

Purpose of the Report

This Annual Report provides a record of the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts and Sport and the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division's achievements for the 2011–12 financial year.

Pursuant to Section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the report aims to inform Parliament, Territorians and other stakeholders of:

- The primary functions and responsibilities of the Agency;
- Significant activities undertaken during the year highlighting specific achievements against budgeted outputs; and
- The Agency's fiscal management and performance.

In the report 'the Agency' is used when referring to the Chief Executive's complete area of responsibility, including both the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport and the Territory Wildlife Parks Government Business Division.

When referring to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport in isolation the term 'the Department' is used.

The Government Business Division, Territory Wildlife Parks, is responsible for managing the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Territory Wildlife Park.

Target Audience

This Annual Report provides information to numerous target audiences on the Agency's activities and achievements for the 2011–12 financial year. It is tabled in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly primarily as an accountability reporting mechanism for the Agency's respective Ministers to the Parliament. The Annual Report is a finalisation of the Agency's achievements, income and financial expenditure from the Northern Territory Budget 2011.

The Agency works in partnership with the Northern Territory community to ensure the Territory's natural and cultural heritage, and its values, are protected. The Agency also works in collaboration with our stakeholders in such areas as sport and recreation, environment protection, natural resources, wildlife management, arts, film and museums, national parks estate and tourism to achieve this protection.

For such a wide ranging stakeholder audience, this Annual Report provides a summary of the range of Agency services and activities undertaken. This Annual Report also formally acknowledges the achievements carried out by Agency employees. It also provides another source of information to Northern Territory Government employees and tax payers about the full scope of Agency programs that may not be fully appreciated from the perspective of individual workplaces.

Additionally, this Annual Report provides information for other government agencies and the wider public about the wide range of activities undertaken by the Agency – a lot of which occurs outside the main population area – the purpose of these activities, and how successful they are.

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Terry Mills MLA
Chief Minister
Minister for Land Resource Management
Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment

Matthew Conlan MLA
Minister for Arts and Museums
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Minister for Parks and Wildlife

Dear Ministers

I am presenting you with the former Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) 2011–12 Annual Report.

I was not involved with this Department during the 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 reporting period, however following the dissolution of NRETAS into four departments under the new Public Sector Agency Arrangements in September 2012, I am tabling this in my capacity as Chief Executive of the Department of Land Resource Management. The three other departments under the new arrangements include the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT, Department of Arts and Museums and the Department of Sport and Recreation.

The report describes the performance and key achievements of each of the Department's Output Groups and the Territory Wildlife Parks, as required by Section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.

With regard to the duties of the Accountable Officer, pursuant to Section 13 of the *Financial Management Act*, and Section 131 of the *Information Act*, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the system of internal control and audit provides reasonable assurance that:

- a) proper records of all transactions affecting the Agency are kept and that employees under my control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, its regulations and applicable Treasurer's Directions;
- b) procedures within the Agency afford proper internal control and a current description of such procedures is recorded in the accounting and property manual which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*;
- c) no indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts and records exists;
- d) in accordance with Section 15 of the *Financial Management Act* the results of internal audits have been reported to me and the internal audit capacity is adequate;
- e) the financial statements included in the Annual Report have been prepared from proper accounts and records and are in accordance with Treasurer's Directions;
- f) all Employment Instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment have been satisfied; and
- g) in respect of the responsibilities pursuant to Section 131 of the *Information Act*, I advise that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the department has implemented processes to achieve compliance with the archives and records management provisions as prescribed in Part 9 of the *Information Act*.

Yours sincerely



Rod Applegate
Chief Executive
Department of Land Resource Management
15 October 2012

Contents

Purpose of the Report	1
Target Audience	1
Overview	5
Strategic Objectives.....	6
2011–12 Budget Paper 3 Highlights.....	8
Operational Structure	10
Organisational Chart.....	11
Achievements in 2011–12	12
Future Priorities for 2012–13.....	19
Income and Expenditure at a Glance – Department	23
Revenue and Expenditure at a Glance – Territory Wildlife Parks	24
Regional Snapshot.....	25
Corporate Governance	31
Corporate Governance Snapshot.....	32
Framework	33
Principles of the Agency’s Governance	34
Management Environment	35
Risk and Compliance.....	39
Infrastructure Management	41
Greener Government	43
Governing Legislation.....	47
Legal Proceedings.....	47
Records and Information	48
Corporate Communications	50
Secretariat	51
Whole of Government Policy Reporting	52
Implementation of the Darwin Harbour Strategy	53
Strategic Partnerships	55
Community Engagement.....	59

Our People	62
Overview.....	63
Employee Profile	64
Employee and Agency Achievements	66
Equity, Diversity and Flexibility	68
Learning and Professional Development.....	70
Industrial Relations.....	75
Work Health and Safety.....	75
Employment Instructions	78
Performance Reporting	79
Output Group: Protected Areas and Conservation	80
Parks Joint Management Programs.....	80
Parks Visitor Management Programs	84
Conservation Management Programs	87
Output Group: Natural Resources	93
Land Management	93
Water Management.....	100
Output Group: Environment and Heritage	105
Environment and Sustainability.....	105
Heritage Conservation	110
Output Group: Arts and Culture	114
Scientific and Cultural Collections	114
Arts and Screen Sector.....	127
Output Group: Sport and Recreation.....	129
Sports Development	129
Northern Territory Institute of Sport.....	133
Facilities	136
Events and Engagement.....	138
Government Business Division: Territory Wildlife Parks.....	140
Alice Springs Desert Park	140
Territory Wildlife Park	143

Financial Statements	146	Graphs	
Financial Statements	147	Income and Expenditure at a Glance – Department	23
The Department Financial Statement Overview	147	Revenue and Expenditure at a Glance – Territory Wildlife Parks	24
Certification of the Financial Statements	153	Employees by Age	64
Comprehensive Operating Statement	154	Employees by Gender	64
Balance Sheet	155	Employees by Status	64
Statement of Changes in Equity	156	Employees by Stream Profile	64
Cash Flow Statement	157	Employees by Stream – Executive	65
Notes to the Financial Statements	159	Employees by Stream – Administrative/Senior Administrative	65
Territory Wildlife Parks Financial Statement Overview	186	Employees by Stream – Head Coach	65
Certification of the Financial Statements	192	Employees by Stream – Graduate/Trainee/Apprentice	65
Independent Auditor’s Report	193	Employees by Stream – Professional	65
Comprehensive Operating Statement	194	Employees by Stream – Technical	65
Balance Sheet	195	Employees by Stream – Physical	65
Statement of Changes in Equity	196	Employees by Stream – Other	65
Cash Flow Statement	197	Employees self identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	69
Notes to the Financial Statements	198	The Department Operating Result	147
Appendixes	214	The Department Income by Source	148
Audits and Reviews	215	The Department Expenses by Category	149
Insurable Risk	219	Territory Wildlife Parks Net Operating Loss	186
Grants Programs	222	Territory Wildlife Parks Income by Source	187
Grants Administered	227	Territory Wildlife Parks Expenses by Category	188
Statutory Authorities and Bodies	243		
Legislation Administered	249		
New or Amended Legislation	251		
Capital Works Program	252		
Whole of Government Policy Reporting	262		
Working Future Policy	262		
Northern Territory Climate Change Policy	266		
<i>Territory 2030</i> Strategic Plan	274		
Charles Darwin University/ Northern Territory Government Partnership Agreement	277		
Agency Contact Details	279		