

## SECTION 1: OUR DEPARTMENT



## OUR DEPARTMENT

### GOVERNANCE BOARD PROFILES

The Governance Board provides governance and leadership to a number of departmental committees that support our key objectives and purpose. These committees are listed within Section 4 – Our Corporate Governance.



#### **Alastair Shields**

Chief Executive Officer

Alastair was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer in March 2015, following his role as Director General for the Pursuing Economic Development on Indigenous Land team at the Department of the Chief Minister. Alastair was born and raised in Darwin and has more than 30 years of public sector experience in the Northern Territory. He has qualifications in Law and Accounting, and a Master's in Public Administration.



#### **Alaric Fisher**

Executive Director, Flora and Fauna

Alaric provides strategic leadership and policy advice on matters relating to flora and fauna, wildlife use and feral animals. Alaric holds a PhD from Charles Darwin University and has worked as a conservation biologist in the Northern Territory for the past 25 years. In that time, he has covered broad-ranging fields including wildlife inventory, biodiversity monitoring, conservation planning and environmental impact assessment.

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**Darryl Day**

Executive Director, Water Directorate

Darryl provides strategic leadership and direction in developing an overarching water policy for the Northern Territory. Darryl has worked for the Northern Territory Government and Power and Water Corporation for more than 30 years. He holds a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and has extensive experience in water policy nationally and internationally.

**James Pratt**

Executive Director, Rangelands

James 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. James has substantial experience in providing policy, legislative and regulatory advice after 12 years in the Northern Territory Public Service. He has a Bachelor of Communications and Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management.

**Mark Ashley**

Executive Director, Bushfires NT

Mark provides strategic leadership and directs the Bushfires NT Division to provide sound policy advice and implementation of fire management, mitigation and suppression programs on non-urban Territory land. Mark's public sector experience is complemented by corporate experience as a commercial general manager responsible for a diverse portfolio of environmental, health and community development programs across Australia and internationally.

**Sarah Fairhead**

Regional Director, South

Sarah manages, implements and coordinates the department's functions and activities in the southern region, ensuring an integrated approach across programs, and helping develop high level policy to deal with emerging issues. Sarah has had a decade of experience in public policy and project management roles in the Northern Territory and South Australian public services. She has a Bachelor of Arts (First Class Honours) and six years postgraduate research experience at the University of Adelaide.

**Steve Popple**

Executive Director, Water Resources

Steve provides strategic leadership and direction to develop, review and implement government objectives, policy, legislative and regulatory directives for sustainable use of the Territory's water resources. Steve has extensive experience in the Northern Territory Public Sector with a diverse background in town planning, natural resource and project management.

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**Susan Kirkman**

Executive Director, Corporate Services

Susan provides organisational leadership for the Corporate Services group and is responsible for supporting the Chief Executive Officer in relation to corporate governance and corporate effectiveness strategies. Susan has extensive experience in senior corporate roles within both the private and public sectors. She was born and raised in the Territory, has completed a Bachelor of Business and is a Certified Practising Accountant.

**Tahnee Thompson**

Manager, Katherine Region

Tahnee is the department's senior representative in the Katherine Region, facilitating effective networks across agencies and key stakeholder groups to ensure the integration of departmental planning, policies and programs. She has extensive experience in delivering remote area services to a broad range of stakeholders. Tahnee holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science.

**Keryl Cottier**

Executive Officer to the Chief Executive Officer

Keryl provides high level advice, support and co-ordination to the Chief Executive Officer to ensure effective operation and delivery of the department's strategic objectives and priorities. Keryl has worked for the Northern Territory Government for more than 20 years, in a broad range of roles. She was born and raised in the Territory and has completed a Bachelor of Commerce.