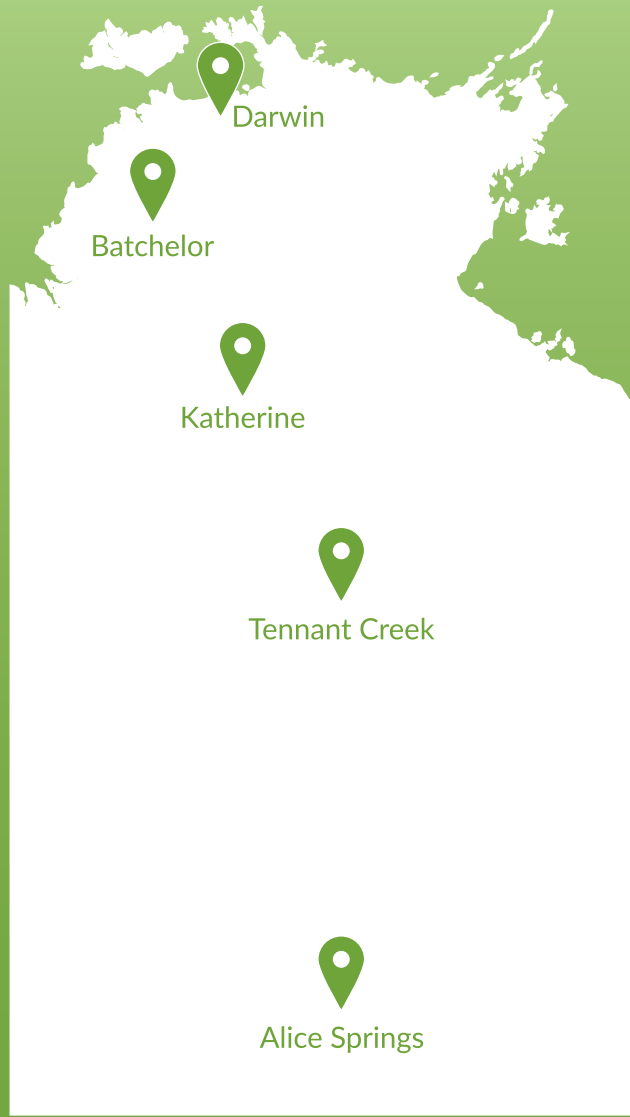


OUR DEPARTMENT





Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office locations

Budget priorities:



Jobs and Economy



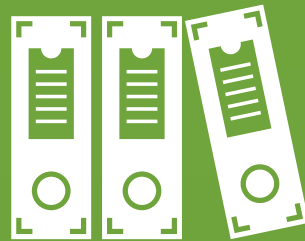
Safer Communities



Investing in the Bush



Trust



29 pieces legislation administered;

- 18 Acts, and
- 11 pieces subordinate legislation.

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 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 in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Batchelor and Darwin to provide natural resource management extension services and advice to landholders across the 1 349 129 square kilometres of the Northern Territory.

Our presence in the regions allows us to maintain strong connections with rural and remote communities to deliver effective consultation, planning and services. The Katherine, Tennant Creek, Batchelor and Alice Springs teams appreciate the value of partnerships with local stakeholders and are proud of the relationships they have established with our many stakeholders.

Darwin

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

276 staff are located in the Darwin region across all divisions.

Katherine Region

Our regional office in Katherine hosts 15 staff in the Water Resources, Bushfires NT, Rangelands and Executive divisions. Staff are based in the Giles Street building.

The Katherine region covers some 370 000 square kilometres and is mainly comprised of pastoral and Aboriginal land, with freehold, local government and vacant crown land tenures, mostly around township areas.

Barkly Region

Our regional office in Tennant Creek hosts three positions in the Bushfires NT and Rangelands divisions and staff are based at the Leichardt Street building.

It services the Barkly region which covers around 322 514 square kilometres.

Central Australia Region

In Alice Springs our department employs 41 staff across the Flora and Fauna, Water Resources, Bushfires NT, Rangelands and Executive divisions, housed across several sites.

The Central Australia region covers an area of 546 046 square kilometres, which comprise 40 percent of the Northern Territory.

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.

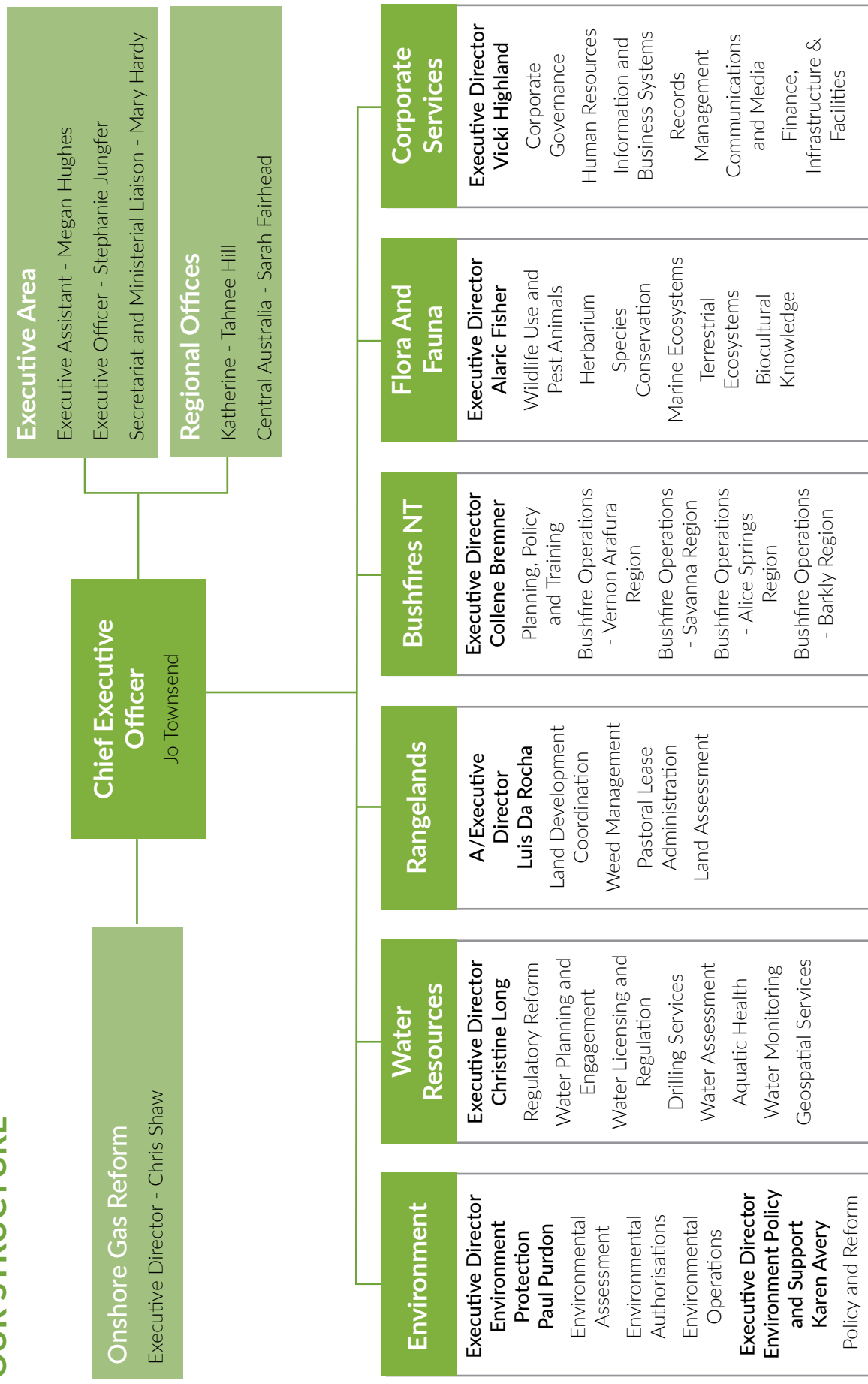
Our Purpose

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
<p>1 Strategically improve scientific and community knowledge and understanding of water, soils, landscapes and biodiversity to better inform adaptive and responsive management.</p>	<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.
<p>2 Advise on the effective planning, allocation, conservation and use of the Northern Territory's natural resources.</p>	<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.
<p>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.</p>	<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 <i>Water Act</i>. • 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.

Governance Board membership:



Jo Townsend Chief Executive Officer

Jo is the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Territory's 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 effective delivery of 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 management of 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 23 years of experience in the Northern Territory public sector, including 15 years in executive leadership roles and has been responsible for leading and reforming a range of diverse portfolio areas as child protection, alcohol and other drugs and family and youth services.

Jo has a Bachelor of Arts degree 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 has 14 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 four 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).



Karen Avery Executive Director, Environment Policy and Support

Karen has worked in government at state/Territory and federal levels for over 30 years and holds a Bachelor of Business.

The majority of her time in the NT has been spent working in complex regulatory policy areas of drugs, gambling and liquor. In addition to directing legislative reform in these areas, Karen was also the regulator of these and many other areas across 27 Acts and 40 sets or regulations. She joined the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in November 2016 and heads up the Environmental Policy and Support area with a focus on leading the Government's environmental regulatory reform agenda.



Christine Long
Executive Director,
Water Resources

Christine was appointed to the role of Executive Director Water Resources in March 2018. Christine also acted as the Executive Director Rangelands to October 2017.

Christine has a Bachelor Degree in agricultural science, a Masters in Public Sector Leadership and postgraduate qualifications in IT and economics. Christine has lived in Darwin since 1988 and worked for the CSIRO as a horticultural scientist prior to joining the NT Government in 1990. Her work has been primarily in pastoral and land administration, strategic land use planning and primary industries.



Collene Bremner
Executive Director,
Bushfires NT

Collene joined the department in December 2016 as the Executive Director of Bushfires NT. Collene has worked in the Northern Territory Public Service for nearly 20 years in a number of leadership

roles across Government and has more than 10 years' experience working in leadership and emergency management roles. Collene's extensive career consists of appointments such as Chair of the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Management Recovery Sub-Committee and the NT representative on the Australian and New Zealand Emergency Management Committee. Collene has also been involved with the coordination of many local, national and international recovery efforts during this period. Collene has a Graduate Diploma of Public Sector Executive Management.



Luis Da Rocha
Acting Executive
Director,
Rangelands

Luis has been acting Executive Director Rangelands since September 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 has over 15 years' experience in the Northern Territory Public Service, including leading diverse and geographically dispersed teams. He has a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management.



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 more than 26 years. In that time, he has covered broad-ranging fields including wildlife inventory, biodiversity monitoring, conservation planning and environmental impact assessment.



Vicki Highland
Executive Director,
Corporate Services

Vicki joined the Northern Territory Public Service 15 years ago and has held a number of leadership roles across Government, including Chief Financial Officer, Senior Director Business Services and Financial Controller within

departments, Government owned corporations and Government business divisions; and in her current role with the department.

She is a Chartered Accountant, a certified member of Governance Institute Australia and has a Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting and Business Law.



Chris Shaw
Executive Director,
Onshore Gas Reform

Chris recently joined the department as the Executive Director, Onshore Gas Reform. The key function of this role is to lead the department's actions and responsibilities arising from the implementation

of the 135 recommendations of the NT Government's Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing. Chris has extensive experience in the regulation and management of the onshore gas industry. As a consultant for the past five years, Chris was a leading environmental and regulatory advisor to onshore gas operators and various Governments. Prior to that, Chris was a Director in the Queensland Department of Environment responsible for the assessment and approval of all onshore gas projects and also led the implementation of the major reforms to the water management legislative framework for the onshore gas industry.



Stephanie Jungfer
Executive Officer

Stephanie joined the department in February 2016, initially 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.



Sarah Fairhead
Regional Director,
South

Sarah manages the department's functions and activities in the southern region, ensuring an integrated approach across programs. She also helps develop high-level policy to deal with emerging issues.

Sarah has 15 years 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 of postgraduate research experience at the University of Adelaide.



Tahnee Hill
Manager,
Katherine region

Tahnee is the department's senior representative in the Katherine region. She builds effective networks across agencies and stakeholder groups to ensure the integration of departmental planning,

policies and programs. Tahnee has over 10 years experience working in the field of natural resource management in the region. She holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science and a Graduate Certificate in Business (Public Sector Management).

LOOKING FORWARD OUR BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR 2018-19



Jobs and economy

- Developing and implementing an Aboriginal Carbon Strategy to support the development of carbon farming projects on Aboriginal land, promoting economic development and employment opportunities in remote areas.
- Collaborating with Aboriginal organisations to document and preserve their biocultural knowledge in the Elliott, Roper, Gulf and Daly regions.
- Implementing the Mapping the Future Program to provide natural resource information to facilitate sustainable resource use and regional economic growth.
- Working with our partners to review the container deposit scheme under the *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act*.
- Providing developers and users of the Territory's natural resources with robust, consistent scientific advice that promotes economic development without compromising the overall health of the Territory's natural resources.
- Developing a new environmental regulatory framework for environmental impact assessments and approvals, and the management of waste, pollution and environmental impacts of mining.



Safer communities

- Implementing a strategic bushfire management system in response to increased risk of bushfire and bushfire intensity.
- Building community resilience to bushfire through increasing community involvement in fire awareness and mitigation programs and sharing responsibility and improving compliance with fire prevention and mitigation.
- Addressing historical contamination to minimise environmental and health impacts.
- Supporting the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority in assessing and regulating environmental impacts of development.
- Developing robust monitoring systems with best practice guidelines to protect our environment from the impact of feral cats and wild dogs across the Territory.
- Progressing the Georgina Basin groundwater assessment project in the Daly Waters to Tennant Creek area.
- Monitoring key rivers to support early warning and notification of flood risk to communities and

infrastructure assets and developing mapping to assist in managing flood risk.

- Implementing a coastal and marine strategy that encourages sustainable development and ongoing use by Territorians, while protecting these valued environments.



Investing in the bush

- Implementing a Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves policy and methodology to increase Aboriginal landholders' opportunity to access water resources for economic development.
- Identifying opportunities for agricultural expansion through strategic assessment and identification of land with suitable soils and sufficient water.
- Implementing a strategy to assess and manage risks to vegetation and biodiversity.
- Supporting sustainable management of our rangelands and protecting our environment.
- Improving management of the Territory's water resources including ongoing development and finalisation of water allocation plans across the Territory.
- Finalising a fine-scale vegetation map of Groote Eylandt.
- Supporting the economic viability of the pastoral industry through contemporary land management practices and ongoing diversification of the pastoral estate.
- Supporting Aboriginal rangers through a land management and conservation fund to promote environmental, economic and social outcomes.
- Developing and implementing a legislative reform program to contemporise water resource management in the Territory.



Trust

- Managing robust monitoring systems so Territorians are accurately informed of the condition of the Territory's biodiversity.
- Supporting an open and transparent government through sharing of data and effective community engagement.
- Improving the Territory's environmental management by delivering a best practice regulatory framework for environmental impact assessments and environmental approvals.
- Implementing the recommendations of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS 2018-19 INITIATIVES



Jobs and Economy

- \$2.6 million for the Land Management and Conservation Fund.
- \$2.3 million to continue the Mapping the Future program to develop natural resource information.
- \$1.87 million to improve administration and regulation of water licences and permits, and water management across the Territory.
- \$1 million to provide environment grants to community groups, industry, schools, local government and business to benefit the Territory environment.
- \$0.33 million to support Water Advisory Committees to develop and review water allocation plans, and provide advice to government on water management.



Safer Communities

- \$4.5 million to construct a new Bushfires NT response centre located on the corner of Townend Road and the Stuart Highway, Livingstone.
- \$2.4 million for river and groundwater resource monitoring and flood forecasting.
- \$2 million in additional funding to assist volunteer bushfire brigades and residents in wildfire management and preparedness.
- \$1.49 million to assess and monitor threatened and significant wildlife and reduce threats from fire and feral cats.
- \$1.2 million for monitoring and research activities in Darwin Harbour.
- \$0.49 million to assess and monitor marine megafauna, including dolphins, dugongs and turtles.
- \$1.13 million in 2018-19 to implement the 135 recommendations of the independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory.



Investing in the Bush

- \$2.1 million to support Aboriginal ranger groups to purchase essential capital items.
- \$1.4 million for rangelands monitoring of land condition online Northern Territory pastoral estate.
- \$0.5 million in Commonwealth national partnership funds to establish pest and weed management for wild dogs, prickly acacia and mimosa.
- \$0.5 million to provide assistance to pastoralists and other landholders to manage grader grass, prickly acacia, neem and rubber bush.
- \$1 million to respond to high fire risk associated with gamba grass infestation.



Trust

- \$0.93 million in additional funding to meet demands for environmental assessments of major projects to support informed decision making.



LEGISLATION ADMINISTERED

The department is responsible for administering 29 pieces of legislation, including 18 Acts and 11 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

- a) Bushfires Management (General) Regulations
- b) Bushfires (Volunteer Bushfire Brigades) Regulations

Environmental Assessment Act

- a) Environmental Assessment Administrative Procedures

Environment Protection (Beverage Container and Plastic Bags) Act

- a) Environment Protection (Beverage Container and Plastic Bags) Regulations

Environmental Offences and Penalties Act

- a) Environmental Offences and Penalties Regulations

Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement Act

Litter Act

Marine Pollution Act

- a) Marine Pollution Regulations

National Environment Protection Council (Northern Territory) Act

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act

Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act

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

- a) Pastoral Land Regulations

Planning Act

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

Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act

Part IV, Divisions 1–5

Waste Management and Pollution Control Act

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

Water Act

- a) Water Regulations

Water Efficiency Labelling Standards (National Uniform Legislation) Act

Weeds Management Act

- a) Weeds Management Regulations