provides natural resource monitoring, management and advice, including scientific assessment of flora, fauna, land and water assets, and the allocation and management of these resources to enable their sustainable use.

The agency also provides assessment, monitoring and compliance support, and services on behalf of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) to support environmentally sustainable development.

To be effective, we need a strong partnership approach. It is through partnerships with landholders, across government and with our external stakeholders, that we will meet our priorities in managing our natural resources sustainably, for the benefit of all Territorians.

OUR REGIONS

The department operates from offices throughout the Territory, including in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Acacia Hills, Batchelor and Darwin. We deliver natural resource management services and advice to landholders across the 1,350,000km² of the Northern Territory.

Through our presence in the regions we maintain strong connections with rural and remote communities to deliver effective consultation, planning and services. The Acacia Hills, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Batchelor and Alice Springs teams appreciate the value of partnerships with local stakeholders. They are proud of the relationships they have established and continue to strengthen them with regular and meaningful engagement.

Darwin

The Goyder building in Palmerston is the central location for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The department also had staff based at Tannadice Street (Winnellie), the Herbarium Building (Palmerston), CSIRO Building (Berrimah), Arnhemica House (Parap), and Bushfire Headquarters and Operations Centre (Acacia Hills and Batchelor).

A total of 262 staff are located in the Darwin region across all divisions.

Katherine region

Our regional office in Katherine hosts 12 staff in the Water Resources, Bushfires NT, Rangelands and Executive divisions. Staff are based in the Giles Street building.

The Katherine region covers some 370,000km² and supports a range of major industries including mining, pastoralists, agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Barkly region

Our regional office in Tennant Creek hosts 1 position in the Rangelands division, and is based at the Leichardt Street building.

It services the Barkly region which covers around 322,500km².

Central Australia region

In Alice Springs our department employs 26 staff across all our divisions which are based at the Arid Zone Research Institute and Elders Street Alice Springs.

The Central Australia region covers an area of 546,000km².

STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-20

Our vision

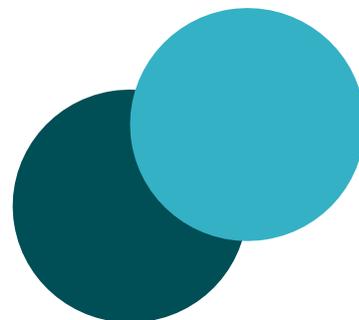
The Northern Territory's land and water resources are managed sustainably for the benefit of all Territorians, informed by the best available science.

Our purpose

Provide advice and support for the sustainable development of the Northern Territory's land and water and conservation of its unique native flora and fauna.

GOALS	STRATEGIES
1 Strategically improve scientific and community knowledge and understanding of water, soils, landscapes and biodiversity to better inform adaptive and responsive management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake strategic integrated assessments of ground and surface water systems, land resources and biodiversity values to inform management and de-risk investment in regional development. Implement robust monitoring systems to track and report on the health of the Territory's biodiversity, the condition of the Territory's rangelands, the health of Darwin Harbour and inland waterways, and the quality of the Darwin airshed. Develop and implement an online information strategy to improve community understanding of the Territory's natural resources.
2 Advise on the effective planning, allocation, conservation and use of the Northern Territory's natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement water allocation planning in conjunction with water policy reform. Ensure that outputs from the Mapping the Future project inform natural resource allocation planning and decisions. Provide the best available information on the Territory's natural resources to support the NT Government's Economic Development Framework. Develop and maintain integrated information systems for natural resource data and information accessible to stakeholders, land managers and the community. Support the sustainable development of the pastoral estate through contemporary pastoral legislation.
3 Develop and deliver robust and transparent assessment and regulation that balance the development of the Northern Territory with effective protection of the Northern Territory's unique environmental assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform, streamline and increase transparency of environmental regulatory systems in the Territory. Ensure that robust, evidence-based advice relating to natural resources informs all environmental impact assessments and approvals. Support the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority to reduce the impacts of waste and pollution on the Territory's environment. Ensure mining and petroleum activities are subject to the Water Act. Support and engage with stakeholders and the community on managing risks and mitigating the impact of waste on the environment.

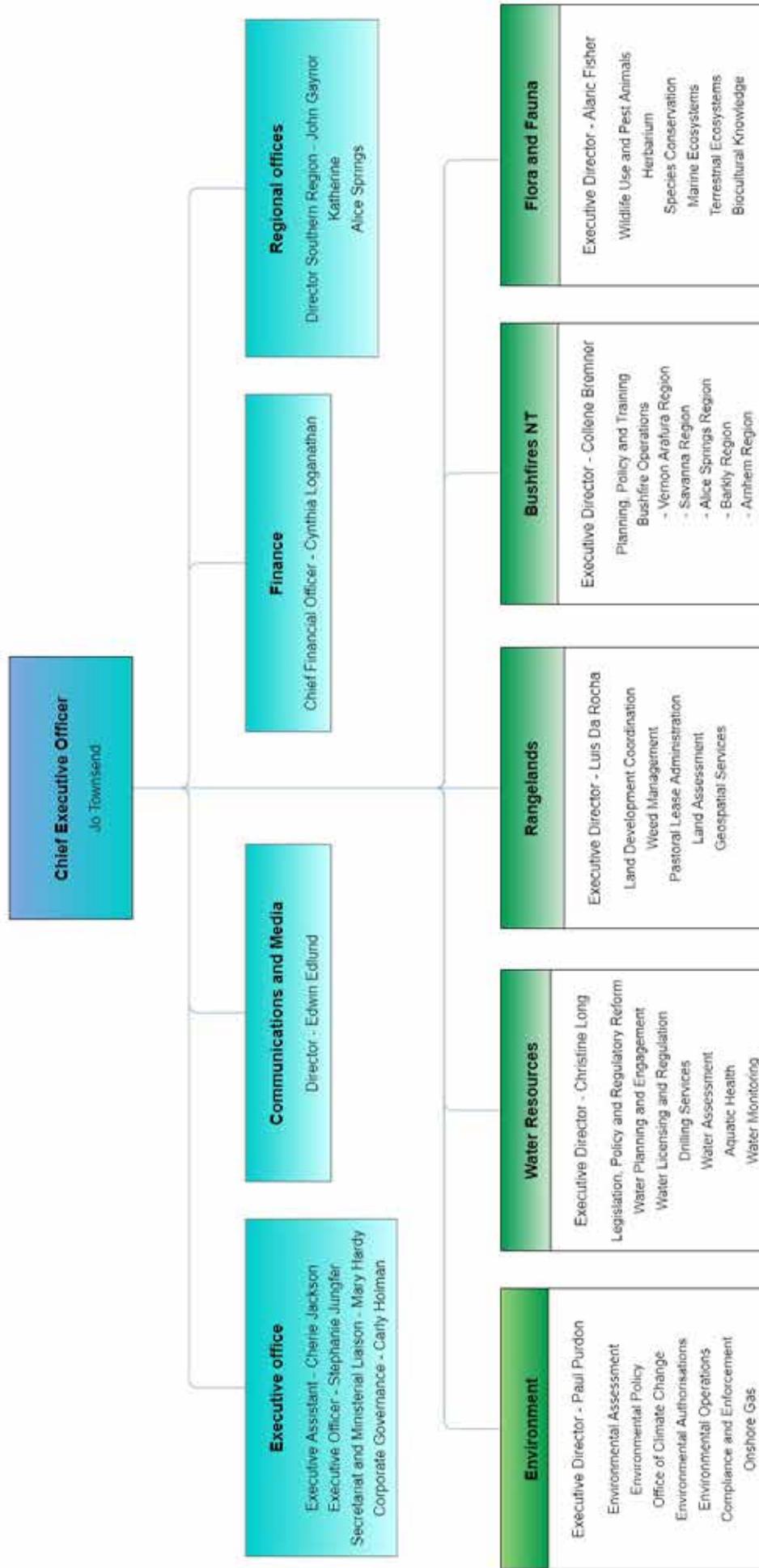




GOALS	STRATEGIES
<p>4 Foster and sustain community participation from all regions of the Territory in sustainable natural resource use and management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain engagement and partnerships with stakeholders and the community to leverage knowledge and better manage the Territory's natural resources. • Support Aboriginal rangers and communities to protect the environment and create jobs. • Establish an Aboriginal Carbon Unit to deliver carbon abatement and economic development on Aboriginal land. • Implement a Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves policy and methodology to give Aboriginal landholders increased opportunity to access water resources for economic development. • Develop digital information products to better inform the community about contentious natural resource management issues. • Develop a Coastal and Marine Management Strategy that protects our valued coast and marine environments while encouraging sustainable development and use by Territorians. • Establish the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee.
<p>5 Manage and mitigate threats to regional communities and our natural ecosystems and native flora and fauna through shared responsibilities and partnerships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support land managers to reduce the impacts of fire, feral animals and weeds on productive and natural systems. • Progress a strategic approach to manage the increased risk of bushfire in the rural area caused by grassy weeds. • Build community understanding of, and capacity to mitigate, the impacts of wildfire, weeds and feral animals. • Provide flood monitoring and advice in consultation with other agencies for major 'at risk' communities.
<p>6 Maintain an organisation with the capacity and capability to deliver effective services and that nurtures its human resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire and support a workplace culture that is collaborative, respectful and accountable. • Build and enhance strategic leadership across the agency. • Implement targeted development programs to 'grow our own', with an emphasis on succession planning. • Provide a safe working environment and promote safe practices in both office and field operations. • Continue to improve business processes and streamline internal systems.



OUR STRUCTURE



GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Governance Board is the department's principal planning and decision making body on corporate governance matters. The Governance Board includes representatives from all the department's output groups and regions.

Below is the Governance Board membership as at 30 June 2020.



Jo Townsend
Chief Executive Officer

Jo is the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources which is a position she has held since December 2016.

As the Chief Executive Officer, Jo is responsible for leading the agency to deliver natural resource monitoring, assessment and management of natural resource assets across the Northern Territory, including advice and management on flora and fauna, water resources, bushfire mitigation, pests and weeds and the Northern Territory's pastoral estate. The department is also responsible for assessment, monitoring and compliance and support services on behalf of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA).

Jo has more than 25 years of experience in the Northern Territory public sector, including 16 years in executive leadership roles and has been responsible for leading and reforming a range of diverse portfolio areas such as child protection, alcohol and other drugs and family and youth services.

Jo has a Bachelor of Arts and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Psychology.



Paul Purdon
Executive Director Environment Protection

Paul has been the Executive Director, Environment Protection since October 2016, where he provides leadership to the department's environmental assessment and regulation functions, including support for the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA).

Paul's responsibilities include the oversight of the environmental regulation of the onshore petroleum industry. Paul has 16 years of experience in the Northern Territory environment department in a range of policy, environmental assessment and regulatory positions.

Prior to moving to the Northern Territory, Paul spent 4 years working on environmental policy with the Australian Environment Department and the Australian Greenhouse Office.

Paul has a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Letters (Environmental Studies).



Alaric Fisher
Executive Director Flora and Fauna

Alaric has been with the department and its precursors since 1996 and has been Executive Director Flora and Fauna since 2011. Alaric also acted as Executive Director Environment Protection in 2018.

Alaric provides strategic leadership and policy advice on matters relating to the biodiversity of the Northern Territory, ecologically sustainable development, wildlife use and feral animals.

Alaric has a PhD from Charles Darwin University and has worked as a conservation biologist in the Northern Territory for more than 28 years. In that time, he has covered a broad range of fields including wildlife inventory, biodiversity monitoring, conservation planning and environmental impact assessment.



Christine Long
Executive Director Water Resources

Christine was appointed to the role of Executive Director Water Resources in March 2018.

Christine acted as the Executive Director Rangelands in 2017.

Christine has lived in Darwin since 1988 and worked for the CSIRO as a horticultural scientist prior to joining the Northern Territory Government in 1990. In the NT she has worked primarily in pastoral and land administration, land use planning, primary industries and natural resource management.

Christine has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, a Masters in Public Sector Leadership and a Masters in Economic and Regional Development.



Collene Bremner
Executive Director Bushfires NT

Collene joined the department in December 2016 as the Executive Director Bushfires NT.

Collene has worked in the Northern Territory Public Service since 1998 in a number of leadership roles across government with over 15 years' experience in an emergency management leadership role. Collene's extensive career consists of appointments such as chair of the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Management Recovery Sub-Committee, the Northern Territory representative on the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee, National Aerial Firefighting Centre and the Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council.

Collene has a Graduate Diploma of Public Sector Executive Management.



Luis Da Rocha
Executive Director Rangelands

Luis was appointed to the role of Executive Director Rangelands in February 2019, a position he has held since 2016.

Luis provides strategic leadership and direction in implementing Government objectives for the economic development and sustainable use of the Territory's rangelands and broader natural environment. Luis was born and raised in Darwin and has over 17 years of experience in the Northern Territory Public Service, including leading diverse and geographically dispersed teams.

Luis has a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management.





Stephanie Jungfer
Executive Officer

Stephanie has been in the Executive Officer position since December 2016. The role provides support to the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Directors across their broad portfolio responsibilities.

Stephanie initially joined the department within the then Water Directorate, having previously worked within the Utilities Commission of the Northern Territory and Department of Treasury and Finance in a policy capacity.

Stephanie has a Bachelor of Economics and a background in banking and finance.



John Gaynor
Regional Director South

John represents the department in the regions, ensuring an integrated approach across programs, assists with developing and implementing new policies, and deals with emerging issues in the regions.

John has lived in the Territory for over 25 years and during that time has occupied executive management positions in the Commonwealth, Northern Territory and Local Governments.

He has a Bachelor of Social Work and a Diploma of Applied Management.



Cynthia Loganathan
Chief Financial Officer

Cynthia has been the Chief Financial Officer of the department since January 2018, having been the Director of Finance prior to that. She has worked within the public sector for the last 15 years, and also for some time prior to relocating to Brisbane and Sydney where she worked in senior roles within the superannuation field.

Cynthia provides advice in respect of financial and budgetary matters relating to the department and to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and directions.

Cynthia is a Certified Practising Accountant, with a Bachelor of Business in Accounting.



LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED

The department is responsible for administering 32 pieces of legislation, including 19 Acts and 13 pieces of subordinate legislation. This legislation provides an overriding direction for many department functions and is the foundation of a number of output groups. A review process ensures the legislation remains contemporary and relevant to community expectations and incorporates best practice in the areas it governs.

Bushfires Management Act 2016

- Bushfires Management (General) Regulations 2017
- Bushfires Management (Volunteer Bushfire Brigades) Regulations 2006

Environmental Assessment Act 1982 (replaced by the **Environment Protection Act 2019** 28 June 2020)

- Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures 1984

Environment Protection Act 2019

- Environment Protection Regulations 2020

Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act 2011

- Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Regulations 2011

Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1996

- Environmental Offences and Penalties Regulations 2011

Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement Act 2009

Litter Act 1972

Marine Pollution Act 1999

- Marine Pollution Regulations 2003

National Environment Protection Council (Northern Territory) Act 1994

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act 2012

Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act 2004

- Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Regulations 2019

Pastoral Land Act 1992 (except provisions about Aboriginal community living areas)

- Pastoral Land Regulations 1992

Petroleum Act 1984

Part V, Division 2 and provisions relating to environmental regulation of exploration for and production of petroleum

- Petroleum (Environment) Regulations 2016

Planning Act 1999

Land clearing approvals on unzoned land (under delegation from the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics)

Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act 1969

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Part IV, Divisions 1–5

Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998

- Waste Management and Pollution Control (Administration) Regulations 1998
- Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Objective 2004

Water Act 1992

- Water Regulations 1992

Water Efficiency Labelling Standards (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2014

Weeds Management Act 2001

- Weeds Management Regulations 2006