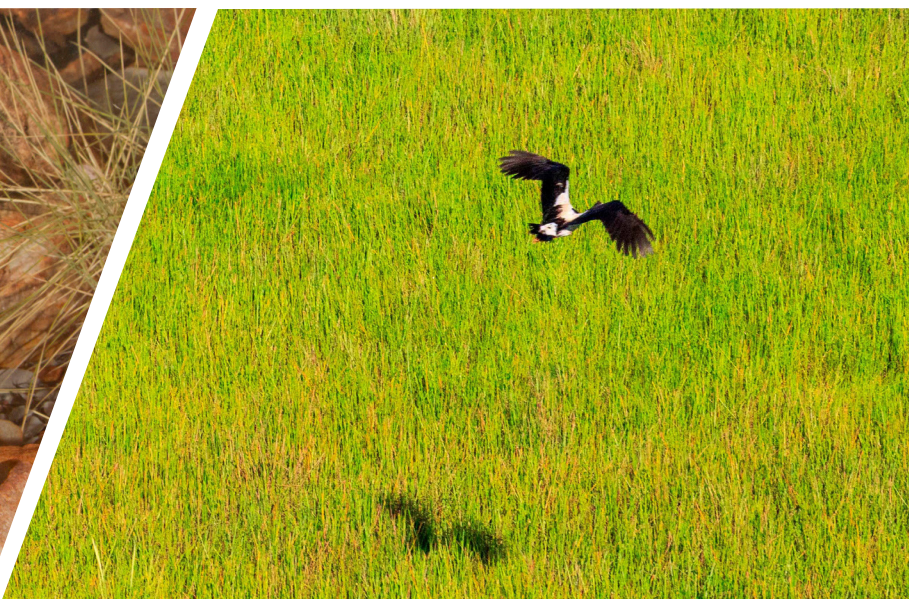
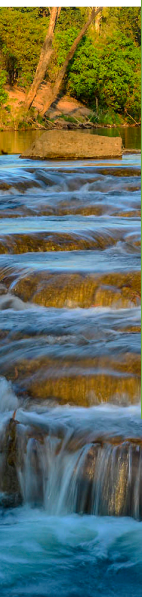


DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



Published by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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LETTER TO THE MINISTER

The Hon. Eva Lawler MLA
Minister for Environment and Natural Resources
Parliament House
State Square, Darwin NT 0800

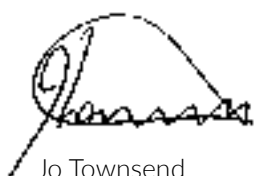
Dear Minister,

I am pleased to present you with the 2017–18 Annual Report of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* and section 12 of the *Financial Management Act*.

Pursuant to my responsibilities as the Accountable Officer under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the *Financial Management Act* and the *Information Act*, I advise that to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- Proper records of all transactions affecting the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are kept, and all employees under my control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, its regulations and applicable Treasurer's Directions.
- Procedures in the department afford proper internal control, and these procedures are recorded in the Accounting and Property Manual, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*.
- There is no indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in, or omission from, the accounts and records.
- In accordance with section 15 of the *Financial Management Act*, the internal audit capacity was adequate and the results of all internal audit matters were reported to me.
- The financial statements included in this annual report have been prepared from proper accounts and records and are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions.
- All Employment Instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment have been satisfied.
- In respect to my responsibilities pursuant to section 131 of the *Information Act*, processes have been implemented to achieve compliance with the archives and records management provisions prescribed in Part 9 of the *Information Act*.

Yours sincerely,



Jo Townsend
Chief Executive Officer
28 September 2018

PURPOSE

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources annual report provides a record of the department's functions and performance for 2017-18 and progress against the department's strategic goals and priorities.

The 2017-18 annual report for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources complies with annual reporting requirements in the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the *Financial Management Act* and the *Information Act*.

OUR AUDIENCE

The annual report provides information about the department's activities and achievements for the 2017-18 financial year. It is tabled by the Minister in the Northern Territory Parliament, primarily as an accounting and reporting mechanism for the department's income and financial expenditure for the year ending 30 June 2018.

The report gives other Government agencies and the public, information about the department's range, purpose and outcomes during the year. It also formally acknowledges the achievements of its employees.

REPORT STRUCTURE

The report comprises five key sections:

- **Our department**
The organisation's purpose, primary functions and objectives.
- **Our achievements**
The department's output performance in 2017-18 and results against measures published in Budget Paper No. 3.
- **Our people**
An overview of the department's people, human resource management and legislative requirements and formal acknowledgement of our employees' achievements.
- **Corporate governance**
The department's corporate governance model and performance.
- **Financial reports**
The department's financial statements and related notes.


This annual report is published online at www.denr.nt.gov.au

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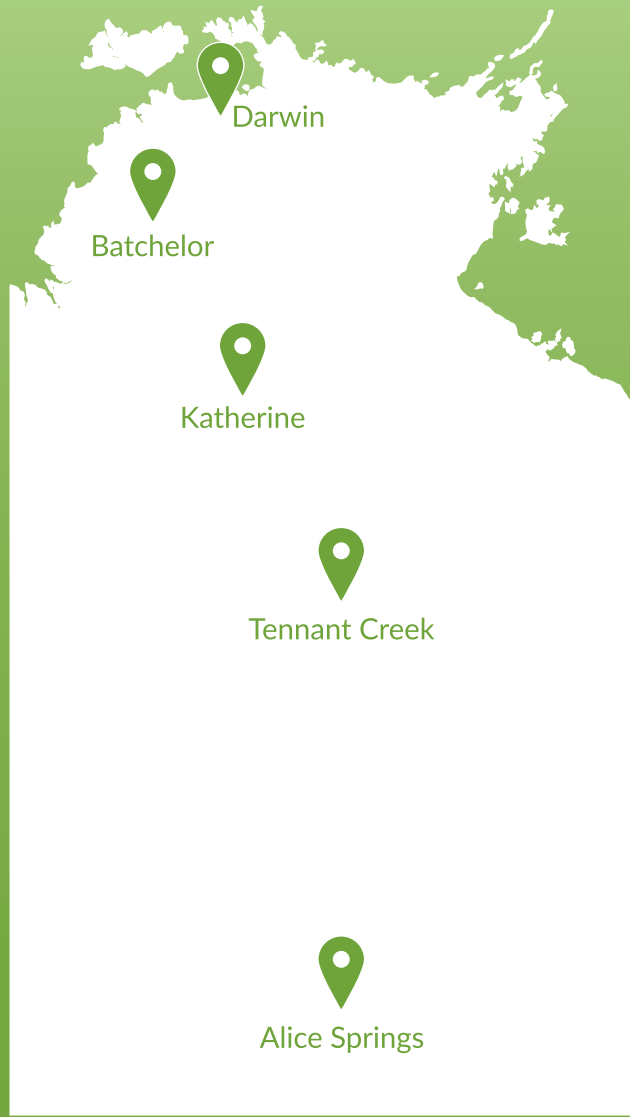


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OUR DEPARTMENT





Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office locations

Budget priorities:



Jobs and Economy



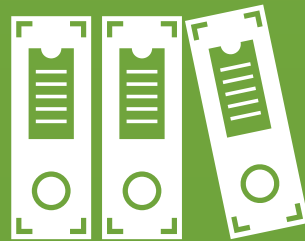
Safer Communities



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.

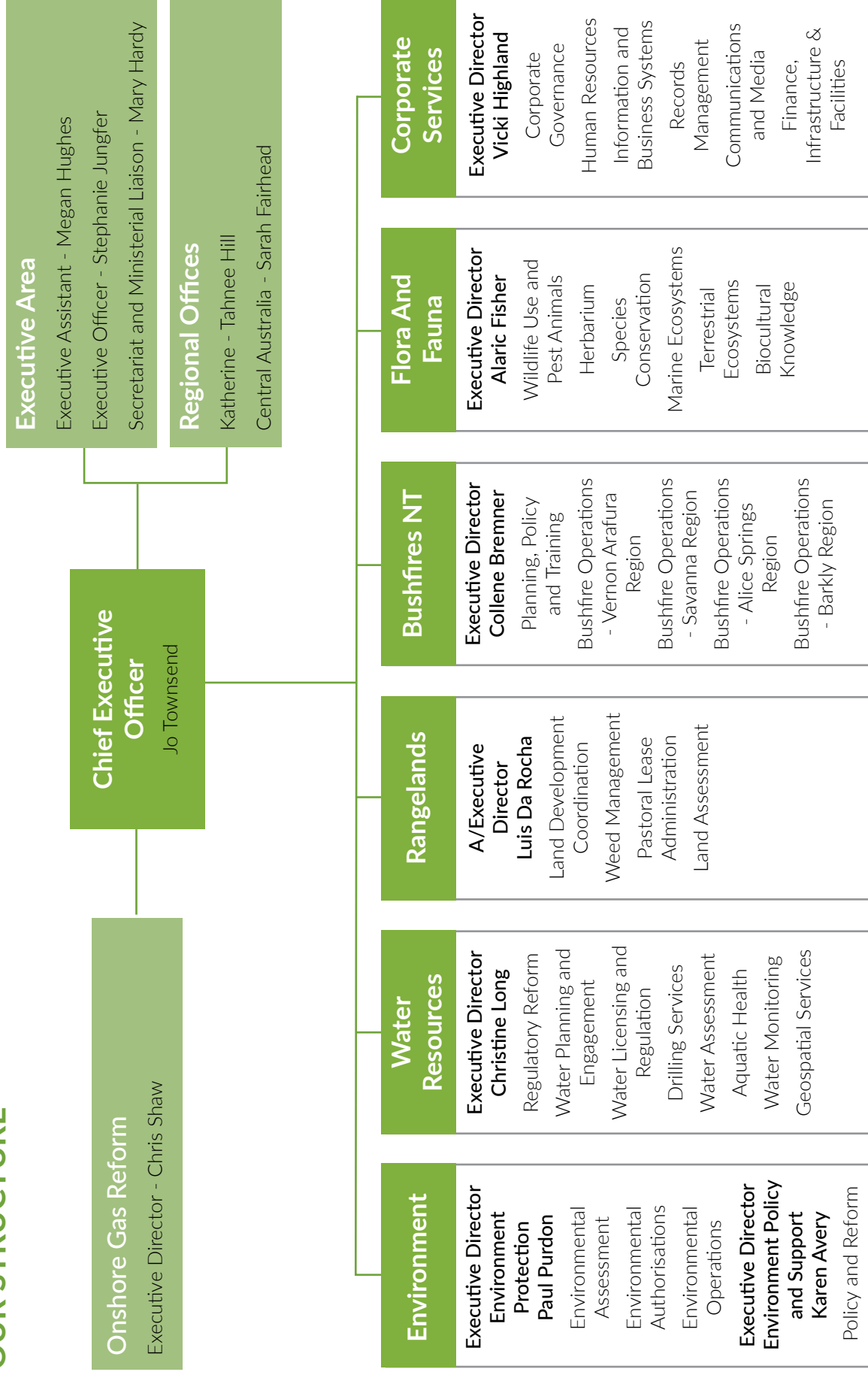
Our Purpose

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

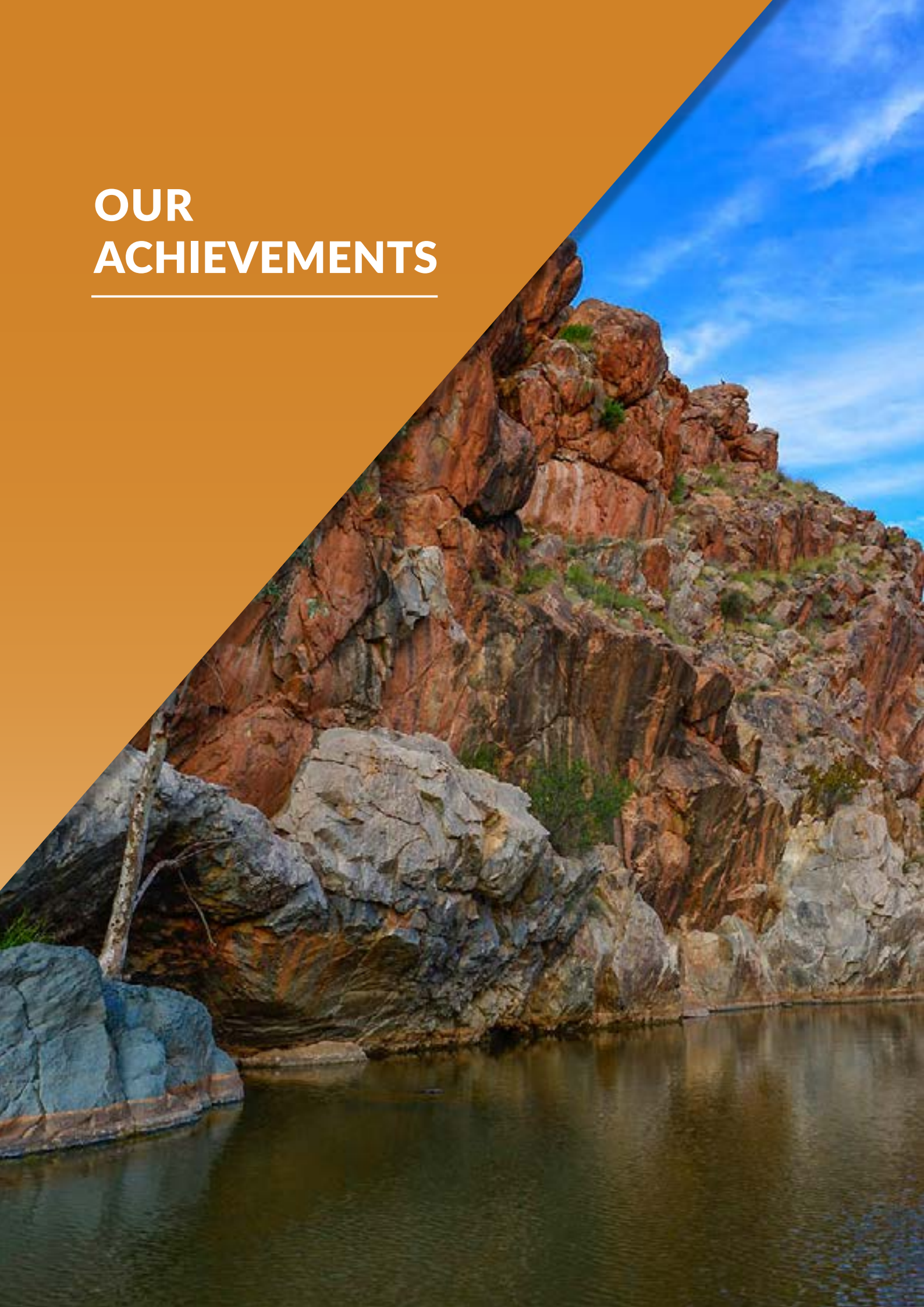
- a) Water Regulations

Water Efficiency Labelling Standards (National Uniform Legislation) Act

Weeds Management Act

- a) Weeds Management Regulations

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

\$15M	Water Resources
\$10.1M	Rangelands
\$9.9M	Flora and Fauna
\$8.6M	Bushfires
\$7M	Environment
\$5.1M	Corporate and Governance
\$3.8M	Shared Services Provided
\$0.6M	NT EPA

Income

In 2017-18, the department received income of \$60.1 million against a final budget of \$62.9 million. Income received is represented by;

- \$49 million in Northern Territory Parliamentary appropriation being the main source of income,
- other goods and services revenue, which includes works performed by the department for third parties;
 - \$1.1 million Water Resources,
 - \$0.4 million Bushfires NT,
 - \$0.2 million Flora and Fauna,
 - \$0.2 million Rangelands, and
 - \$0.1 million Corporate Services.
- \$0.1 million cost recoveries from other Northern Territory Government agencies,
- \$5.1 million grants and appropriation received from the Australian Government and other external parties,
- \$3.8 million notional revenue for corporate services provided by the Department of Corporate Information Services, and
- \$0.1 million in other revenue.

\$17.1M	Water Resources
\$10.6M	Rangelands
\$10.3M	Flora and Fauna
\$9.8M	Bushfires
\$7.2M	Environment
\$4.7M	Corporate and Governance
\$3.8M	Shared Services Provided
\$0.5M	NT EPA

Expenditure

In 2017-18, the department's expenditure totalled \$64.0 million against a budget of \$65.1 million. Expenditure is represented by;

- \$34.6 million, or 54 percent of total expenditure, on employee expenditure,
- \$15.1 million, or 23 percent of total expenditure, on goods and services expenditure,
- \$8.3 million, or 13 percent of total expenditure, on grants and subsidies payments. Includes \$3.1 million for Aboriginal rangers, \$1.4 million for the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement and \$0.8 million to support Bushfire Brigades,
- \$5.0 million, or 8 percent of total expenditure, on non-cash expenses. Includes \$1.2 million for depreciation charged on the department's asset portfolio and the matching \$3.8 million for notional expenses charged by the Department of Corporate Information Services, and
- \$1.0 million, or 2 percent of total expenditure, on repairs and maintenance of assets. Includes \$0.6 million on the Mary River Saltwater Intrusion Program.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

OVERVIEW

This section reports on the department's performance in delivering outputs by division. It covers our achievements in key projects and our performance against our priorities.

Our performance against the output key deliverables published in Budget Paper No. 3 is reported in the performance measure tables. Where actual performance differs from the budget explanation is provided.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN 2017-18

Bushfires Management Regulations

The *Bushfires Management Act* provides a regulatory framework for the management of bushfire across all of the Territory outside of the largely urban Emergency Response Areas delivered by NT Fire and Rescue Services. The Act establishes a number of offences relating to the improper or unauthorised use of fire and requirements to establish fire breaks and manage fuel loads.

- The Bushfires Management (General) Regulations allow for some offences to be dealt with by issuing an infringement notice rather than by prosecution.
- The Regulations were amended on 2 March 2018 to ensure that serious offences, being offences for which the maximum penalty includes a term of imprisonment, can only be dealt with by prosecution and a decision of a court.
- This amendment was made following a recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee.

Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Amendment Regulations 2018

The *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Amendment Regulations 2018* introduced amendments to refund marking requirements for beverage containers sold in the Northern Territory in accordance with the container deposit scheme.

- The amendments adopted 'common refund marking' agreed with all States and Territories which have, or are introducing, container deposit schemes.

- The changes mean that beverage suppliers do not have to develop different labels for different jurisdictions and facilitate a national approach to container deposit schemes.

Pastoral Land Act

The Pastoral Land Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly in October 2017 providing for amendments to the *Pastoral Land Act* and *Pastoral Land Regulations* to;

- Implement a new methodology to set pastoral lease rents based on the capacity of the lease to support livestock (estimated carrying capacity (ECC)),
- rectify an anomaly regarding penalty for late payment of pastoral rent,
- enable the grant of subleases for non-pastoral purposes,
- refine consent to transfer provisions to capture share transfers,
- increase the number of members on the Pastoral Land Board, and
- align payment periods for pastoral lease rent with existing Government policy.

The Bill was referred to the Economic Policy Scrutiny Committee for its examination. The Committee tabled its report in March 2018. As at June 2018 Government was considering the recommendations in the report and the reform is expected to be finalised in late 2018.

FUTURE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Pastoral Land Act

Review of the *Pastoral Land Act* and Regulations with proposed amendments to:

- Provide a new methodology for calculating pastoral lease rents based on a new baseline of the capacity of the land to support livestock (carrying capacity) as opposed to the current method, which relies on unimproved capital value.
- Undertake minor administrative amendments and fix technical irregularities to improve the workability and interpretation of the Act and Regulations.

Environmental regulatory reform

The NT Government has committed to improving the environmental regulatory framework and has established an environmental reform program to achieve this.

The program will:

- Deliver comprehensive reforms to the environmental regulatory system.
- Reform the *Environmental Assessment Act*.
- Create a fully functioning environment protection Act incorporating the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* and *Litter Act*, and including measures to manage the environmental impacts of mining activities.
- Amend the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act* to clarify the role, functions and powers of the NT EPA and to improve its accountability to government and the community.

During the year, the reform program concentrated on reforms to the environmental assessment and approval system, obtaining Government agreement to a number of policy matters. During 2018, exposure draft legislation on this element of the reforms will be released for public comment.

During 2018, focus will shift to the second stage of the reforms relating to the regulatory arrangements for management of wastes, pollution and the environmental impacts of mining. An information paper outlining regulatory approaches for these matters will be released.

The amendments to the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act* are also expected to be progressed during 2018-19.

Water Act

Amendments to the *Water Act* will be introduced to:

- Implement the NT Government's decision to ensure mining and petroleum activities are subject to the *Water Act* including the requirement to obtain water licences in water control districts.
- Update the offences and penalty provisions to bring them into line with comparative provisions in interstate legislation.

Amendments to the *Water Act* to include a new beneficial use of Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves to support the Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve Policy will be progressed during 2018-19.

A program to identify strategic changes to the *Water Act* and Regulations has commenced, with proposals to be developed in consultation with other NT Government agencies, stakeholders, water advisory committees and licensees as well as those already identified through administrative operations and from various reports.

Changes to the Act to implement some of the 135 recommendations arising from the *Scientific Report into Hydraulic Fracturing* will also be progressed during 2018-19.

Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act

Amendments to the *Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act* will clarify the application of the Act to naturally occurring radioactive materials generated by the oil and gas industry. These amendments are expected to be progressed during 2018-19.

REPORT CARD FOR 2017-18

Achievements against the departments Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

Strategic Plan Goal 1

Strategically improve scientific and community knowledge and understanding of water, soils, landscapes and biodiversity to better inform adaptive and responsive management.

Strategy	Achievements
<p>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.</p>	<p>Provided area assessments of the extent of vegetation communities and soil landscapes across the McArthur, Bonaparte and Amadeus Basins and Arthur Creek and Velkeri Formations to the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Determined relative risk of water pollution for Darwin Harbour to inform the monitoring program design.</p> <p>Northern Stuart Corridor Exploring for the Future Project. Provided logistical support to communicate with community, pastoral and traditional owners regarding airborne surveys as part of a collaborative project in Geoscience Australia.</p> <p>Provided advice on geological, hydrogeological and hydrogeochemical data and understanding for the Howard and Daly River areas.</p> <p>Developed a Phase 1 model for the Mereenie Aquifer Project.</p> <p>Completed waterhole monitoring program and project report for the Lake Eyre Basin.</p> <p>Regional assessment of the Gunn Point area was undertaken in July 2017 for the extractives industry.</p> <p>Completed a survey for threatened Carpentarian Rock-rats on Wollogorang Station with Australian Wildlife Conservancy.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Conducted an on-ground rangeland monitoring program on 57 pastoral leases, with 307 monitoring sites assessed for the Pastoral Land Board (comprising 27 percent of the pastoral estate). Prepared Land Condition Reports using the on-ground information gathered and integrated with remote sensing products.</p> <p>Continue to provide the Pastoral Land Board with information about the condition of the Northern Territory's pastoral estate for its 2016-17 Annual Report to the Minister on the condition and use of pastoral land.</p> <p>In collaboration with INPEX, refined mangrove mapping in Darwin Harbour to support a mangrove monitoring pilot project and implemented the 2017-2021 pilot program to monitor Darwin Harbour mangroves.</p> <p>The Weed Management Branch developed a Compliance Policy to guide its compliance activities, particularly in relation to gamba grass control in the Top End.</p> <p>Created the Darwin Harbour Report Card online reporting tool.</p> <p>Completed the Keep River Water Quality sampling program.</p> <p>Completed mangrove sediment accretion and erosion project in conjunction with Charles Darwin University under the INPEX Marine Monitoring Research Program.</p>

	<p>Completed water quality sampling to develop a baseline understanding of pesticides and nutrients in the Ooloo water allocation plan area.</p> <p>Completed annual coastal dolphin surveys in Darwin and Bynoe Harbour in collaboration with Larrakia and Kenbi Ranger groups.</p> <p>Completed fieldwork for benthic habitat map for Darwin and Bynoe Harbour. Comprehensive mapping products will be available in early 2019.</p> <p>Revised and designed an expanded ecological monitoring program across major National Parks in the Top End and completed monitoring surveys with revised methods in Nitmiluk National Park.</p> <p>Delivered Aboriginal Ranger Grant funding for Aboriginal ranger groups to undertake monitoring of terrestrial and marine ecosystems across the Territory, including seagrass monitoring by Kenbi and Dhimurru Rangers, marine turtle nesting by Crocodile Islands Rangers, fire, feral animal and weed management and outcomes by Thamarrurr, Bulgul, Tiwi, Ardjumarllarl, Arafura, Yirralka, Tennant Creek and Yugul Mangi Rangers.</p> <p>Continued to operate three Ambient Air Quality Monitoring stations, located at Palmerston, Winnellie and the newly installed station at Stokes Hill. In conjunction with the Department of Health, Bushfires NT, NT Fire and Rescue Services and other key Government agencies a media release alert has been developed and implemented for whenever particle pollution is elevated.</p>
<p>Develop and implement an online information strategy to improve community understanding of the Territory's natural resources.</p>	<p>Increased water resources education information and other contributions to the department's Facebook page to expand knowledge of the Water Resources Division's programs and services.</p> <p>Created rainwater harvesting, groundwater and water cycle, and water wise animations to educate and inform on the Territory's water resources.</p> <p>Maintained Groundwater Watch webpage to provide current groundwater levels to rural community members.</p> <p>Revamped the water inundation website for improved user readability.</p> <p>Established Web Map Service for web-serving natural resources spatial layers on compatible mobile, desktop and web applications.</p> <p>Developed draft three year biodiversity information strategic plan to enhance the management and discoverability of the NT's biodiversity information.</p> <p>Delivered updates to Flora and Fauna datasets on the department NRM Maps and Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) systems; and initiated engagement with external stakeholders to ensure available data is current and relevant.</p>

Strategic Plan Goal 2

Advise on the effective planning, allocation, conservation and use of the Northern Territory's natural resources.

Strategy	Achievements
Implement water allocation planning in conjunction with water policy reform.	<p>Completed assessment and release of Annual Announced Allocations Tindal Mataranka and Adelaide River areas.</p> <p>Facilitated 22 water allocation planning meetings with seven water advisory committees across the Territory.</p>
Ensure that outputs from the Mapping the Future project inform natural resource allocation planning and decisions.	<p>Established priorities and the work program for Mapping the Future related water resource assessment projects.</p> <p>Developed methodologies for determining priority investigation areas in consultation with key stakeholders.</p> <p>Undertook extensive stakeholder engagement, cross referenced regional and industry policy, assessed land use capability and identified significant knowledge gaps to produce a short list of investigation areas.</p> <p>Commenced project implementation planning for land, water and biodiversity assessment data collection exercises.</p> <p>Year one priority program areas identified and targeted biodiversity assessments commenced at Gunn Point.</p>
Provide the best available information on the Territory's natural resources to support the Economic Development Framework.	<p>Published two soil and land sustainability reports and mapping in the Wadeye area of the lower Daly region and Orange Creek, south of Alice Springs.</p> <p>Published updated land use mapping across the Northern Territory, providing a contemporary assessment of how the Territory's land resource is being utilised.</p> <p>Provided written advice on 677 development proposals for various Northern Territory Government agencies, authorities and private entities.</p> <p>Assessed 11 native vegetation clearing proposals to support sustainable development under the <i>Pastoral Land Act</i> and <i>Planning Act</i>.</p> <p>Delivered \$600 000 repairs and maintenance works on engineer designed barrages around the Mary River Shady Camp area that are designed to slow the progression of saltwater into the freshwater systems of the river and its floodplains.</p> <p>Provided 614 geospatial data packages to the public, free of charge using unrestricted Creative Commons licensing, via the online 24/7 department Data Server and NR Maps web mapping system.</p>

Strategy	Achievements
<p>Develop and maintain integrated information systems for natural resource data and information accessible to stakeholders, land managers and the community.</p>	<p>Developed an enhanced NR Maps user interface, through added Google base maps and natural resource layers.</p> <p>Enhancements to the Flora NT website to make all flora records visible and accessible to the public.</p> <p>Maintained and enhanced data services to Flora NT and the Australian Virtual Herbarium (AVH) websites from NT flora specimen database (Holtze) and NT Vegetation Site Database (VSD).</p> <p>Improve the preservation of historical knowledge through the development of a legacy data catalogue and initiated processes to import legacy data into corporate database systems.</p> <p>Commenced planning for mobile data entry system for collection of Flora and Fauna field data.</p>
<p>Support the sustainable development of the pastoral estate through contemporary pastoral legislation.</p>	<p>The Pastoral Land Legislation Amendment Bill (2017) introduced in October 2017 to improve and contemporise the <i>Pastoral Land Act</i> and Pastoral Land Regulations.</p> <p>Continued to promote opportunities for non-pastoral development on pastoral leases for both pastoralists and potential investors. Three non-pastoral use permits were approved for tourism purposes; and one for aquaculture. Three clearing permits for purpose of improved pasture were also approved.</p> <p>Developed a new policy regarding Maximum Holdings to guide applications and to assist Ministerial decision making related to consent to transfer.</p> <p>Updated Pastoral Land Clearing Guidelines under the <i>Pastoral Land Act</i>.</p>

Strategic Plan Goal 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.

Strategy	Achievements
Reform, streamline and increase transparency of environmental regulatory systems in the Territory.	<p>Darwin Rural Area Licensing Policy established.</p> <p>Drafting of a new environment protection Bill to replace the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> commenced.</p> <p>Statutory review of the weed management plans for gamba grass, mimosa and bellyache bush completed.</p> <p>Compliance and Enforcement Framework developed for weed management.</p> <p>Commenced a review of the Northern Territory Land Clearing Guidelines under the <i>Planning Act</i>.</p>
Ensure that robust, evidence-based advice relating to natural resources informs all environmental impact assessments and approvals.	<p>Provided written submissions on 17 Notices of Intent, two draft Environmental Impact Statements and four Assessment Reports.</p>
Support the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority to manage the regulatory framework to reduce the impacts of waste and pollution on the Territory's environment.	<p>Continued to support the NT EPA through approvals and administration of environment protection approvals and licences relating to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collection, transport, storage and/or treatment of listed waste, • liquefied natural gas facilities, • abattoirs, and • aquaculture facilities. <p>Worked closely with other jurisdictions to promote harmonisation of waste policies and legislation (e.g. hazardous waste, container deposit schemes, plastic bag ban).</p> <p>In relation to the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) a number of coordinator, collection depot and CDS supply approvals were issued and/or administered.</p>
Ensure mining and petroleum activities are subject to the <i>Water Act</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commenced drafting of amendments to the <i>Water Act</i> to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ ensure water use by mining and petroleum activities are regulated under the <i>Water Act</i>, and ◦ revise the offence and penalties provisions. • Discharges of wastewater from mine sites are regulated under the <i>Water Act</i> through the issue of waste discharge licences. In 2017-18, six Waste Discharge Licences (WDLs) were administered for mining related activities.
Support and engage with stakeholders and the community on managing risks and mitigating the impact of waste on the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Illegal Landfill and Litter strategies were developed.

Strategic Plan Goal 4

Foster and sustain community participation from all regions of the Territory in sustainable natural resource use and management.

Strategy	Achievements
<p>Develop and maintain engagement and partnerships with stakeholders and the community to leverage knowledge and better manage the Territory's natural resources.</p>	<p>Continue working closely with Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics on the management of weeds on both road reserves and vacant crown land.</p> <p>Further consolidated relationships with service corridor providers including gas, rail, Power and Water and Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service to ensure active weed control programs are in place and being implemented.</p> <p>Conducted capacity building workshops with local weed management contractors in the Katherine and Darwin regions.</p> <p>Provide extension services to landholders (including pastoral lessees), developers and contractors on; erosion and sediment control measures, native vegetation clearing and land condition.</p> <p>Continued to work with industry to promote the adoption of consistent standards for erosion and sediment control planning and management across the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Delivered March 2018, Women in Water Symposium to provide a forum for Women in Water resource professions to showcase and share water resource research and projects.</p> <p>Delivered 14 class presentations at five schools, working with Power and Water's Living Water Smart team to deliver the <i>That's My Water!</i> 10-week Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) water specific curriculum unit.</p> <p>Completed the Kenbi Fire Resilience Project – a partnership between Bushfires NT and the Northern Land Council and traditional owners to develop the Kenbi Area Bushfire Management Plan on the Kenbi Aboriginal Land Trust.</p> <p>Ongoing partnership programs with the Anindilyakwa Land Council on Groote Eylandt and Warddeken Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA).</p> <p>Conducted survey and compliance monitoring of crocodile population and harvest to ensure sustainable and high value industry.</p> <p>Worked with key stakeholders to establish bag limits and season length for the 2018 waterfowl hunting season. Hunting organisations participated in, the 2018 aerial survey program for magpie goose.</p> <p>Worked with the cattle industry and individual landholders across the Territory to document current approaches to wild dog management to inform the development of “best practice management guidelines” for wild dogs on the pastoral estates.</p>

Strategy	Achievements
<p>Support Aboriginal rangers and communities to protect the environment and create jobs.</p>	<p>Delivered an Aboriginal Ranger Grants program, providing funding for capital grants and establishment of a Conservation and Land Management Fund to improve conservation practices on Aboriginal land and sea. First round of grants provided; \$1.9 million Capital funding to 26 ranger groups to provide equipment and infrastructure and \$1.4 million in funding for 22 projects, covering fire, feral and weed management, documenting and protecting sacred sites and Rock Art, learning on country for communities and schools, engaging philanthropic support for land management and documenting state of the environment for Aboriginal lands.</p> <p>A partnership between Northern Territory Weed Management Branch, Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation and Kakadu National Park is aimed at improving the management of salvinia at key locations in Kakadu.</p> <p>Presentation at the Grassy Weeds Workshop for Arnhem Land conducted by Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA) and Jawoyn – focus on how to remove gamba grass and opportunities for Rangers to assist with the process.</p> <p>Partnered with Traditional Owners to determine environmental flow requirements of the pig-nosed turtle in the Daly River as part of the National Environmental Science Program.</p> <p>Involved Larrakia Nation Rangers in groundwater monitoring and spring flow monitoring in Darwin Rural Water Control District.</p> <p>Worked with the Central Land Council, Traditional Owners, Ranger groups and pastoral managers to restore degraded wetland sites in Central Australia.</p> <p>Worked with Northern Land Council, Traditional Owners and ranger groups to monitor the population of saltwater crocodiles in coastal rivers across the Northern Territory.</p>
<p>Establish an Aboriginal Carbon Unit to deliver carbon abatement and economic development on aboriginal land.</p>	<p>Aboriginal Carbon Unit has been established within the department. The unit coordinates Government support for the Aboriginal carbon industry, and serves as a point of contact within Government for the industry.</p> <p>A draft Northern Territory Aboriginal Carbon Industry Strategy is being developed following extensive consultation with the industry throughout 2017-18.</p>
<p>Implement a strategic Aboriginal reserves policy and methodology to provide Aboriginal landholders with increased opportunity to access water resources for economic development.</p>	<p>Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve Policy Framework was established in October 2017 and requires water allocation plans to specify a portion of the consumptive pool to be management for future economic development to benefit Aboriginal people.</p>

Strategy	Achievements
Develop digital information products to better inform community around contentious natural resource management issues.	<p>Provided digital TVs to rural area (Berry Springs, Howard Springs, and Coolalinga) to inform community regarding groundwater resource sustainability including promoting awareness through the Groundwater Watch education campaign.</p> <p>Produced spatial data and map packages for the Northern Territory Land and Water Suitability Program 2014-18.</p>
Develop a Coastal and Marine Management Strategy that protects our valued coast and marine environments while encouraging sustainable development and use by Territorians.	A Discussion Paper was released for community consultation asking for feedback on identified environmental, social, cultural and economic values and benefits of the Territory's coasts and seas, roles and responsibilities for managing these areas, and the challenges faced in managing this extensive multi-use environment. The feedback from the public consultation will be used to develop a final version of the Strategy, which is due to be completed by the end of 2018.
Establish the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee.	Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee established, and meetings are held regularly.

Strategic Plan Goal 5

Manage and mitigate threats to regional communities and our natural ecosystems and native flora and fauna through shared responsibilities and partnerships.

Strategy	Achievements
Support land managers to reduce the impacts of fire, feral animals and weeds on productive and natural systems.	<p>Cost benefit analysis tool developed for use on prickly acacia control through Commonwealth Government funding.</p> <p>Worked with the Department of Corrections to reduce neem in the Katherine River corridor.</p> <p>Support to the Roper River Landcare Group with their neem control program.</p> <p>Established a Compliance and Enforcement Unit within Bushfires NT.</p> <p>Continued support through regular visits to pastoral properties, and the provision of basic firefighter training to over 200 rural stakeholders.</p> <p>Provided advice to key stakeholder groups on how to best manage the impacts of feral animals.</p> <p>Completed a four year investigation of impacts of feral cats and fire regimes on reptiles and mammals in Kakadu National Park.</p> <p>Delivered Aboriginal Ranger Grant funding to Aboriginal ranger groups across the Territory to undertake fire, feral animal and weed management. Projects of one to three years duration approved with total funding over three years of up to \$2.3 million.</p>

Strategy	Achievements
<p>Progress a strategic approach to manage the increased risk of bushfire in the rural area caused by grassy weeds.</p>	<p>Completed comprehensive regional bushfire management plans for three of the Territory's five Fire Management Zones, with two more regional plans scheduled for completion in late 2018.</p> <p>Mimosa biocontrol – ongoing redistribution of the mimosa flea beetle 'nessie'. Continuing to work collaboratively with land managers and TNRM to reduce the impact of mimosa by active redistribution of 'nessie'.</p> <p>Weed Management Branch, Alice Springs region, in partnership with the Alice Springs Town Council, Cleanaway and Alice Springs Landcare Group have developed a system using wheelie bins to get declared cacti out of gardens and into the waste management facility while minimising the risk of spread and injury. This initiative has been promoted as the "Bin It Don't Spread" campaign. A similar initiative has also more recently been initiated in the township of Tennant Creek with the Barkly Shire Council.</p> <p>Commonwealth funded position for prickly acacia and mimosa has seen mapping, training and weed planning delivered to land managers across most of the Northern Territory.</p>
<p>Build community understanding of, and capacity to mitigate the impacts of wildfire, weeds and feral animals.</p>	<p>Developed new public information programs and materials on planning for and preventing bushfires for distribution prior to, and during, the 2018 Top End fire season.</p> <p>Delivered Aboriginal Ranger Grant funding to Aboriginal ranger groups to support learning on country for Aboriginal communities and schools on Ranger activities including fire, feral and weed management.</p>
<p>Provide flood monitoring and advice in consultation with other agencies for major 'at risk' communities.</p>	<p>Provision of flood warning system in Alice Springs and Rapid Creek in collaboration with NT Emergency Services.</p> <p>Collaboration with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to provide flood mapping for Katherine, Rapid Creek and Timber Creek.</p> <p>Undertook flood monitoring in major river systems for identified at-risk communities resulting in five minor, two moderate and two major flood warnings being generated by the Bureau of Meteorology.</p> <p>Undertook monitoring and provided 215 river level alerts to Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics related to at-risk infrastructure.</p>

Strategic Plan Goal 6

Maintain an organisation with the capacity and capability to deliver effective services and that nurtures its human resources.

Strategy	Achievements
Inspire and support a workplace culture that is collaborative, respectful and accountable.	<p>Review and launch of new performance management process. The Build our own staff talent (BOOST) program was launched September 2017; incorporates a whole of employee life cycle approach with improved tools for manager employee discussions.</p> <p>Internal training and information sessions held throughout the year covering topics such as travel, procurement and corporate credit card, and grant management.</p>
Build and enhance strategic leadership across the agency.	<p>Supported three staff to participate in the Public Sector Management Program.</p> <p>Held Senior Leaders forum over two days in March 2018, bringing leaders of the department together to foster collaborative networks and building strategic capability knowledge across the department.</p>
Implement targeted development programs to “grow our own” with an emphasis on succession planning.	<p>Provided University placement and school-based apprentice opportunities to nine students.</p> <p>Prioritised internal staff for development opportunities in the department by implementing a policy that temporary vacancies between 3-6 months would be advertised internally.</p>
Provide a safe working environment and promote safe practices in both office and field operations.	<p>Offering of Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) training to all WHS Committee members across the department.</p> <p>Regular offering of code of conduct and appropriate workplace behaviour training.</p> <p>Quarterly reporting to the Governance Board collating all WHS committee meeting minutes, key observations and incident reporting.</p>
Continue to improve business processes and streamline key internal systems.	<p>Established Darwin Rural Water Licensing Team to support water extraction licensing activities in the Darwin Rural area.</p> <p>Completed redesign of Water Resources functions to meet business needs including development of Water Planning and Engagement, Water Licensing and Regulation and Regulatory Reform Branches.</p> <p>Development of the Water Information Management System (WIMS) by Water Resources Division to provide effective project management.</p> <p>Developed a Water Resources Photo Database containing over 22 000 photographs to establish a historic record of field surveys.</p>

WHAT WE ACHIEVED BY OUTPUT

Flora and Fauna

Provides scientific assessment and monitoring of the Territory's native flora and fauna, and delivery of policy advice and support relating to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife and management of feral animals.

This output is responsible for;

- assessing and monitoring the Territory's native flora and fauna,
- assisting landowners to manage the threat to our unique flora and fauna,
- supporting and managing the sustainable use of wildlife, and
- providing robust, evidence-base to Government, industry and the community relating to the biodiversity of the Northern Territory.

Services are provided from Darwin and Alice Springs.

Key deliverables	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2018-19 Budget
Number of spatial biodiversity records for the Territory	2.45M	2.6M	2.9M	2.6M	2.69M
Number of biodiversity information requests met	2 400	2 400	2 400	2 400	2 400
Number of active inventory, monitoring and applied research programs	34	34	34	34	32
Number of management programs in place for sustainable wildlife management	6	8	8	8	9

Performance Achievements in 2017-18

Completed

- ✱ Delivered Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program, including reporting and of the first round of funding under the Program.
- Completed annual monitoring of dolphin populations in Darwin Harbour and adjacent coastal waters, and dugong populations around the Territory coastline.
- Worked with Northern Land Council, Traditional Owners and ranger groups to complete annual monitoring of population of saltwater crocodiles in coastal rivers across the Northern Territory.
- Worked with Aboriginal elders and communities to document and preserve their biocultural knowledge; published a book titled 'Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from the east Kimberley, north Australia'.
- Completed a four year investigation of impacts of feral cats and fire regimes on reptiles and mammals in Kakadu National Park.
- Published 16 refereed scientific journal articles and eight books and book chapters.
- Completed a comprehensive aerial survey of magpie geese and nest numbers across Top End floodplains in May 2018, in order to develop recommendations to the Minister

about sustainable harvest levels for the 2018 hunting season and pest mitigation permits.

- Undertook fine-scale vegetation map for Groote Eylandt (with funding from the Anindilyakwa Land Council).
- Implemented aerial baiting for feral cats in selected areas of the most rugged parts of the West MacDonnell Ranges to improve their value as refuges for central rock-rat and other threatened mammals.

In Progress

- ✱ Working with government, industry, science, environment and community stakeholders to develop the Northern Territory's Coastal and Marine Management Strategy. A draft strategy was released for public comment, and the revised Strategy will be completed by the end of 2018.
- The development and implementation of the Mapping the Future Program, including assessing biodiversity values and environmental risks in potential new development areas. Commenced implementation of flora and fauna assessments in Gunn Point and Wadeye.

- Continued major projects (funded through the Ichthys Project Voluntary Offsets Agreement), to map marine habitats in Darwin and Bynoe Harbours; monitor dolphin populations in Darwin Harbour and adjacent coastal waters; and monitor dugong populations around the Territory coastline.
- Review of the conservation status of plant and animal species listed as threatened under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* will continue through to 2022. There will be a period of Public Consultation on the first round of proposed changes to the 'Classification of Wildlife' (threatened species list) in the second half of 2018.
- Collaboration with Aboriginal elders and communities to document and preserve their biocultural knowledge, with work in the Elliott, Roper/Gulf, and Daly regions.
- Provide a robust evidence base to support the development of best practice guidelines for assessing and managing the impacts of wild dogs across the Northern Territory, in collaboration with Department of Primary Industry and Resources.
- Continued to work with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal rangers and pastoral managers to restore important central Australian waterholes for ecological and cultural outcomes. Work at Ilpili Springs has seen increased water flows, resprouting of vegetation and return of some animal species.
- Monitoring of native mammal and cat populations following 2017 baiting confirmed decreases in cat numbers and increases in the area used by Central Rock-rats and remote cameras are currently in place to monitor the efficacy of baiting in winter 2018.
- Continued a set of projects to clarify the factors causing small mammal decline, particularly the role of feral cats and unfavourable fire regimes, and management actions to address these.
- Commenced a new project (with funding from the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources) to develop and trial a technique to control foxes that does not also harm dogs/dingoes.

INVESTIGATING DRIVERS OF MAMMAL DECLINE – PROVIDING LESSONS ABOUT REPTILES

The Flora and Fauna division research to investigate the causes of mammal decline, has made a surprising discovery for reptiles.

The research results showed predation by cats, in synergy with other disturbance processes such as fire, could be adversely impacting reptile's species right across the Top End.

The Kakadu National Park project employing cat proof fencing was established in 2013 to investigate the effect of fire and feral cats on native animals. Three management treatments were applied, this included the removal of cats, fire inside fenced areas, and in areas not fenced.

The number of reptiles in the cat-excluded areas increased during the first two years of sampling at twice the rate of unfenced plots. Fire also had an effect with reptile abundance increasing the longer an area was fire free. The research showed a slight increase in the number of different kinds of reptiles inside the fence.

The research highlights that cats do not just eat mammals, and that observing the interactions between predation and fire can help provide alternative management options for conserving wildlife besides killing feral cats.



Two lined dragon



Cat proof fence

- Continue programs using track-based monitoring plots to assess and monitor the conservation status of threatened and other significant species in Arid Australia. These include the Central Land Council's Bilby Blitz program and the new Arid Zone Monitoring project funded by the Commonwealth Government's NES Program.
- Working with Australian Wildlife Conservancy in their construction of the largest area on mainland Australia that is free of feral predators (foxes and cats), and planning the subsequent reintroduction of species that have gone locally extinct, or the recovery of other threatened species that have persisted in the area.

Ongoing

- Curating the Northern Territory herbaria (Darwin and Alice Springs) as the authoritative collection of Northern Territory plant specimens, providing plant identification services and maintaining and updating the FloraNT web portal, which provides public access to the collection and associated databases.
- Managing the very large biodiversity datasets collated by the division. The datasets are the primary information resource about the distribution and status of flora and fauna in the Northern Territory. Work is ongoing to improve data management standards and make all data publicly discoverable, including through NR Maps, FloraNT electronic flora, and the Atlas of Living Australia.
- Undertaking systematic annual surveys of wildlife populations as required by formal Management Programs, including for saltwater crocodiles and magpie geese.
- Providing authoritative advice on NT's biodiversity to the Northern Territory Government, Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWCNT), Land Councils, land managers, developers and consultants, industry, other stakeholders and community, including advice on sustainable development of the Territory through the EPA's development assessment process.
- Administration of part four of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, including:
 - Maintaining the lists of threatened species, data deficient species and restricted range species in the Northern Territory, and liaising with the Commonwealth Government and other jurisdictions on planning conservation initiatives for threatened species.
 - Advising on permitting for wildlife use, wildlife take and other wildlife issues.

SUPPORTING THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY THROUGH STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The Flora and Fauna division play a key role to identify sustainable opportunities for development that are in line with the protection of the Territory's unique plants and animals.

Future development resources can conflict with conservation requirements for high value biodiversity assets. The Extractives Industry is particularly interested in sand and gravel resources in the greater Darwin region to service many current and future developments.

In response to the reservation of a high value area of sandsheet heath habitat that occurs on the sand, the Flora and Fauna division has undertaken a strategic assessment of the Gunn Point region. Woodland, wetland and rainforest habitats were evaluated to provide clarity on areas without limitations for the extractives industry.

The division provided recommendations on how to protect the most valuable areas in the region and were communicated to the Extractive Industry. The key outcome of this work is that future extractive tenements are only established in areas that pose a low risk to flora and fauna, or where important species or habitats are present how to protect them is clear.



Ptychosperma macarthurii – a threatened plant that occurs in Rainforest



Black-footed Tree-rat

- Undertaking biodiversity monitoring programs in the high conservation value national parks in the Territory, and coordinating with PWCNT's Integrated Conservation Strategy reporting and annual planning for these parks.
- Providing advice on environmental risks and biodiversity values to the development assessment process, public, industry and government.

Future priorities

- ✱ Complete the Northern Territory Coastal and Marine Management Strategy.
- ✱ Roll out the Aboriginal Ranger Grant program, including call for applications for the second round (2018-19) of Capital Fund and Land Management and Conservation Fund grants in September-October 2018.

- Continue implementation of the Mapping the Future Program, including assessing biodiversity values and environmental risks in potential new development areas.
- Progress a strategic and proactive approach to assessing and managing risks to biodiversity in the greater Darwin region.
- Complete a Threatened Species Management Plan for Groote Eylandt, and assist the Land Council and Rangers to implement the plan.
- Implement conservation and recovery programs for threatened plants in the southern NT, including Red Cabbage Palm and Waddy Wood, in collaboration with PWCNT and Aboriginal ranger groups.
- Investigating of the use of environmental DNA (eDNA) as a new technology to detect terrestrial animals as an alternative survey technique.

THE LARGEST MAINLAND AREA IN AUSTRALIA FREE OF FOXES AND CATS IS COMING TO THE NT

The department has been actively involved in the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's (AWC) project at their Newhaven Sanctuary. The project involved a 44 kilometres fence around what will be Australia's largest area (9400 hectares) on the mainland that is free of feral mammalian predators.

The fence has been completed with the help of Warlpiri Rangers and AWC to clear the area of foxes and cats. When the area is free the AWC is planning to introduce species that have become locally extinct.

The Northern Territory Government administered the grant from the Commonwealth Government and has provided advice, clearances and approvals for the project. The first animals for reintroduction to the Newhaven Sanctuary was provided by the Northern Territory Government.

In November 2017, the AWC built a smaller fence within the larger one to have a 143 hectare area free of feral predators. During November and December a joint operation with the Flora and Fauna division, Parks Wildlife and Heritage and AWC, saw 28 endangered Mala (Rufous Hare-wallabies) relocated from a 100 hectare enclosure at Watarrka National Park to the new enclosure

at Newhaven. The reports show all the Watarrka Mala have survived the relocation and many of the females have weaned young and/or have new pouch young.

In the future, the Mala will be released into a much larger area once monitoring shows that the area is fox and cat free.

There are already plans by the department and Parks and Wildlife NT to start planning the relocation of Central Rock rats, which will come from wild populations in the West MacDonnell Ranges.





Rangelands

Provides scientific assessment and monitoring of the Territory's land resources and delivery of extension services, policy advice, and regulation of use and threats to these resources.

This output is responsible for;

- assessing and monitoring the Territory's land resource, and
- assisting landholders in managing the threat and impact of weeds.

Services are provided from Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

Key deliverables	2016-17	2017-18	2017-18	2018-19
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Percentage of pastoral estate monitored in the year ¹	24%	25%	27%	20%
Land clearing applications assessed ²	33	20	11	11
Area of land receiving weed extension services (000 km ²) ³	250	250	205	250
Land development proposals assessed ⁴	685	550	677	600
Soil profiles described and tested ⁵	679	600	610	375

1 The increase on the previous year was the result of a targeted effort to bring the program back into a five year monitoring cycle. It should be noted that the number of leases across the NT increased from 223 to 224.

2 The decrease reflects the number of clearing applications received.

3 Total area of land parcels visited where weed extension services have been provided. Reduced resources within the Barkly region for last reporting quarter has resulted in reduced capacity.

4 Increase is reflective of an increase in the number of development applications received.

5 The reduction in 2018-19 is due to the cessation of the Commonwealth funded 'Keep River Plain' project.

Performance Achievements in 2017-18

Completed

- Assessed nine applications to clear native vegetation that were lodged under the *Planning Act*.
- Assessed three applications to clear native vegetation that were lodged under the *Pastoral Land Act* to support improved pasture and aquaculture as an approved non-pastoral use.
- Assessed and approved four non-pastoral use permits for the purposes of tourism (three) and aquaculture (one), supporting ongoing diversification of the pastoral estate.
- Facilitated continued consideration of amendments to the *Pastoral Land Act* and Regulations by Government. Consideration of proposed provisions relating to non-pastoral use sub-leasing were removed and deferred subject to consultation with key stakeholders.
- Carried out rangeland monitoring activities across 57 pastoral leases; in ten of the 11 pastoral districts of the Northern Territory Pastoral Estate. In total 302 monitoring sites established were assessed under the provisions of the *Pastoral Land Act*.
- Provided written advice on 677 development proposals for various Northern Territory Government agencies and authorities and private entities.
- Delivered \$600 000 of repairs and maintenance works to engineer designed barrages in the vicinity of Shady Camp barrage on the Mary River. The works are designed to slow the progression of saltwater into the freshwater systems of the river and its floodplains.
- Published two soil and land suitability reports and mapping in the Wadeye area of the lower Daly region and Orange Creek, south of Alice Springs.
- Published an updated land use map of the Northern Territory, providing a new snapshot on how the Territory's 1.35 million square kilometres is being used. The project accurately mapped individual agricultural commodities such as mangoes, sandalwood and melons while also providing new insights into the areas of land under mining, utilities, industry, commercial services, residential, and peri-urban development.
- Undertook statutory reviews of the weed management plans for gamba grass, mimosa and bellyache bush.
- With representatives from Thamarrurr, Asyrikarrak Karim (Peppimenarti) and the Wudikapildiya Ranger groups, the Weed Management Branch undertook 2 060 square kilometres of aerial mimosa survey over the Daly River region and in Arnhem Land for land managers to better prioritise control and manage mimosa.
- Undertook gamba grass aerial survey of 400 square kilometres around the Mary River to plan control and prevent invasion into Kakadu National Park.
- Completed the first comprehensive aerial survey for mimosa on the Legune Floodplain. Survey encompassed over 10 000 hectares and was crucial in establishing the extent of mimosa on the floodplain. The survey provided current mimosa distribution data to the Project Sea Dragon grow out facility weed management plan.
- Inspected all pastoral properties with mesquite in the Katherine region, with all known infestations under monitoring and surveillance.
- Undertook second half billabong treatment for cabomba in Darwin River with extensive monitoring for offsite herbicide effect (no effect observed).
- Assessed three permit applications for the utilisation of gamba grass and undertook permit audit inspections.
- Conducted weed risk assessment of tully grass and sagittaria across the Northern Territory.
- Completed 142 road side inspections for gamba grass management compliance. Issued 128 weed control orders for non-compliance and four infringements notices in the Darwin rural and Katherine areas.
- Delivered the 2017-18 season Gamba Action Program (GAP), distributing over 20,000L of free herbicide and providing equipment loans to a record 2 326 participants in the Top End and Katherine regions. The GAP helps landholders comply with legislation, reduce fuel loads and limit further spread of gamba grass.
- Delivered the Katherine Neem Blitz program to over 250 participants.
- Inspected all pastoral leases with recorded mimosa infestations in the Katherine region and ensured landholders are effectively implementing eradication programs.

In Progress

- Soil and land suitability mapping in the Larrimah Township, Roper River valley, East Arnhem, Beswick, Barkly, Keep River Plain and Dunmarra regions.
- Land resource mapping of Auvergne Station in the northern Victoria River District.
- In collaboration with INPEX, refine mangrove mapping in Darwin Harbour to support a mangrove monitoring pilot project.
- Working on the implementation of the statutory weed management plan for athel pine which includes ongoing collaboration with affected landholders in the upper Class A-zone of the Finke River catchment, removal of amenity plantings along with the development of a compliance plan.
- Revision of the Alice Springs Regional Weed Management Plan 2013-18.
- Undertaking trials into the use of the granular herbicide Tebuthiuron for the control of rubberbush in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.
- External peer review of the Cabomba Eradication Program and reduction of the quarantine area to the last remaining section of Darwin River.

Ongoing

- Implementation of the gamba grass compliance program within the Darwin and Katherine regions.
- Opuntia (or prickly pear) "Bin it, don't spread it" campaign for cacti control in the arid region continuing in Central Australia.
- Working towards the eradication of prickly acacia from the Barkly Tablelands through assistance to landholders.
- Third and fourth half billabong treatments for cabomba in Darwin River scheduled for September 2018 and 2019.
- Continue delivery of the Gamba Action Program.
- Sagittaria detection and eradication measures continuing.

Future priorities

- Continue to develop and refine the rangeland monitoring program across the pastoral estate using on-ground and remote sensing methodologies.
- Under the Mapping the Future Program undertake land resource mapping in the Katherine municipality.
- Amendments to the statutory mimosa and bellyache bush weed management plans.
- Undertake statutory review of the cabomba, neem, prickly acacia, mesquite and chinee apple weed management plans.
- Implement Cabomba Eradication Program up to 2028 and declare cabomba eradicated from all of Darwin River.
- Expanding the weed compliance program (1 263 road side inspections already planned for the 2018-19 gamba grass control season).

A NEW LAND USE SNAPSHOT OF THE TERRITORY

In collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), the department published an updated land use map of the Northern Territory. The study was supported by the Northern Territory Farmers Association and the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Resources.

The study utilised European Space Agency satellite technology (Sentinel) and high resolution aerial imagery, combined with a department app used on smartphones and field tablets, to record the location, land use and collect photographs at 2,847 sites.

The new land use map provides a snapshot on how the Territory's 1.35 million square kilometres is being used. Although the study indicated that a very large proportion of the Territory is still grazed native pastures, Aboriginal land or conservation areas, the project accurately mapped individual agricultural commodities such as mangoes, sandalwood and melons while also providing new insights into the areas of land under mining, utilities, industry, commercial services, residential, and peri-urban development.

The new information is critical for updating the economic profile of agricultural industries and protecting these from biosecurity risks as well as managing water resources and biodiversity.

The project's findings are summarised in the report, Northern Territory Land Use Mapping for Biosecurity 2016 available from the Northern Territory Library.



Bart Edmeades, land use mapping officer uses the new land use smartphone app to record an Okra crop in the Marrakai area.

CABOMBA SUCCESS – QUARANTINE AREA REDUCED ALONG DARWIN RIVER

The department's dedicated eradication program since 2004, has declared the eradication of Cabomba from the upper half of the Darwin River quarantine area.

Cabomba has been effectively eradicated and has not been detected in the upper reaches of the river for over ten years. Land and water surveys completed during the dry season have not detected any cabomba in the lower half of Darwin River. The last time it was detected, in this section (Lok Landji Billabong) was in January 2017 and was followed by an intensive two-year control program.

The department will lift the quarantine area over the upstream part of Darwin River, between Old Bynoe and Leonino Roads, Darwin River, during September 2018.

The earliest date that cabomba could be declared eradicated from the remaining downstream part of Darwin River, including Lok Landji Billabong, is January 2027. Two more herbicide treatments for cabomba in Lok Landji are scheduled for September 2018 and 2019. The quarantine area over that section will remain in place.



Water Resources

Scientific monitoring and assessment, allocation and regulation of the Territory's water resources for sustainable use, and the delivery of flood forecasting services.

This output is responsible for;

- monitoring and assessing the Territory's water resources,
- water planning and policy functions to meet the requirements of the environment whilst also supporting water based development,
- water licensing and regulatory activities in compliance with the *Water Act* and regulations,
- bore drilling services, and
- natural resource mapping and spatial data information services.

Services are provided from Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

Key deliverables	2016-17	2017-18	2017-18	2018-19
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Number of water assessment projects completed ¹	4	4	1	-
Proportion of water allocation plans covered by annual water monitoring programs ¹	100%	100%	100%	-
River, coastal regions and communities covered by flood risk mapping ¹	35	40	35	-
Annual Report cards on aquatic health of Darwin Harbour published ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Water allocation plans in effect ²	-	-	4	7
Technical and scientific reports completed and publicly available ²	-	-	5	10
Flood warning stations providing alerts to relevant authorities ²	-	-	63	66
Water extraction licences issued ^{2,3}	-	-	70	190
Bore construction permits issued ^{2,4}	-	-	198	145
Onsite compliance inspections completed ²	-	-	453	470

¹ 2017-18 is last year of this measure. New measures implemented.

² New Measure commenced in 2017-18.

³ An increase is expected in 2018-19 due to the finalisation of water applications in the Darwin Rural area.

⁴ The decrease in 2018-19 reflects an expected reduction in the number of new environmental monitoring bores.

Performance achievements in 2017-18

Completed

- Finalised Darwin Harbour Report Card and made available to the public via the web in a more accessible format.
- Completed public consultation on the draft Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan five year review.
- Completed innovative imagery analyses and report published online to identify potential groundwater dependent ecosystems in the Western Davenport and Ti-Tree water control districts that has informed the preparation of water allocation plans.
- Completed and published online technical and scientific reports including; Water resources of the Wildman River area; Development of a groundwater flow model Berry Springs; Water Quality of the Roper River 2012-2016; Water resources of Tennant Creek North; and Pesticides and nutrients in the Ooloo Aquifer.
- Published the Preliminary Assessment of Surface Water Resources and Flooding Potential within the Elsey Creek and Newcastle Creek Catchments.
- Completed water quality and anthropogenic pressure indicator pilot project plan for Darwin Harbour under the Ichthys Project Voluntary Offsets Agreement.

- Completed 76 percent of recommendations arising from the Independent Review of Water Extraction Licences.
- ✱ Finalised and published the Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserve Policy Framework.
- Facilitated 22 meetings of seven Water Advisory Committees, which advised on the preparation and implementation of water allocation plans at Howard, Ooloo, Katherine, Mataranka, Western Davenport, Ti Tree and Alice Springs.
- Provided flood forecasting services for key at risk communities throughout the Territory for the 2017-18 wet season.
- Constructed and commissioned a gauging station on the Townsend River to provide flood alerting for the Buntine Highway, on behalf of Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

In progress

- Publish detailed water assessment work undertaken by the department including the reports on the Georgina Basin Groundwater Assessment - Daly Waters to Tennant Creek.
- Continue to undertake the feasibility study for Ord Stage 3 – Land and Water Investigation, funded by the Australian Government through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund – Feasibility Component.
- Work with the Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee on a Water Management Plan for the Rapid Creek catchment.
- Undertake pesticide monitoring of groundwater in the Mataranka area.
- Determine environmental flow requirements of the pig-nosed turtle in the Daly River, with partner organisations, as part of the National Environmental Science Program.
- Work collaboratively with Rangers in the Roper River community to monitor river water quality.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of the Mapping the Future Program, including undertaking water assessments in potential new development areas.
- Complete Gove, Wadeye and Georgina Basin water resource assessments and reports.
- Complete hydrogeological assessment of the Mereenie Aquifer System including rehabilitation of Roe Creek monitoring bores.
- Undertake the Southern Stuart Corridor Exploring for the Future Project in collaboration with Geo Science Australia.
- Undertake further studies to identify groundwater dependent ecosystems in the arid zone to inform water allocation planning.
- Undertake water quality and sediment studies for Darwin Harbour under the Ichthys Project Voluntary Offsets Agreement.
- Undertake assessment of anthropogenic pressure indicators for Darwin Harbour under the Ichthys Project Voluntary Offsets Agreement.
- Complete the Northern Territory Irrigation Feasibility Study for Manage Aquifer Recharge project in selected sites.
- Finalise a study of the Rocky Hill area to determine the longer term impacts of irrigation on the groundwater system.
- Continue the community engagement information and education campaign on groundwater in the Darwin Rural area.
- Prepare mapping products to improve flood preparedness for Katherine (town and rural areas).
- Extend the Daly Roper Water Control District to include the Beetaloo Sub-basin and remake it as the Daly Roper Beetaloo Water Control District including declaring beneficial uses, water quality standards and exemptions for the new water control district as per recommendation 7.7 in the *Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*.
- Complete drafting of the Ooloo Dolostone Aquifer, Ti-Tree Aquifer, Mataranka Tindall Limestone Aquifer and Howard Water Allocation Plans for key stakeholder and community consultation to declare a water allocation plan.
- Construct and commission new gauging stations on the Armstrong River and Wilton River to provide flood alerting for the Buntine and Central Arnhem Highways on behalf of Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.
- Commence a broad ranging review of the *Water Act*, to drive the future regulatory reform agenda.
- ✱ Introduce of amendments to the *Water Act* to allow its application to mining and petroleum activities and bring its offences and penalties into line with water industry best practice.
- Finalise the Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan five year review.



Ongoing

- Develop and implement a monitoring program and sustainable water extraction model for the Palmerstone Dolostone Aquifer in consultation with partner agencies and major water users, to inform a sustainable water use plan.
- Undertake Berry Springs microbial study to identify the source of contamination (and public closure) to the Berry Springs swimming area.
- Undertake a long-term monitoring program for stream health in Rapid Creek.
- Undertake river health monitoring for the Lake Eyre Basin River Assessment program.
- Maintain flood warning stations providing alerting services to NT Emergency Services, Bureau of Meteorology and other relevant authorities.
- Provide support to the independent Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee to enable completion of the revised Darwin Harbour Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Future priorities

- Establish water advisory committees and development of new water allocation plans for the Beetaloo North and Beetaloo South water allocation planning areas as per recommendation 7.7 in the *Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*.
- Undertake water assessment studies and publish reports for the Bonaparte Plains East, Orange Creek and Gunn Point areas.
- Complete preparation of an Amendment Bill to make minor changes to the *Water Act* to improve administrative efficiency, incorporate Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves and implement recommendations of the *Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*.
- Work with partner agencies to deliver the recommendations in the *Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*.
- Develop a surface water flood harvest policy to guide the assessment of large scale surface water extraction licence applications.
- Prepare mapping products to improve flood preparedness for Adelaide River (town) and Rapid Creek detention basin.

INVESTIGATING EXPANSION OF IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE THROUGH MANAGED AQUIFER RECHARGE

Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) is a technique used globally to increase groundwater storage through artificial recharge. It involves topping up groundwater aquifers with captured water. Considering northern Australia's long dry season and relatively short wet season, MAR has the potential to play a major role in water resource development and management.

The key advantages of MAR over larger dam storages are the lesser costs associated with infrastructure including storage, piping and pumping of water, minimised evaporation losses, its scalability as well as being less vulnerable to a variable wet season.

In conjunction with consultants Jacobs and a cross agency project management team (steering committee), the department investigated the feasibility of Managed Aquifer Recharge in the Northern Territory and the potential role it may play in developing northern Australian agriculture through an incremental approach to developing irrigated agriculture, starting on a small scale.

The project was funded by an Australian Government \$985 000 contribution under the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. This department and other agencies contributed over \$250 000 in value in terms of in-kind contributions. The department's role included project management, site survey and investigative drilling. As the overall project manager, the Water Resources Division worked in collaboration with the consultant, Jacobs, providing technical input and oversight, as well

as managing the funding and coordinating the steering committee.

The project was delivered in three stages with separate reports produced for each stage.

Stage 1 - Preliminary assessment of feasibility for a number of potential sites across the NT

The potential sites for study were determined at the commencement of the project and agreed by the Steering Committee. The MAR options were detailed and costed on an equivalent cost per megalitre basis to deliver the water. An agricultural economic study was also completed, based on a variety of crop types to compare economic viability.

Stage 2 - Assessment of sites selected for detailed study.

Based on the results of Phase 1, three sites were studied in detail. Two sites were indicated to be non-viable, while a site on the King River near the Stuart Highway was indicated to have potential for development. The most cost effective MAR scheme at this site would involve the capture and storage of a maximum of 18 000 megalitre per year using an injection borefield. The cost of water associated with this development is approximately \$150 per megalitre.

Stage 3 - Documentation of a Business Case for Investment.

This phase provided a summary document of outcomes and the economic analysis underpinning the Upper King River study.



Fergusson River upstream of Stuart Highway (near Tindall Limestone outcrop)



Fergusson River just upstream of Stuart Highway

Bushfires NT

Provides support to landholders in the management and mitigation of wildfire and assists volunteer brigades in fire management and suppression outside the Territory's urban centres.

This output is responsible for;

- supporting landholders in the management and mitigation of wildfire, and
- providing support and training to volunteer bushfire brigades across the Territory.

Services and Support are provided from Darwin, Batchelor, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

Key deliverables	2016-17 Actual	2017-18 Budget	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget
Number of stakeholders trained	226	400	318	300
Number of Authorised Bushfire Volunteers and volunteer Fire Wardens	316	550	408	520
Formal fire management planning meetings with stakeholders ^{1,3}	-	-	172	243
Compliance inspections under the Bushfires Management Act ^{1,3}	-	-	3 632	4 500
Permits to burn issued ²	-	-	-	1 280
Planned burns attended by Bushfires NT or authorised volunteers ²	-	-	-	354

¹ New measure commencing 1 July 2017.

² New measure commencing 1 July 2018.

³ The 2018-19 budget increase is due to additional resources being allocated and improved planning and reporting.

Performance Achievements in 2017-18

Completed

- Regional bushfire plans completed for Savanna, Vernon Arafura and Arnhem regions.
- Completed the Kenbi Fire Resilience Project – a partnership between Bushfires NT and the Northern Land Council and traditional owners to develop the Kenbi Area Bushfire Management Plan on the Kenbi Aboriginal Land Trust.
- ✳ Established the Aboriginal Carbon Unit.
- Developed the Bushfires NT Emergency Management Plan to provide reference for incidents when an increased, multi-agency response is required.

In progress

- Regional bushfires plans for Barkly and Alice Springs will be finalised during 2018-19.
- Accredited training of Bushfires NT operational personnel in air observation for the provision of an accredited air capability for the Territory.
- Finalise a Northern Territory Aboriginal Carbon Industry Strategy, to support the consolidation and expansion of the emerging carbon industry on Aboriginal Land in the Territory.
- Development and implementation of the Bushfires Emergency Management System.

- Construction of a new Bushfires NT headquarters to house and merge the Winnellie and Batchelor offices.
- Improved public advice messaging during fire incidents, including the provision of Emergency Alerts and Warnings.

Ongoing

- Continue to work on strengthening volunteer recruitment and retention with 12 month study commencing July 2018.
- Increase the level of consultation, engagement and recognition of volunteer brigades and volunteers.

Future priorities

- A Bushfires Volunteer Strategy to be developed during 2018-19 to guide future support for volunteers and to strengthen volunteer recruitment and retention.
- Improvements to training for volunteer and staff including the introduction of nationally accredited training at advanced levels in key operational areas.
- Review and improvement of volunteer fleet management arrangements to ensure volunteer brigades are provided with best possible quality vehicles and equipment.
- Improvements in quality and replacement rate of personal protective equipment provided for volunteer fire-fighters.

THE NEW BUSHFIRES EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION AND WARNINGS

The Bushfires Emergency Management System (BEMS) will assist Bushfires NT (BFNT) operational personnel in capturing the end-to-end lifecycle of an incident including:

- Digitising the current Permit to Burn and Planned Burning processes.
- Developing an integrated incident management system for Bushfires NT personnel.
- Developing an integrated incident management system for volunteer brigades.





The first stages of the Project were completed in December and implementation commenced in February 2018. BFNT staff members are now able to issue burn permits and record fire incident information in real time. The roll out to volunteer brigades is expected to occur later in the year, after the 2018 Top End fire season.

Work is progressing on new arrangements and processes to improve the dissemination of public information and warnings during

fire incidents. This includes the adoption of nationally recognised symbols to reflect alert levels being applied to an improved version of the NT Fire Incident Map. The upgraded map will incorporate both BFNT and NT Fire and Rescue Service incidents displayed and updated from the respective agency incident management platforms.

In addition access has been granted to the Emergency Alert System, which will allow BFNT to send out Emergency Alert messages to local residents in the event of a bushfire.



Symbol	Alert Level	Description
	Advice	A fire has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.
	Watch and Act	There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.
	Emergency Warning	An Emergency Warning is the highest level of Bushfire Alert. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.
	Planned Burn Advice	A planned burn is currently underway. Firefighters are managing the burn but flames and smoke may be visible.

Incident Status	Description
Going	A fire which is spreading on one or more fronts. Effective containment strategies are not in place for the entire perimeter.
Being Controlled	Effective strategies are in operation or planned for the entire perimeter.
Under Control	The fire is at a stage where fire fighting resources are only required for patrol purposes and major re-ignition is unlikely.
Planned Burn Underway	Planned burns are carried out as part of a program to reduce bushfire risk to communities.

Environment

The environment is protected through identifying, managing and mitigating potential impacts and risks from human activities.

This output is responsible for;

- providing services that support the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA),
- advising Government on NT EPA assessment reports,
- managing the regulatory framework to reduce the impact of waste and pollution on the Territory environment, and
- developing and implementing strategic policy to ensure environmentally sustainable practices and behaviour.

Services are provided from Darwin.

Key deliverables	2016-17	2017-18	2017-18	2018-19
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Environmental assessment reports provided to the Minister	3	6	4	2
Decision on whether Environmental Impact Assessment required ¹	26	30	17	20
Assessment terms of reference and reports issued within statutory or agreed timeframes	100%	100%	100%	100%
Waste and pollution approvals and licences	171	200	217	200
Container deposit scheme approvals ²	363	270	1 138	1 091
Compliance audits conducted	102	110	115	120
Responses to pollution incidents ¹	879	1 100	907	1 100
Environment grants to promote ecologically sustainable practices	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M	\$1M
Stakeholder Satisfaction (NTEPA satisfaction) ³	-	-	4	≥5

¹ Measures are subject to annual volatility.

² The increase is due to industry changes, including the implementation of material sorting and the expansion of container deposit schemes in New South Wales and Queensland, and increasing industry participation.

³ New measure.

Performance achievements in 2017-18

Completed

- * Developed a five-year funding agreement with the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT). LGANT received \$120 000 in 2017-18 and will receive \$150 000 in the following years, primarily to work with local councils to improve waste management practices.
- Administered the 2017-18 round of the Environment Grants program that provided \$1 047 524 to organisations for projects that reduce environmental harm and promote sustainable behaviour.
- Supported the management of waste and pollution by the NT EPA through administering six environmental protection approvals and 153 environment protection licences, operating three ambient air quality monitoring stations, responding to over 900 reports received through the Pollution Hotline, and undertook two successful prosecutions in relation to noise and waste storage.
- Administered the Container Deposit Scheme, which saw over 110 million containers redeemed at NT collection depots during 2017-18.
- Supported sustainable development in the Northern Territory, through completion of assessment reports for four major projects (TNG Ltd Mount Peake; Arafura Resources Ltd Nolans Rare Earths; Tellus Holdings Ltd Chandler facility; Intrapac Projects Pty Ltd Noonamah Ridge Estate), as well examining 16 proposals for potential consideration under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

In progress

- Providing high quality advice and administrative support to the NT EPA to complete the environmental impact assessments of the McArthur River Mine – Overburden Management Project, and the environmental impact assessment of other major projects.
- Implementing the NT EPA's administrative reforms of the environmental impact assessment process to increase certainty and improve transparency. Reforms in this period include publishing the *Environmental Assessment Guidelines: NT EPA Environmental Factors and Objectives*; and *Opportunities and Timeframes for Community Engagement in the Environmental Impact Assessment Process*.
- Reviewing the operations of the Northern Territory container deposit scheme as required by the *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act*.
- ✳ Introducing legislation to implement Government's commitment to develop an environment protection act for the NT.
- Continue to support the NT EPA with the proactive inspections of industry types and premises with known impacts to waterways and stormwater, and ongoing programs to educate and improve environmental performance of industry and service sectors.
- Finalising the NT Noise Management Framework Guideline which for the first time will provide a consistent approach to the assessment and management of all noise matters in the NT.
- Finalising the NT Air Quality Management Framework Guideline to provide a coherent one stop shop to industry and the public on how the NT regulates air matters including air pollution.

Ongoing

- Continue to focus on training in environmental impact assessment to meet the NT EPA's requirement to deliver high quality and timely environmental assessments.
- ✳ Continue to administer five-year funding agreements with the Arid Lands Environment Centre, Environment Centre Northern Territory, the Environmental Defenders Office, the Australian Marine Conservation Society and LGANT.
- Continue to work with Territory and Commonwealth government agencies, stakeholders and communities to ensure environmental issues associated with PFAS are identified, assessed and appropriately mitigated in accordance with accepted best practices and relevant legislation.

Future priorities

- Deliver the final report from the review of the operations of the Northern Territory container deposit scheme consistent with the requirements of the *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act*.
- Amend the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act* to meet commitments following the *Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory*.
- Amend the *Nuclear Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal (Prohibition) Act 2004* to clarify the application of the Act to the NT's offshore oil and gas industry.
- Develop a Hazardous Waste Management Policy for the Northern Territory.

OLIVE PINK BOTANIC GARDENS - LHERE MPARNTWE (TODD RIVER) RIVER RED GUM FIRE PREVENTION AND VEGETATION RESTORATION

\$19 765 was provided to Olive Pink Botanical Gardens to work with volunteers and local Aboriginal youth to restore a high-use section of the Todd River. 11 community events will be held during the life of the project where weeds and rubbish will be removed and native vegetation planted, to reduce fire hazards and restore the areas natural biodiversity.

These actions will also help ensure the survival of the area's iconic Red River Gums. This project engages all sectors of the community to ensure a culturally appropriate, community driven project that will increase public amenity and protect the local ecosystem.

ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL - CAN CRUSHER FOR MATARANKA REGIONAL RECYCLING CENTRE

\$30 000 was provided to Roper Gulf Regional Council to help finance a can crusher/bailer for the Mataranka Recycling Centre. The equipment will enable the recycling centre to reduce the volume of materials collected by more than 90 percent. This means the recycling centre will be able to store collected material until it is economically viable to transport them to a processing centre. The project extends the reach of the Container Deposit Scheme to a remote area and acts as a model for other remote areas.



Corporate and Governance

Provides executive leadership and management to the agency.

This output is responsible for providing a wide range of corporate services to the agency.

Services are provided from Darwin.

Performance Achievements in 2017-18

Completed

- Raised the profile of the department's strategic and divisional risk registers. Registers have been published on the department's intranet site and a risk workshop was facilitated in August 2017, attended by members of the Governance Board.
- Developed and embedded a new performance and development process which is valued by employees known as the Building Our Own Staff Talent (BOOST).
- Organised the Senior Leaders Forum over two days in March 2018, bringing leaders of the department together to foster collaborative networks and build strategic knowledge.
- Undertaking of regular corporate training for departmental staff, topics delivered were corporate credit cards, procurement, training policy, and grant agreement.

In progress

- Develop a departmental fraud and corruption control policy and associated procedures in line with whole of government requirements.
- Work with Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) and within the department to deliver the NTG open data policy outcomes.
- Support delivery of departmental online system requirements such as portals.
- Deliver the replacement of the business application servers in three locations to meet operational and data storage needs of the department.
- Promotion of business planning across the department and quarterly reporting program.

Ongoing

- Quarterly reporting to the Governance Board on human resources, finance, corporate communications and media, information technology and records management and governance.
- Reporting on department commitments and progress against the people matters action plan.
- Encourage the sharing of information and strengthening interdepartmental relationships.
- Conduct bi-monthly Business Managers meetings to encourage sharing of information, collaboration and strengthen relationships across the department's divisions.
- Promote and participate in whole of government project and forums where appropriate to raise the profile and needs department; for example whole of Government Open data and Grants NT.
- Provide ongoing and operational support/ solutions across the department's information technology projects (such as Bushfire Emergency Management Systems (BEMS) portals).
- Support the whole of government 'Transforming the Government Records System (TRS)' Program.
- Investigate ways to improve training offerings for regional staff.
- Ensure managers are skilled in managing workplace incidents by upskilling managers in early intervention and workers' compensation processes.
- Launch of the Go the Extra Mile (GEM) program as the revamped staff recognition program to celebrate employees that go above and beyond in their roles.

Future priorities

- Define the 2018-19 internal audit program based on whole of Government audit requirements and high risk events identified on the department's 2018-19 strategic risk register.
- Re-develop the department ICT strategic plan.
- Develop a departmental data strategy that identifies both short term and long term needs for data security and operational outcome needs.
- Increase awareness across the department of ICT Governance committee's role, governance and requirements for ICT projects.
- Develop a manager training framework to build competencies into each managers core responsibilities.
- Development of further modules of the BOOST program; BOOST ME structured support, BOOST UP – succession, BOOST away transition to retirement and knowledge transfer.
- Development and launch of a mandated training policy that incorporate appropriate workforce behaviours; code of conduct; cross cultural competence and corporate induction. This also includes face to face and online delivery and tools.

Grant programs

The department provides one-off special purpose grants. The grants are distributed under an agreement which outlines 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 is detailed in Appendix 3.

Partnerships

Some grants are paid to recipients where a partnership, or collaborative arrangement, is in place to meet the requirements of a larger project.

Recipient	Purpose	Amount
GeoScience Australia	Study to determine the economic and environmental viability of the Ord Stage 3 Irrigation Scheme, which will construct irrigation channels from the Ord Irrigation Scheme into the Northern Territory.	\$663 193
Jacob's Group Australia	Managed Aquifer Recharge study to assess scope to convert excess water flows of the wet season to supply or augment irrigation projects in the dry season.	\$450 180
Queensland Department of Science Information Technology and Innovation	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

Sponsorship and scholarships

The department continues to provide support through sponsorship and scholarships for a range of community engagement events during 2017-18:

- NT Cattlemen's Association Conference - \$10 000
- NT Farmers Association Incorporated – Northern Australia Food Futures - \$10 000
- Charles Darwin University - North Australian Savanna Fire and Carbon Forum - \$9 090
- Territory Natural Resource Management Conference - \$4 000
- Conoco Phillips Science Experience - \$1 090
- Charles Darwin University - Outstanding Academic Achievement - \$250
- Charles Darwin University - Barbara Singer Scholarship 2017 - \$3 000
- Charles Darwin University - Barbara Singer Scholarship 2018 - \$3 000

Communications and Community Engagement

The department undertook a range of community engagement activities during 2017-18.

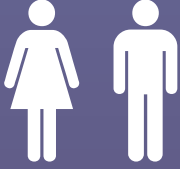
These included:

- Sponsoring the 2017 Territory Natural Resource Management Conference and awards held in Darwin, November 2017.
- Promoting the department's key activities and responsibilities to the community by participating in the Freds Pass Rural Show and attending the annual Northern Territory regional show circuit in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine during July. The 2017 show circuit display received great feedback with fantastic support from our regions helping the department to take away the award for Best Government display in Tennant Creek and Katherine.
- Sponsoring the 2018 Northern Territory Cattlemen Association Conference in Alice Springs.
- Hosting the first inaugural Women in Water symposium at the Museum and Art Gallery NT in March 2018. The symposium showcased the diverse and impressive body of work being undertaken by some of the Territory's very best water scientists, who also happen to be women. Topics ranged from rural groundwater use, spring protection and rehabilitation, groundwater dependent ecosystems, flood mitigation and legacy mine rehabilitation.
- Attending the annual Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT AGM in April 2018. Over 50 people attended the meeting, where the Weeds Management Branch spoke to recreational anglers about preventing weeds from spreading, such as Cabomba and encouraging them to report weed sightings when and where they occur.
- In August 2017, the Water Resources Division joined the Living Water Smart and Power and Water team to visit primary schools in the Anula, Karama, Manunda and Girraween area. Over 365 children attended and learnt about the importance of groundwater and its contribution to Darwin's water supply, water conservation and why it's an issue for Darwin and its rural area.
- Working with the Larrakia Rangers to share knowledge about groundwater monitoring and how to measure water table levels in the Darwin Rural area.
- Presenting at the Barkly Regional Resources and Economic Development Conference held in Tennant Creek, October 2017.
- Administering the Gamba Action Program for the eighth consecutive year. The department supports community to manage gamba grass and provides free gamba herbicide and equipment loans to help private landholders comply with legislation, reduce fuel loads and limit further spread of gamba grass. The program provided over 20 000 litres of free herbicide to 2 300 individual landholders across the Top End and Katherine regions.
- Working in partnership with the Territory Natural Resources Management to supply free herbicide to local Katherine residences during November to December 2017. Over 3 359 individual landholders participate in the program.
- Promoting weed management at the annual Darwin Boat, Travel and Leisure Show in Darwin during August 2017. A total of 245 people visited the display to find out more information on Cabomba and Salvinia in the Corroboree and Hardy's lagoon area.
- Weeds officers working with the Jawoyn Rangers to complete an aerial survey over 5 300 squared kilometres of land between Pine Creek and Katherine to obtain an understanding of the extent of gamba grass. The last aerial survey was undertaken in 2011.

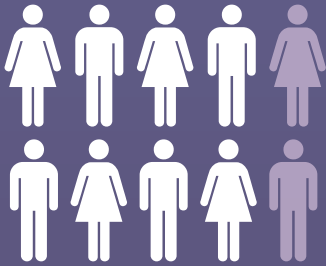
OUR PEOPLE



OUR PEOPLE SNAPSHOT



45% females and
55% males



79%

of our staff
are ongoing
(permanent)
employees.

10+ years

38%

of our staff have
more than 10 years of
service with the NTPS

40+ years

0.8%

of our staff have
more than 40 years of
service with the NTPS

Average age of staff:

44 years

(41 years female average,
46 male average)

45 employees
work part-time
and 29 other staff
requested a flexible
work arrangement



Water Resources is our
largest division at 31%

5.4%

of our staff identify
as Aboriginal

Our full-time equivalent staff
numbers at 30 June 2018 were

299.6

Our headcount of staff was

335

68%

of our staff are employed in
the professional (38%) and
technical (30%) streams.

Our
separation
rate is

25%



OUR PEOPLE

OVERVIEW

Staff commitment and satisfaction are critical ingredients supporting our department’s strategic goals and objectives. An engaged, motivated workforce translates to productivity and ideas that help the department achieve its goals, so it is essential that we support and nurture our people.

The department’s Human Resource (HR) Services unit is dedicated to delivering best practice in HR management for all employees. We work alongside senior managers to support and encourage a positive workplace culture, which we achieve through a consistent advisory service and our suite of programs, policies and procedures.

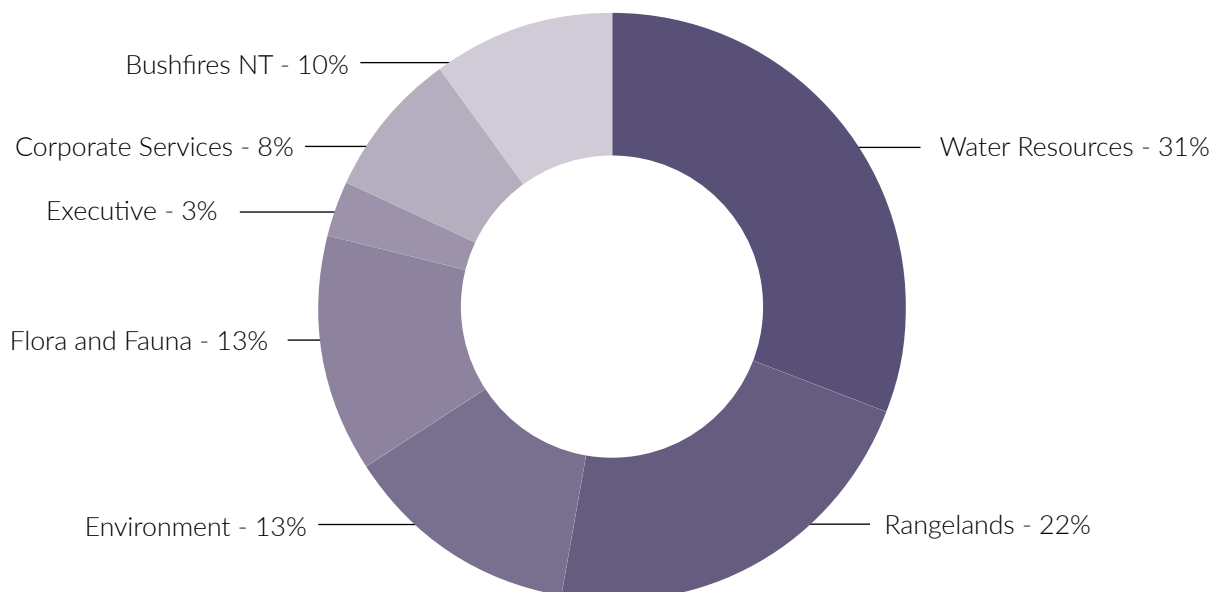
Workforce profile

Our staff are highly enthusiastic and dedicated. There is a strong technical and professional commitment and a culture of tenure and stability.

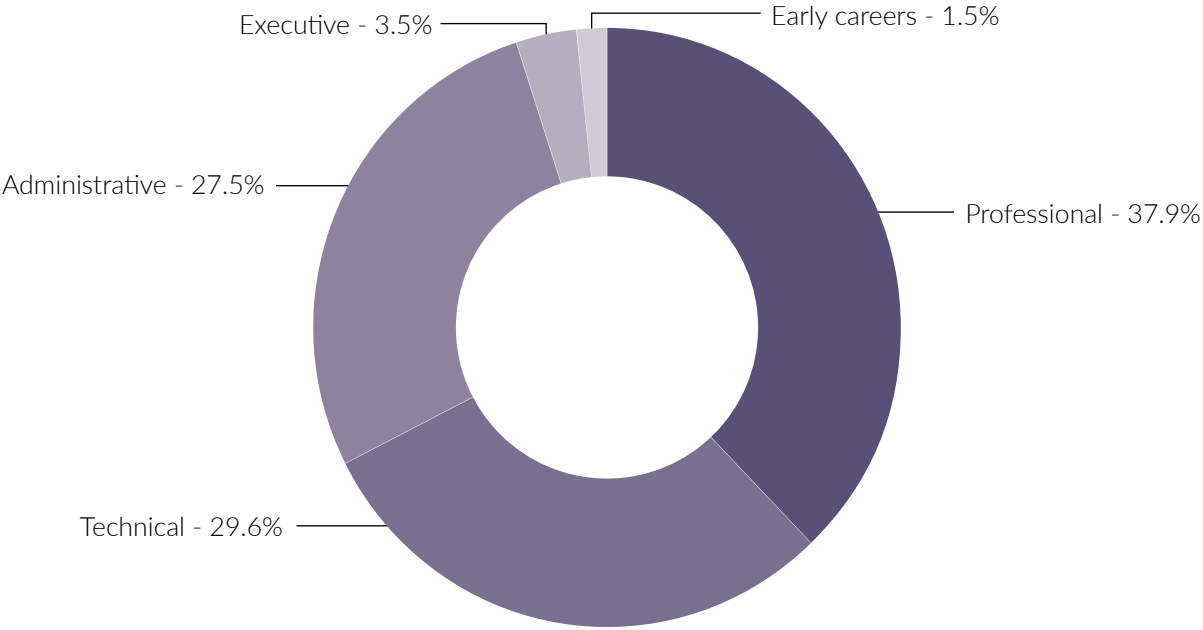
At year end, the department employed 335 people throughout the Territory, in the major centres of Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Darwin.

Employees by division

The Water Resources and Rangelands divisions make up 53 percent of our total staff, employing 31 percent and 22 percent respectively.



Employees by stream

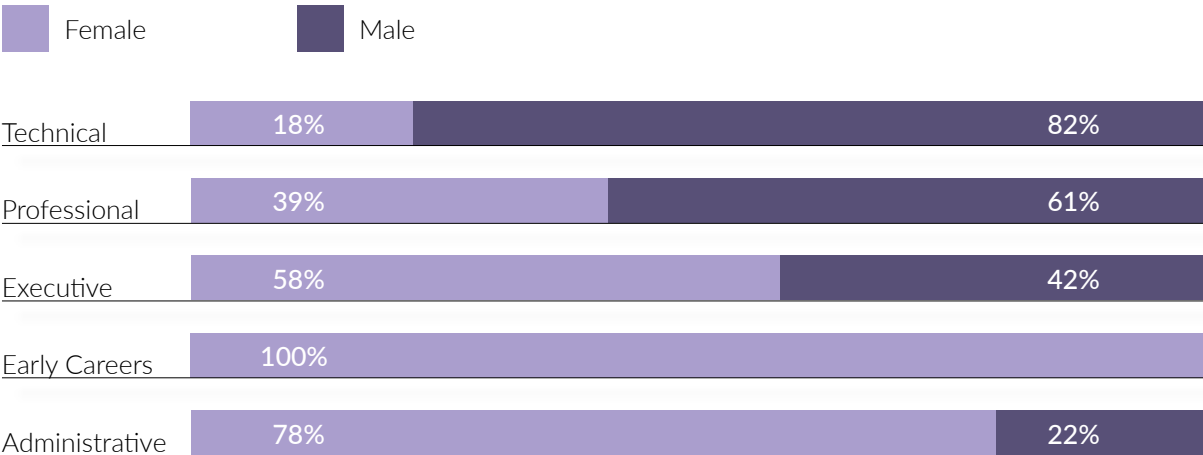


Gender comparison

The department’s overall gender comparison has remained the same as the previous year.

Gender	2016-17	2017-18
Female	45%	45%
Male	55%	55%

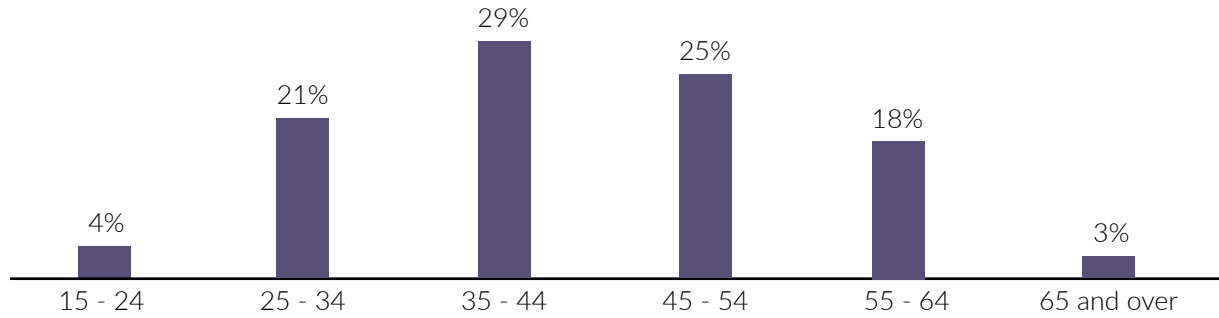
Gender comparison by employment stream



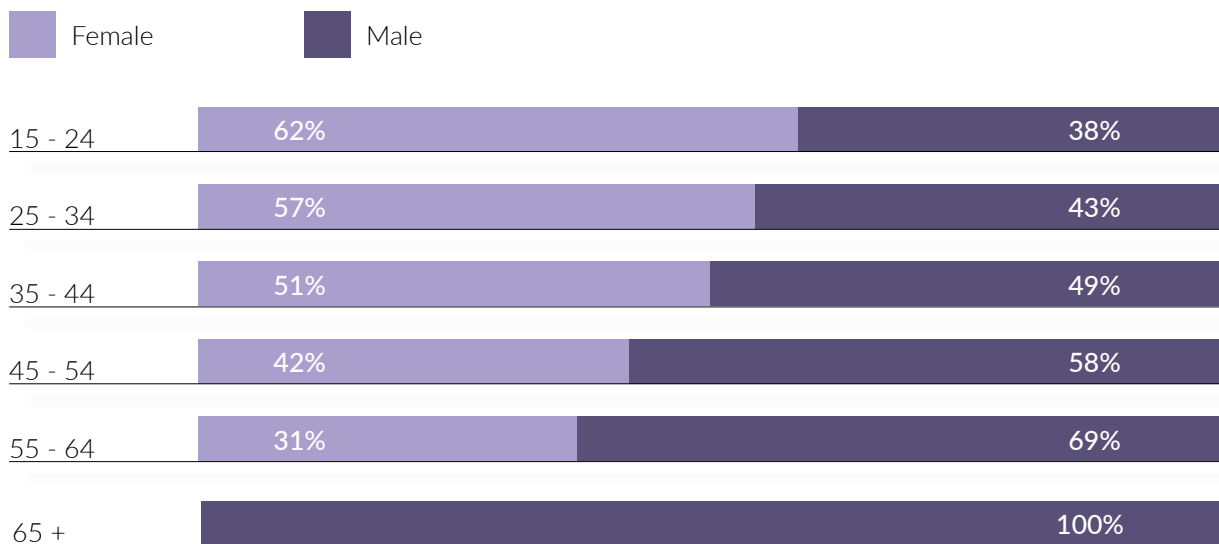
Employees by age and gender

In considering ages of our staff in ten year brackets, most of our staff (29 percent) are aged between 35–44 years old and 54 percent of our total workforce is aged under 45 years old. The department employs more women in administrative, executive and early careers positions. The average age of female employees is 41 and the average age of male employees is 46.

Age comparison at 30 June 2018



Age by gender comparison at 30 June 2018



Recruitment and retention

During 2017-18, 52 employees commenced NTPS employment with the department and 42 left the NT public sector (NTPS).

	2016-17	2017-18
Separations	52	42
Commencements	50	52

Source: Personnel information payroll system.
 Note: Excludes board members and casual staff.

During the reporting period the department had 98 new staff (either commencements in the NTPS or transfers into the department from elsewhere in the NTPS) and 85 staff departed (either resignations or transfers out to other NTPS agencies). Our separation rate of ongoing and fixed period staff was 25.4 percent this is predominantly due to movement within the NTPS of our administrative staff as illustrated below.

Separations of ongoing and fixed period staff across three employment streams

	Professional	Technical	Administrative
DENR separations only	11.8%	15.2%	11.9%
DENR separations and transfers to other NTPS agencies	18.1%	17.2%	44.6%

Source: Personnel information payroll system.
 Note: Excludes casuals and transfers.

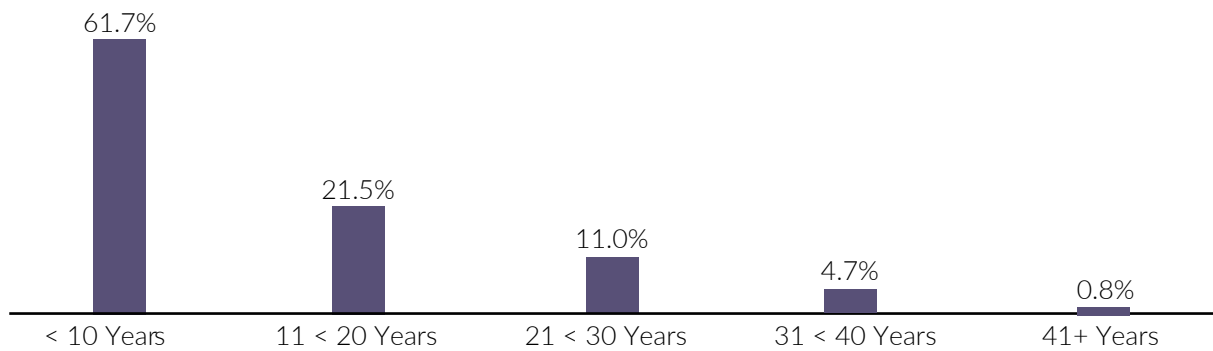
Recruitment

In 2017-18 the department advertised 108 positions, with seven subsequently cancelled and 93 finalised during that period.

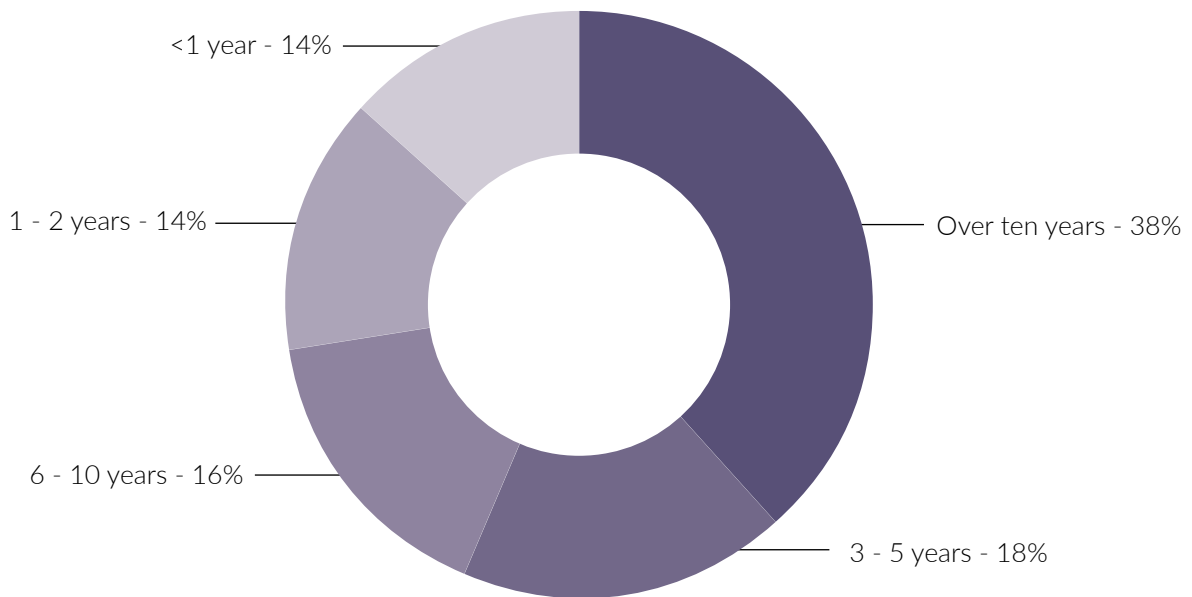
The average time from the close of advertising to the selection process being complete was 48 days which is just outside the NTPS's ideal timeframe of 42 days.

Retention

38 percent of our staff have more than 10 years of service within the NTPS.



Of the 62 percent of staff who have ten years or less service, a significant proportion (28 percent) have less than two years service with the NTPS.



DEPARTMENTAL MILESTONES

The department recognises the milestones of employees who have worked continuously in the NT Public Sector for 10, 20, 30 and 40 years. Our policy complements the NT Government Recognising Service Milestones policy.

In 2017-18, the milestones recipients were:

35 years of service

- John Whatley

30 years of service

- Mary Hardy
- David Hardy

20 years of service

- Alaric Fisher
- Damian Milne
- Neil Smit
- Burt Lukitsch
- Tania Moloney
- Rossimah Sinordin
- Sean Lawrie
- Ben Blyton

10 years of service

- Simon Ward
- Lou Elliott
- Francis Wait
- Max Rittner
- Christine Platell
- Troy Munckton

DEVELOPING OUR WORKFORCE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Building a skilled and capable workforce that will meet the department's needs as it matures and faces future challenges is important. We will achieve this by building programs and initiatives tailored to our business needs, now and into the future.

The department continues to support individual staff development needs through performance agreements. We promote our in-house training calendar, encourage staff to participate in early career programs and the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment's suite of targeted leadership programs.

Our culture

The department aims to inspire and support a workplace culture that is collaborative, respectful and accountable. We achieve this by:

- Building our leadership capacity and capability across the agency.
- Having targeted development programs to nurture and grow talent.
- Providing a safe working environment and promoting safe practices in both office and field operations.
- Making ongoing improvements to business processes and streamlining internal systems.

Diversity

The department is committed to the principles of inclusion, equity and diversity to ensure our workforce represents the broader Northern Territory community. We are committed to attracting new people from diverse backgrounds and building the capacity and capability of our existing people. We are committed to change as our priorities and our people progress.

We recognise our diversity and are proud that our people are from different backgrounds, circumstances and life stages.

Here is a glance at our equal employment opportunity profile.

	% of DENR employees
Aboriginal people	5.4%
People with a disability	1.6%
Non-English speaking background	3.5%



Learning Management System

The department has a learning management system (LMS) to improve the administration and management of our training programs. The system automates processes, such as promoting programs, nominations and registration workflows, participant onboarding and confirmation. The LMS also has a reporting function that generates flow-on benefits to end users across the department. The system allows for online/self-paced learning along with face-to-face internal corporate and external training programs.

There were 974 records created during the 2017-18 period and there have been 10 924 records created in the system for staff since its implementation in 2015.

The department's training expenditure comparison for the past three years:

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Training, study and other	337 054	348 026	327 878
Conferences	59 860	64 668	36 913
Total \$	396 914	412 694	364 791

STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

Bushfires NT staff Joshua Fischer, Miranda Seib, Lee Humphris, Maggie Towers, Steele Davies, Troy Munckton and Christine McDonough also completed the nationally accredited Certificate IV in Government Investigations.

Bushfires NT staff Steele Davies, Damien Roebuck, Christine Platell, Jonathan Diment, Peter Shepherd, and Tom Collins completed Australasian Interagency Incident Management System (AIIMS) Level 2 Incident Controller Training.

Senior Leaders Forum 2018

On 27 and 28 March, 95 of our staff attended our annual Senior Leaders Forum. This is an event in which staff at AO7/P3/T6 classifications and above are invited to come together for networking, information sharing and professional development. This year's theme was 'Influence and collaboration' and included speakers from across the department, as well as the following guest presenters: Jodie Ryan, CEO of the Department of the Chief Minister and Jane MacMaster from Ponder. The second day also included a Question and Answer panel with the executive team.

Our divisional presentations included:

- What are threatened species? – Simon Ward, Flora and Fauna.
- Aboriginal Carbon Strategy – Ken Baulch, Bushfires NT.
- Directions in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) – Lisa Bradley, Environment and Maria Wauchope, Rangelands.
- Illegal Dumping – Case studies, control measures and collaboration – Patrick Doran and Simon Gummer, Environment.
- The Secret Life of Weeds: Emergencies, Enforcements and Eradication – Roni Opden and Chris Collins, Rangelands.
- Land and Water Program 2014-2018 – Jason Hill, Rangelands and Des Yin Foo, Water Resources.
- Groundwater in the Darwin Rural area – Community engagement with Chooks – Simon Cruickshank, Water Resources.
- Human Resources - Upcoming initiatives – Michelle Murray, Corporate Services.
- Managing threatened species: an example from central Australia – Catherine Nano, Flora and Fauna.
- Mapping the Future – Robyn Delaney, Executive.

NORTHERN TERRITORY PUBLIC SECTOR (NTPS) PEOPLE MATTER SURVEY

During 2017-18 the agency continued to implement actions as a result of feedback gathered during workshops held in early 2017. A summary of key feedback and actions taken to date are outlined below:

In the people matter workshops, staff said...	We have listened and taken action...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a lack of consistency in recruitment practices across divisions. • There was a lack of transparency of employment opportunities – sometimes staff are not advised of vacancies. 	<p>A recruitment and selection policy was approved which applies to all vacancies of duration six months and under. This policy requires all vacancies which span more than three months and up to six months to be advertised via expression of interest (EOI) internally at a minimum. There are some exceptions listed in the policy such as contract extensions for staff initially recruited under an advertised merit selection process.</p> <p>EOIs are now circulated via broadcast email to all of the department.</p> <p>A job evaluation policy was approved which formalises requirements for position creations and the advertising of positions prior to a Job Evaluation System (JES) process being complete.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were feelings of distrust around complaint management processes in the NT public sector. • There was confusion around avenues that are available to raise workplace concerns. • Processes are harmful to complainants. 	<p>A project team was formed to review our complaint handling process and associated documentation. The team comprised: Keith Ferdinands and Plaxy Purich from Rangelands, Kiley Hanslow from Water Resources and Michael Richardson and Ellen Robinson/Nicole Carter from Corporate Services. Governance Board have considered recommendations from the group and requested further alternations prior to endorsing new complaints management documentation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “a thank you would be nice”. • There is a lack of recognition for work. 	<p>A review team was formed to evaluate our existing reward and recognition program. The review team consisted of: Alison Watters and Christine Tylor from Environment, Jo Pridham and Rachel Groom from Flora and Fauna, Yvette Wilkes from Rangelands, Peter Shepherd from Bushfires NT, Deborah Mullins from Water Resources and Rachael Wright and Ellen Robinson/Nicole Carter from Corporate Services. Several surveys were developed to gather feedback from staff which then informed recommendations to Governance Board which were endorsed. The associated policy and materials finalised for Governance Board approval and launch in August 2018.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication skills could be improved. 	<p>‘The emotionally intelligent communicator’ training was offered with 49 staff attending.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General view that HR staff were not accessible. 	<p>The HR team has implemented visits to worksites in which a HR team member works out of a division’s worksite for two hours to enable staff to pop in for a meet and greet and to ask any questions. 17 visits were held over the reporting period, in addition two regional visits to Alice Springs and Katherine.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The performance management system in place was clunky and rigid. • Staff did not feel conversations were valued. • The electronic form was not valued. 	<p>The previous electronic system was retired and new program launched – Building Our Own Staff Talent (BOOST). A key element of the program is the flexible scheduling of meetings to suit operational requirements.</p>



EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

The department has continued to support early careers programs across most divisions with 18 participants in programs over the 2017-18 period.

The programs include:

Graduate development program

The department's graduate program offers a one or two year placement and is aimed at developing graduates' skills, experience, knowledge and abilities to the level required for ongoing positions. The program combines on-the-job training with professional and personal development opportunities.

One graduate completed the program and one graduate commenced this financial year. Both graduates were employed within Rangelands. On completion of the graduate program graduate's have gained employment within the department.

Apprenticeships – school based trainees

These programs combine employment with structured learning to develop workplace skills and provide a nationally recognised qualification. In 2017-18, the department supported five school- based apprentices.

- Started
 - 3 Darwin
 - 2 - Corporate Services
 - 1 - Water Resources
 - 1 Alice Springs - Executive
- Completed
 - 1 Darwin – Corporate Services

Apprenticeships – full time

The department also supported two full-time apprentices in the fields of conservation and land management and business. One completed their apprenticeship and has remained employed within NTPS, and another resigned.

Vacation employment

The vacation employment program gives students currently undertaking degree studies for the first time at an Australian university an opportunity to gain valuable work experience through paid placements during university breaks.

During 2017-18, the department supported six vacation employment students. One in Environment and five in the Rangelands division.

Volunteers

Additionally the department provides unpaid work placements to suit a variety of arrangements outlined below:

- University work placements
 - 2 Water Resources – CDU
 - 2 Flora and Fauna
- School
 - 1 Water Resources
 - 1 Corporate Services
- Return to work placements
 - 1 Rangelands
- General work placements/volunteers
 - 1 Rangelands
 - 20 Flora and Fauna

CAPABILITY BUILDING

Corporate training

The department offered the following corporate training courses in 2017-18:

Course	Number of participants
BOOST Information Session	138
Creating wealth – Financial Information Session	10
Cross Cultural Awareness Training	42
Code of Conduct	31
Combat Bullying	19
Official Travel Training	142
Information Technology information sessions	1
Procurement, Purchasing and Credit Cards Information session	149
Records Manager – Level 1	15
Writing workshop – Punctuation Unpacked	23
Writing workshop – Writing in Plain English	24
Gallagher Bassett Workers Compensation Information Session	21
Managing your money – Financial Information Session	8
Retirement reality - Financial Information Session	3
Salary sacrifice - Financial Information Session	10
Sampling for Investigations Training	15
The Emotionally Intelligent Communicator	49
TOTAL	700

Studies assistance

The department supports employees gaining relevant professional and technical skills through higher education studies. Twelve employees applied for study assistance during 2017-18 with total support provided of \$22 642.

These employees were undertaking studies from Certificates to Masters degree programs. The financial assistance equates to an average of \$1 887 per person.

Studies include;

- Bachelor of Accounting,
- Bachelor of Environmental Science,
- Bachelor of Business,
- Certificate IV in Government Investigations,
- Certificate IV in Accounting,
- Graduate Certificate in Agriculture,
- Graduate Certificate Spatial Science, and
- Masters in Economic and Regional Development.



STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

Jo Challis and Yu-Chun Chou from the Water Resources Division, completed the national accredited certificate IV in Government (Investigation).

The course is designed for those within environmental regulatory agencies who are required to investigate breaches of Legislation, regulations and government policy.

STAFF RECOGNITION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The department's Recognition and Reward Scheme recognises the efforts of employees through presentation of an achievement award. Individuals or teams can be nominated for outstanding contributions that support the department's values, strategic goals and objectives.

During 2017-18, a total of 20 employees, including seven individuals and three teams received a monthly staff achievement award through the scheme. The achievement award has several nomination categories:

- Demonstration of Public Sector Values – Commitment to Service, Ethical Practice, Respect, Accountability, Impartiality and Diversity.
- Development of initiatives which enhance processes and procedures that drive performance improvement and efficiency in the department.
- Quality of job performance and motivation that supports the department's strategic objectives and strategies.
- Quality leadership, team collaboration or individual performance.

The achievement awards this year were presented to:

Individual achievements

Tammy Smart	Rangelands	Quality leadership, team collaboration or individual performance.	August 2017
Yusuke Fukuda	Flora and Fauna	Development of initiatives which enhance processes and procedures that drive performance improvement and efficiency in the department.	August 2017
Rachel Groom	Flora and Fauna	Quality leadership, team collaboration or individual performance.	August 2017
Ryan Clifton	Water Resources	Quality leadership, team collaboration or individual performance.	November 2017
Robbie Henderson	Water Resources	Quality of job performance and motivation that supports the Department's strategic objectives and strategies.	December 2017
Diane Napier	Rangelands	Quality leadership, team collaboration or individual performance.	January 2018
Lisa Williams	Bushfires NT	Quality leadership, team collaboration or individual performance.	April 2018

Team achievements

Monica Richly, Andrea Ruske, Cynthia Loganathan and Chantelle O'Connor	Corporate Services	Quality of job performance and motivation that supports the department's strategic objectives and strategies. Aboriginal Ranger Grants Project.	September 2017
Alaric Fisher & Sally Heaton	Flora and Fauna	Demonstration of Public Sector Values.	October 2017
Environmental Assessments Team	Environment	Quality of job performance and motivation that supports the department's strategic objectives and strategies.	November 2017



STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

Caroline Green awarded the 2017 Chief Minister's Medal

Caroline Green, Geospatial Information Officer, Katherine Water Resources Division was one of nine public servants to receive a Chief Minister's medal.

Caroline consistently displays outstanding and commendable service, by synthesising complex spatial information into easy to use, practical products to assist with the development of sustainable land use decisions for the Territory.

She adapts and embraces new technologies and is recognised as the 'geospatial steward'. Caroline identifies opportunities for innovation; developing solutions to simplify and automate processes, and provides exceptional quality control to over 200 departmental spatial and mapping datasets.

Many of her innovations are being applied to an increasing range of departmental programs and are enhancing the ability of customers to access and 'self-assess' the information required to make on-ground decisions.

WELLBEING

Work life balance

The department offers flexible working options, recognised as a valuable tool in achieving greater productivity and supporting employees to improve their balance between work and personal commitments. These arrangements provide support to staff to enable them to adjust their working arrangements for an agreed period of time due to a variety of circumstances such as: returning from parental leave, to undertake carer responsibilities, and transition to retirement.

In 2017-18, the department supported 74 flexible work arrangements.

Employee assistance program

The department continued to promote the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which gives employees and their families access to a confidential counselling service at no cost to themselves. Appointments can be made to discuss any situations that are impacting on individuals, whether they be work related or otherwise. The EAP also provides support to managers in relation to workplace issues.

Employees who accessed the EAP program in 2017-18.

	2017-18
Employees or their family member who accessed the service (number of individuals)	55
Number of visits provided	112

Flu vaccination program

The department once again offered all staff the 2018 influenza (flu) vaccinations program. The program was well received with a total of 139 staff having the vaccination in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs.

Christmas shutdown

In 2017, the department participated in a Christmas shutdown period in accordance with the NTPS 2013-17 Enterprise Agreement. The close down period between Christmas and New Year gave employees an opportunity to take leave while the department was closed.

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

The department is committed to providing and maintaining safe and healthy workplaces and ensuring compliance with the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act* and the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act*.

Activities undertaken to implement the Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation have included;

- continual review of current policies, procedures and systems,
- regular committee and workplace meetings,
- staff trained for committees and fire warden duties, and
- training provided for field working staff eg 4WD training.

The Governance Board is the department's WHS approving body and is supported by a WHS committee for each division.

	2015	2016	2017
Mechanism	-16	-17	-18
Being hit by objects	5	5	3
Biological factors	-	-	1
Body stressing	5	3	2
Chemicals and substances	4	3	1
Environmental factors	3	3	-
Hazard	8	-	2
Hitting objects	3	5	1
Mental factors	-	1	-
Slips, trips and falls	2	8	3
Sound and pressure	-	-	1
Vehicle incidents and other	8	11	4
Total	38	39	18

Workers compensation claims summary

Total number of open claims at 1 July 2017	6
Total number of reopened claims over the reporting period	2
Total number of claims closed over the reporting period	9
Total number of new claims received and outcome (accepted, deferred, disputed)	3 (2 accepted, 1 disputed)
Total number of open claims as at 30 June 2018	3



STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

Samantha Tocknell - Presented at Territory Young Achiever Awards

Samantha Tocknell presented as a Semi Finalist in the ConocoPhillips Environment Award, at the 2018 Northern Territory Young Achiever Awards Presentation ceremony held at Skycity Darwin on Friday 13 April 2018. Over 500 guests were in attendance at the Gala Event.

Samantha has worked with the Environment Division since September 2017 in the role of Environmental Officer, during this time she has facilitated the environmental regulation of major industries in the NT; including the pearling and aquaculture industry, transport and disposal of hazardous waste materials and recycling and re-use of containers and plastic bags. Samantha has worked closely with clients to develop practical and environmentally sustainable outcomes for the Northern Territory.

Prior to joining the NT Government, Samantha was a research scientist and extension officer with the NT Horticulture industry. She worked closely with the NT Cucurbit and Mango industries to develop and implement ecological sustainable farming practices, including integrated pest management and wise water use. Samantha was on the Food Futures Committee who organised a national (award winning) conference for industry, researchers and investors to discuss issues and develop future farming strategies. Samantha is a driven and dedicated young woman who is committed to delivering environmental outcomes for the Northern Territory.

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Employment instructions

Under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* (PSEMA), Employment Instructions provide direction to agencies on human resource management matters. The department's performance against each Employment Instruction is reported below.

Employment Instruction	Action
Number 1 – Filling vacancies	<p>Recruitment and establishment procedures are available on the staff intranet. A policy was launched to provide guidance on filling vacancies under six months.</p> <p>In 2017-18 the department advertised 108 (ongoing and fixed period) positions, with seven of these subsequently cancelled. The department had 98 staff commence/transfer in to the agency. Three promotion appeals were lodged for the period, with the original selection decisions being upheld.</p>
Number 2 – Probation	<p>The department has a probation procedure consistent with legislation on our intranet site. New employees are advised of the probation process during induction and given information about their responsibilities.</p> <p>Probation is monitored on a regular basis and managers are advised of upcoming probation due dates to ensure timely compliance.</p> <p>No staff were terminated during the probation process.</p>
Number 3 – Natural justice	<p>The principles of natural justice are communicated to all employees. Natural justice is adhered to in all dealings with employees and reflected appropriately in internal policies and procedures.</p>
Number 4 – Employee performance management and development systems	<p>The department launched a new performance management system during the reporting period titled: Building Our Own Staff Talent (BOOST). Training sessions were held with 138 staff attending. 51 percent of staff had records of performance discussions being held. Participation is expected to increase in 2018-19.</p>
Number 5 – Medical examinations	<p>Advice is provided to managers as required by HR Consultants. There were no medical incapacity cases in 2017-18.</p>
Number 6 – Performance and inability	<p>The performance and inability guidelines are available from the department's intranet. HR Services supports managers dealing with under-performance issues and helps managers and staff to improve performance.</p> <p>There were two formal performance improvement cases initiated in 2017-18.</p>
Number 7 – Discipline	<p>The discipline employment instruction and associated guidelines are available from the department's intranet. HR staff work closely with managers to ensure processes are followed correctly and natural justice is provided.</p> <p>There were no section 49 disciplinary actions in 2017-18.</p>

Employment Instruction	Action
Number 8 – Internal agency complaints and section 59 grievance reviews	<p>There is significant information on the department's intranet in relation to resolving complaints and the formal grievance process.</p> <p>In 2017-18 there were three internal complaints received and one section 59 grievance lodged with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment. The section 59 grievance was closed in August 2018.</p>
Number 9 – Employment records	<p>The Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) store employment records on personnel files. The department complies with the DCIS policy regarding access to these files. Any requests to access employee records are made through the Director, Human Resources.</p> <p>No requests were lodged for employee information under the <i>Information Act</i> in 2017-18.</p>
Number 10 – Equality of employment opportunity programs	<p>The department adheres to the principles of the NTPS EmployAbility Strategy.</p> <p>The department has a Diversity policy which is available on the staff intranet.</p>
Number 11 – Occupational health and safety programs	<p>The department has divisional Work Health and Safety (WHS) Committees to ensure WHS compliance. Details in relation to WHS activities and claims are provided in the annual report.</p>
Number 12 – Code of conduct	<p>The Code of Conduct is available on the department's intranet site and is reinforced by the activities of the Human Resources team. The Code of Conduct is also covered through the corporate induction, which is mandatory for new staff.</p> <p>Additionally HR facilitate regular workshops on the Code of Conduct which were attended by 31 staff in 2017-18.</p>
Number 13 – Appropriate workplace behaviours	<p>There is significant documentation available on the intranet site about addressing inappropriate behaviour in the workplace, including bullying. Additionally 19 staff attended Combat Bullying training during 2017-18.</p>
Number 14 – Redeployment and redundancy procedures	<p>The department adheres to the current redeployment and redundancy provisions.</p> <p>One staff member received a voluntary retrenchment during 2017-18.</p> <p>The department's only redeployee was placed in an ongoing role during 2017-18.</p>
Number 15 – Special measures	<p>The department does not have a special measures plan in place, however does have clear targets to meet for increasing Aboriginal employment.</p>

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE





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 identified and manages its risks.

Corporate governance and accountability framework model



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

The department's governance structure comprises a Governance Board and supporting committees focused on important governance elements.

The board and committees oversee the allocation of resources across the department and the development and implementation of policies, plans and procedures that provide a foundation of good governance for the department's activities.

The committees report to the Governance Board, except the Audit and Risk Management Committee, which reports directly to the Chief Executive Officer, as outlined in the diagram below.

Governance principles



Each committee's functions and performance for 2017-18 are outlined in this section. Membership as at 30 June 2018 is outlined at Appendix 1.

Governance Board

The Governance Board provides governance and leadership to several committees that support the department's objectives and purpose.

The Governance Board is the department's principal planning and decision-making body on corporate governance matters. The Chief Executive Officer 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.

The responsibilities of the Governance Board are to;

- Set the strategic direction for the department,
- act as a consultative forum, providing advice on current and future direction for the agency,
- 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,
- provide a forum to consider issues arising from divisional activity that may be relevant to other Governance Board members,
- act as a decision-making body that considers and determines responses to policies that impact on the wider community,
- maximise opportunities for partnerships, networking and information sharing, and
- act as the decision-making body for department policies and systems. These include;
 - managing risk and assurance in relation to compliance with statutory requirements,
 - strategic human resource and workforce planning and management,
 - financial and budget management, and
 - information and records management and technology and telecommunications planning and management.

The Governance Board has the power to appoint committees as required.

Committees

Audit and Risk Management Committee

- Monitors the department's strategic, corporate and operational risk management functions and activities and the adequacy of the internal controls established to manage identified risks.
- Monitors the internal audit function (including review of the annual internal audit program, review and monitoring of audit terms of reference, audit outcomes, managements 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).
- Reviews and 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.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee held four standard meetings during the year; 8 August 2017, 10 November 2017, 20 February 2018, and 1 May 2018. Outcomes from the meetings included;

- reviewed and monitored the implementation of the agency's 2017-18 Internal Audit Plan,
- reviewed the department's audit reports and monitored management's implementation of audit recommendations conducted under the internal and external audit programs,
- reviewed the department's Strategic and Operational Risk Registers, and
- reviewed the processes in place for financial and performance reporting.

Two out of session meetings were also held: 20 November 2017 and 1 February 2018. Outcomes from the meetings included;

- A review of the the committees terms of reference, and
- an annual work plan and checklist documents to assist the committee in meeting its responsibilities.

Divisional work health and safety committees

As part of the work health and safety (WHS) framework, committees are established in each division across the department.

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, and
- 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, and
- manages feedback links to staff and volunteers in relation to any WHS matter.

Emergency Management Committee

The Emergency Management Committee;

- Leads department activities before and during an event and reviews and evaluates activities after an event,
- manage communication and emergency messaging for staff; and assist with coordination of messaging across government,
- ensures the department has an emergency management plan in place, and
- assists in coordinating the department's cyclone plans and monitoring cyclone preparedness and preparations.

Information and Communications Technology (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, and
- reviews and endorses submissions for major ICT investments or initiatives for approval by the Northern Territory Government ICT Governance Board.

STATUTORY COMMITTEES AND BODIES

At 30 June 2018, the department was responsible for the following statutory committees and bodies.

Membership details are at Appendix 2.

Water Advisory Committees

Water Advisory Committees are established under section 23 of the *Water Act* to provide advice and recommendations to the department on water management and allocations, including on developing and implementing water allocation plans. Committee members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee

The Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee is established under Section 54 of the *Water Act* and Regulation 12 to advise the Controller of Water Resources on matters relating to licensing drillers.

Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Water Resources Review Panel

The review panel established under Section 24 of the *Water Act* consists of a Chairman appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources and a group of eight people with qualifications or experience in bore drilling, primary industry, secondary industry, Aboriginal affairs, public health, environmental management, fisheries and mining.

Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory

The Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory, established under section 21 of the *Bushfires Management Act*, recommends measures to the Minister for effective fire management on all Territory land apart from largely urban emergency response areas serviced by the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Regional Bushfires Committees

Under the *Bushfires Management Act*, regional bushfires committees are established in the five regional fire management zones to recommend measures to mitigate, manage and suppress bushfires to the Bushfires Council in its fire management zone and endorse regional bushfire management plans prepared by Bushfires NT. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Pastoral Land Board

The Pastoral Land Board is established under the *Pastoral Land Act* and monitors the condition and use of pastoral land to ensure its sustainable use and economic viability. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee

The Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee was established as a weeds advisory committee under section 16 of the *Weeds Management Act*. It has a varied role including to advise the Minister on weed issues. Its members comprise Government, industry and stakeholder groups with appropriate expertise and Territory-wide interests in weed management, including the Chairs of regional weed reference groups and are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA)

The NT EPA is an independent statutory authority established in 2013 under the *Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority Act* (NT EPA Act) to protect the environment. Its objectives are to promote ecologically sustainable development, promote effective waste management and minimisation strategies, and enhancing community and business confidence in the Territory's environment protection regime.

Its members are appointed by the Administrator of the Northern Territory, with the exception of the Chairperson of the Northern Territory Planning Commission, who is appointed by the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics in accordance with the *Planning Act*.

The NT EPA;

- Advises the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources on matters relating to ecologically sustainable development and the protection of the environment,
- assesses the environmental impacts of developments,
- administers the container deposit scheme under the *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act*, and
- manages the impacts of waste and pollution on the environment through the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*.

Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee

The Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee provides advice on an integrated research and monitoring plan to inform management of the Darwin Harbour and protect the aquatic environment and critical habitats at risk from climate change. Its members are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources.

Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) Working Group

The Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) Working Group provides advice and recommendations to the Northern Territory Government through the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources on the effective natural resource management of Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) and its immediate catchment (including the Charles River) within the town of Alice Springs now and into the future and promotes culturally respectful care of the rivers within the Alice Springs community.

Aboriginal Land Management Advisory Group

The role of the Aboriginal Land Management Advisory Group (ALMAG) is to provide advice and recommendations to the department on all relevant aspects of the development, implementation, delivery and reporting of the Aboriginal Ranger Grants Programs under the *Protecting Country, Creating Jobs* initiative.

In particular, the ALMAG will provide the perspective of the Aboriginal land management sector to the department. This will help ensure that decisions relating to the establishment and operation of the proposed grants program have appropriate Aboriginal input, and that Aboriginal aspirations related to land management and conservation are an integral part of the grants program.

Coastal and Marine Management Partnership Group

The Partnership Group is designed to assist the department in the development of the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy that will help to ensure the health and viability of the Territory's coastline, support its use by Territorians for recreational and cultural purposes, manage growing demand for our natural resources, and foster sustainable industry for the benefit of the economy.

The Partnership Group provides a conduit between the department and key stakeholders, providing a forum for focussed and sustained discussion with representatives of key stakeholder groups and encouraging their contribution to the development of the strategy.

CORPORATE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Organisation structure

The Chief Executive Officer is supported by the Governance Board through a clearly defined organisation structure. The organisation structure is published on the departments intranet and is shown on page 10.

Strategic Plan 2017–2020

The Strategic Plan 2017–2020 sets out the department's strategic direction and priorities, including key priorities and deliverables set by the Minister and government. The plan provides a holistic view of the department's strategic priorities with a broader focus on themes rather than specific service lines. The six strategic priorities give stronger emphasis on the importance of working in partnership with our stakeholders, the community and across the department.

Strategic Workforce Development Plan 2016–2020

The plan has actionable strategies to address current and future workforce challenges. Priorities outlined in the plan are leadership, diversity, culture and workforce planning for the future.

A key challenge for the department is to ensure our workforce has the capacity and capability to deliver against the strategic priorities set by government.

Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2016–2020

This strategy focusses on sourcing and developing the right people and ensuring they have a supportive, sensitive and appropriate workplace to grow and develop in.

The strategy aims to increase Aboriginal employment in the department in all occupations, levels of employment and locations; improve Aboriginal workforce capability; and grow the department into a mature and culturally competent workplace.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategic Plan 2015–2019

The ICT Strategic Plan recognises the critical role of ICT services in supporting the department's business and in providing ICT services to our clients and stakeholders-the government, the public and our departmental business partners.

Business plans

Business plans are developed for divisions and individual business units. They outline actions and projects aligned with the department's strategic plan and contributing to its objectives. Business plans are developed in consultation with staff, with tasks flowing through to executive contract and staff performance reviews.

Annual Strategic Risk Assessment

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

The annual Strategic Risk Assessment was centered 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 2017–18, the Governance Board reviewed the department's strategic risks and considered any new and emerging risks. The Governance Board reviewed the Strategic Risk Register on a quarterly basis and provided status updates on the identified risk treatments. The Audit and Risk Management Committee reviewed the Strategic Risk Register in February 2018 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 for each division are managed by divisional WHS committees.



DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Internal communications

The Chief Executive Officer produces a monthly e-newsletter to capture general department news, staff achievements and project and program outcomes; it also includes a personal update on events that happen during that monthly. The newsletters are emailed to all department staff and placed on the internet. All staff are encouraged to contribute articles and information monthly. From July 2017 there has been 12 newsletters published.

Other internal communication and information sharing activities include the annual senior leader's forum, corporate communication emails to provide information to all department staff and important warnings or events were also published on the intranet.

External communications

The Weed Management Branch produce an e-newsletter called "Weed All About it". The newsletter is sent out two to three times a year to over 400 subscribers in the Territory to keep them updated on current activities and programs active in their area.

Bushfires NT (Hot Topics) newsletter has been in production since May 2015. The newsletter provides a regular update of interesting stories and events from Bushfires NT and the Bushfires Brigade volunteers throughout the Territory. Volunteers are encouraged to supply articles and achievements each month.

The department contributes stories to the Northern Territory Government Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Social media

The department is very proactive in using social media and currently hosts two Facebook sites and one Twitter account to engage with the local community on the department's initiatives and programs.

The department Facebook page has been active since January 2017. Regularly posts on weeds management, water resources, threatened species, herbarium species, rangelands and native vegetation are posted each month. The department page has over 1 150 people who like and follow the page and has released 271 posts.

Bushfires NT Facebook and Twitter sites has been activated since May 2016. They supply timely updates in case of emergency situations and information to all regions. It also communicates and engages with volunteer brigades and landowners and managers.

The Bushfires NT Twitter account provides followers bushfires alerts and warnings messages when there is an emergency, these alerts are posted on the Secure NT website and Facebook page managed by the Department of the Chief Minister. The Bushfires NT Facebook page has 2 524 people who like and follow the page and has released 198 posts. Their Twitter account is very active over the fire season with 122 followers with 320 tweets.

Monthly department Facebook forecasts are created to cover all divisions of the department to increase our profile through proactive social media engagement.

Future priorities

- Review all division's online content to ensure clients and landholders can access information efficiently.
- Ongoing improvement of content on the department's and nt.gov.au website.
- Improve communications with the general public via the department's social media accounts.



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITIES

Statutory accountability

The department is required to comply with the *Financial Management Act*, *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, *Procurement Act* and other legislation, such as the *Anti-Discrimination Act* and the *Work Health and Safety Act*.

The department's corporate governance framework and the relevant statutes are promoted to staff in many ways, including through the department's induction programs.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

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

Corporate delegations

The Chief Executive Officer delegates certain powers to other employees under the *Financial Management Act*, *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, and the *Contracts Act* and *Procurement Act*. In 2017-18, the Chief Executive Officer approved and had in place the following delegations:

- Financial delegations.
- Human resources delegations.
- Procurement delegations.
- Instrument of Delegation - *Contracts Act*.
- Instrument of Delegation - Guarantees and Indemnities.

Conflict of interest

Conflicts of interest, whether real or perceived, can erode confidence in the department's integrity. 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 wrong doing in accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosures Act*. 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, such as the corporate induction program, staff are regularly reminded of their responsibility to act in accordance with the NTPS Code of Conduct.

Freedom of Information and privacy

In accordance with the *Information Act*, a range of NT Government policies and procedures are in place to enable individuals to access records and information held by the department.

Accounting and Property Manual

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act*, the department has an Accounting and Property Manual that specifies finance procedures and internal control requirements. The Accounting and Property Manual was updated in 2017-18 and made available on the department's intranet.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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 it 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.

During 2017–18, the department received 11 applications for access to government or personal information under the *Information Act*. Of these, two related to the same matter.

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

<i>Information Act requests</i>	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Applications carried over from previous year	-	-	-
Applications to access personal information	-	-	-
Applications to access government information	4	5	11
Applications to access personal and government information	-	-	-
Applications to correct personal information	-	-	-
Applications transferred	-	4	-
Requests withdrawn	-	1	1
Requests refused	1	-	-
Internal reviews	-	-	-
Responses completed within 30-day period	4	5	10
Responses completed exceeding 30-day period	-	-	-
Applications handled as at 30 June	4	5	10
Application still pending	-	-	1

Ombudsman enquiries

The department received one enquiry 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 2017–18 Internal Audit Plan. Management's implementation of audit recommendations is monitored by the department's Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Internal audit	Focus	Outcome
Official Duty Travel January - June 2017 July - December 2017	Review of the department's official duty travel against the NTG Air Travel Policy.	The internal audit found a level of compliance of some improvement required due a number of findings being the same or similar to previous audits. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
Cabinet Information Security Measures	To 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.
Value for Territory Assurance Program	To assess the departments compliance with the NTG procurement framework, Buy Local Plan and agency procurement and contract delegations.	The audit found a level of compliance of some improvement required. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
Independent Check on Stock of Accountable Forms	To assess the department's level of compliance in maintaining accountable form registers and the security measures in place.	The audit found a satisfactory level of compliance. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.

External audits

Northern Territory Auditor-General audits

The Office of the Northern Territory Auditor-General selected the department for the following external audits during 2017–18. Audit results are published in the Auditor-General's reports to the Legislative Assembly.

External audit	Focus	Outcome
Compliance Audit	To assess compliance against the <i>Financial Management Act</i> and other NTG policies and directives.	The audit found a satisfactory level of compliance. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
Fuel Card Analytics Review	To examine Puma fuel card transactions to identify any transactions with unusual characteristics and report those findings to the department for review and follow-up.	The review highlighted the necessity for the department to be vigilant at all times in respect to management of its fuel cards. Specific recommendations were not made.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Chief Executive Officer of a public sector organisation has a duty to ensure that the organisation complies with Part 9 of the *Information Act*. The Records Management Standards require agencies to capture and maintain records in an approved Records Management System.

During the reporting year, the agency has undertaken a records system upgrade to better support the agency as it moves onto newer

platforms and applications, in particular Windows 10 and Office 2013 and 2016. This involved updating processes and ensuring support and training was delivered to staff to help them in complying with their record keeping obligations under the *Information Act*. A significant part of this support was the development of an online Level 1 training video that focused on training for regional and remote staff.

INSURABLE RISK

In accordance with Treasurer's Directions M2.1 – Insurance Arrangements, the department is required to detail mitigation strategies and processes it has in place to reduce the likelihood or severity of its 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 2017-18
Public liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal risk assessments completed. Repairs and maintenance program in place to reduce risks associated with physical assets. Ongoing review of practices and procedures to ensure public safety. Appropriate signage. Education campaigns for staff. Building audits, e.g. security, maintenance, compliance. Appropriate security and testing, e.g. fire systems, alarms, patrols, staff. 	0 claims
Workers' compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal risk assessments completed. Workplace health and safety (WHS) framework in place. WHS policies and standard operating procedures in place. Work site assessments. Job-specific training and support. Utilisation of Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Early intervention program. Critical incident debriefings. Work life balance strategies. 	<p>Six open workers compensation claims were carried forward from the previous year.</p> <p>Nine claims were settled in 2017-18.</p> <p>In 2017-18 \$21 613 paid for the utilisation of EAP services.</p>

Assets and inventories	Formal risk assessments completed. Ongoing review of policies and practices to guide standard operating procedures to protect assets and inventories. Asset registers maintained for fixed and leased assets.	0 claims
Vehicles (e.g: motor vehicles, quad bikes and boats)	Regular service and maintenance checks. Driving training (4 wheel drives, ATVs, boat handling).	31 Internal claims valued at \$36 200
Indemnities	Formal risk assessments completed each year and with each new agreement.	0 claims

Commercial insurance premium

	Total Number/Total Value of Claim		
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Department – overseas travel insurance, small value one-off insurance	\$0 No claims	\$136 No claims	\$123 No claims
Department – Workers Compensation	N/A Self Insured	N/A Self Insured	\$393 007 11 claims
Water Resources Division – Renew Industrial Special Plant Policy for Atlas Copco Drill Rig	\$0 No claims	\$9 128 No claims	\$6 097 No claims

FINANCIALS



FINANCIALS

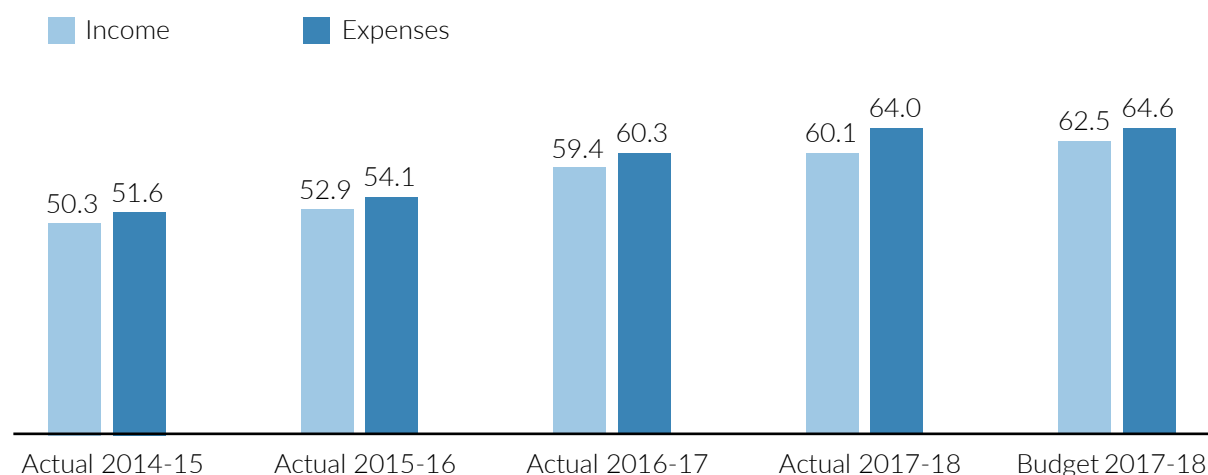
THE DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT OVERVIEW

This section of the report provides an analysis of the financial outcome of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the year ended 30 June 2018. The department's financial performance is reported in four financial statements: the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, and Cash Flow Statement.

The department includes the following outputs:

- Flora and Fauna
- Rangelands
- Water Resources
- Bushfires NT
- Environment Management and Policy
- NT Environment Protection Authority
- Corporate and Governance
- Shared Services Received

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT - SUMMARY



In 2017-18, the department made a net loss of \$3.9 million, or a loss \$2.7 million prior to the charging of non-cash items such as depreciation, amortisation and non-capitalised assets. This compares to a budgeted loss before non-cash items of \$0.9 million.

The budget overspend of \$1.8 million was primarily due to revenue for a number of externally funded projects not being received.

The four year trend in the operating results and the 2017-18 budget are as follows:

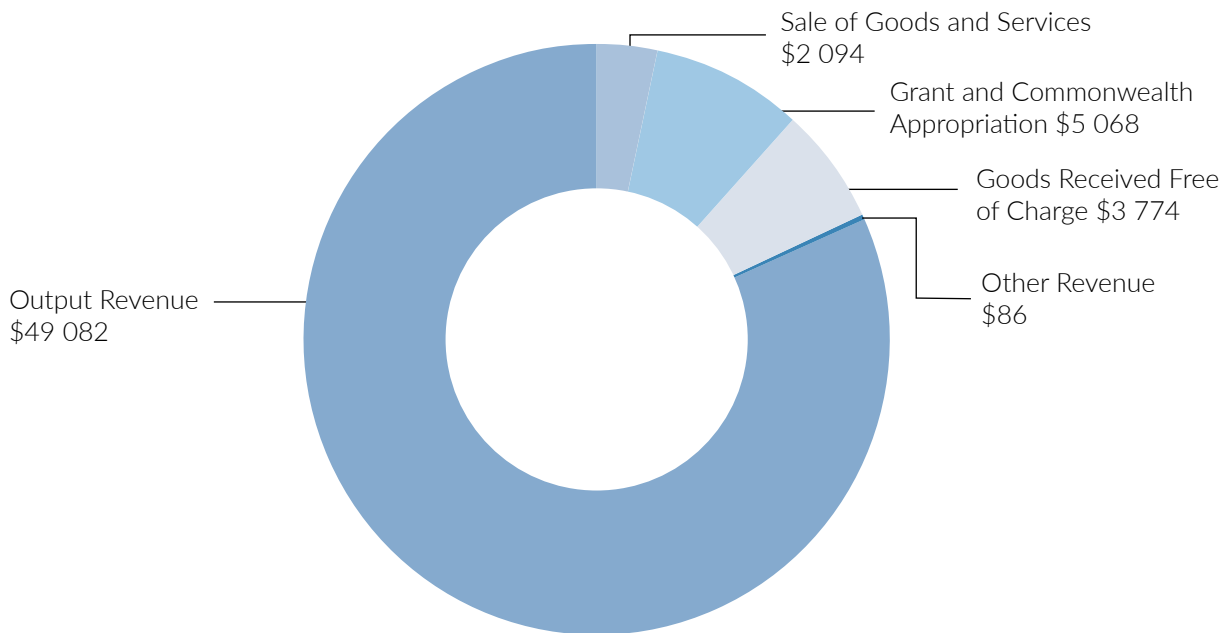
	Actual 2014-15 \$'000	Actual 2015-16 \$'000	Actual 2016-17 \$'000	Actual 2017-18 \$'000	Budget ¹ 2017-18 \$'000
Income	50 256	52 929	59 396	60 104	62 520
Expenses	51 649	54 105	60 323	64 018	64 643
Operating Result	(1 393)	(1 176)	(927)	(3 914)	(2 123)
Operating Result - Adjusted for non-cash items	(267)	(380)	202	(2 650)	(881)

¹ Based on 2017-18 Estimate in 2018-19 Budget Paper 3.

Income

The department received income of \$60.1 million in 2017-18, \$2.5 million less than budget, and an increase of \$0.7 million compared to 2016-17.

2017-18 Income by Source (\$'000)



The department is funded primarily through Northern Territory Parliamentary output appropriation. Revenue is also derived from sales of goods and services, current grants and Commonwealth appropriation and other miscellaneous income, including notional revenue for corporate services provided by the Department of Corporate and Information Services.

Output revenue

In 2017-18, output revenue of \$49 million was received, \$0.4 million more than the published budget in 2018-19 Budget Paper 3. Output revenue increased from 2016-17 by \$2.8 million, predominantly due to new funding of \$4 million received for Aboriginal Ranger grants and \$1.5 million for Water Reform and Improved Service delivery. This was offset by a reduction in funding of \$0.4 million for Gamba and Cabomba mitigation, \$0.5 million for Land Suitability Assessments, \$0.5 million for Improving Wildfire Mitigation, \$0.8 million for Mary River Saltwater Intrusion Barrages and significant savings measures in place with parameters and efficiency dividends.

Grants and Commonwealth appropriation

The department attracted 8.4 percent of its revenue from external sources. In 2017-18, \$5.1 million was received, including \$0.5 million from the Australian Government. This external revenue was \$1.9 million less than the approved budget of \$7 million and was \$1.5 million less than 2016-17. This decrease over the prior year was predominately due to cessation of externally funded projects.

Some of the key externally funded projects in 2017-18 include:

- West Arnhem Fire Monitoring Agreement,
- INPEX Map Habitats in Darwin and Bynoe Harbour,
- INPEX Dolphin and Dugong Monitoring,
- INPEX Darwin Harbour Integrated Marine Monitoring and Research Program,
- National Water Infrastructure Development Fund – Ord Stage 3, and
- National Aerial Firefighting.

Sale of goods and services

In 2017-18, income from the sale of goods and services totalled \$2.1 million, \$0.7 million less than the approved budget and \$0.5 million less than 2016-17.

Goods and services received free of charge

In 2017-18, notional goods and services received free of charge from Department of Corporate Information Services totalled \$3.8 million, \$0.2 million less than the approved budget and \$0.1 million less than 2016-17.

There is a corresponding expense, resulting in a net nil effect to the department operating result.

Four year trend

The four year trend in income streams and the 2017-18 budget are as follows:

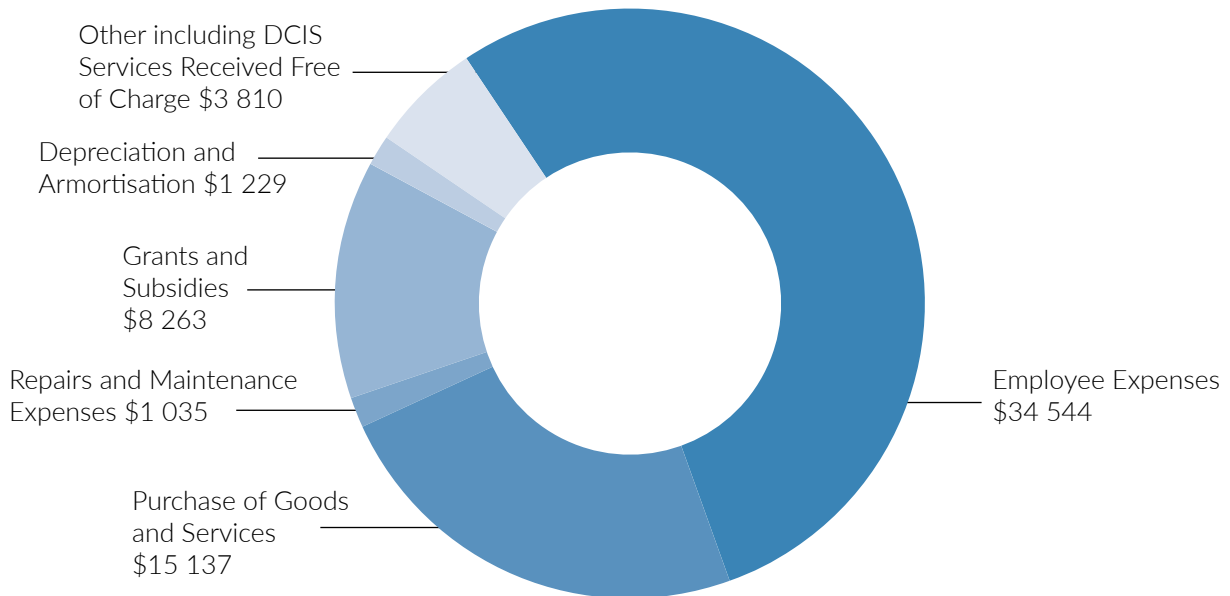
	Actual 2014-15 \$'000	Actual 2015-16 \$'000	Actual 2016-17 \$'000	Actual 2017-18 \$'000	Prior Year Variance %	Budget ¹ 2017-18 \$'000	Budget Variance %
Output Revenue	35 709	35 826	46 241	49 082	6%	48 719	(1%)
Grant and Commonwealth Appropriation	4 377	5 771	6 606	5 068	(23%)	6 998	29%
Sale of Goods and Services	6 346	7 571	2 568	2 094	(18%)	2 803	28%
Goods and Services received Free of Charge	3 730	3 656	3 885	3 774	(3%)	4 000	6%
Other Revenue	94	105	96	86	(10%)	-	(90%)
Income Total	50 256	52 929	59 396	60 104	1.2%	62 520	4.1%

¹ Based on 2017-18 Estimate in 2018-19 Budget Paper 3.

Expenses

The department incurred \$64 million in expenses during 2017-18 in the delivery of its programs and services. This was \$0.6 million less than budget and \$3.7 million greater than 2016-17.

2017-18 Expenses by category (\$'000)



Payments to employees and purchase of goods and services account for 77 percent of the department's outlays. Payments of grants and subsidies and repairs and maintenance are the other major departmental expenses, with depreciation and corporate charges levied by Department of Corporate and Information Services representing non-cash transactions.

Employee expenses

Staffing costs represent 54 percent of total expenditure or \$34.6 million, \$0.94 million greater than budget and a \$1.7 million increase from 2016-17. The increase from the prior year is predominately due to additional Territory funding and increase in externally funded project expenditure.

Goods and services expenses

Actual spend on the purchase of goods and services in 2017-18 was \$15.1 million, \$0.5 million less than budget and \$0.2 million less than 2016-17.

Grants and subsidies

In 2017-18 the department distributed \$8.3 million in grants and subsidies, \$0.7 million less than budget and \$2.9 million more than 2016-17.

Payments were made to numerous Land Councils and Aboriginal Corporations for Aboriginal Rangers Grants of \$3.3 million; the Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Ltd, Northern Land Council and Charles Darwin University for the West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement (WAFMA) of \$1.5 million; support for rural Bushfire Brigades of \$1 million; Geoscience Australia for extension of the Ord Irrigation Scheme of \$0.7 million; and \$0.4 million to Jacobs Group Australia for the Managed Aquifer Recharge Program.

The \$0.7 million underspend against budget was predominantly due to delays in grant payments.

For a full breakdown of grant payments refer to Appendix 3.

Repairs and maintenance expenses

Actual repairs and maintenance expenditure for 2017-18 was \$1 million, \$0.1 million less than budget and \$0.7 million lower than 2016-17. This decrease was predominately due to a reduction in Mary River saltwater intrusion expenditure.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation is the allocation of an asset's cost over its useful life. In 2017-18 depreciation was \$1.2 million in accordance with budget and \$0.1 million greater than 2016-17. The increase in depreciation is a result of increase in the asset base. Depreciation costs represent 2 percent of total expenditure.

Goods and services received free of charge

In 2017-18, notional goods and services received free of charge from Department of Corporate and Information Services totalled \$3.8 million, \$0.2 million less than budget and \$0.1 million less than 2016-17.

Four year trend

The four year expenditure trend and the 2017-18 budget are as follows:

	Actual 2014-15 \$'000	Actual 2015-16 \$'000	Actual 2016-17 \$'000	Actual 2017-18 \$'000	Prior Year Variance %	Budget ¹ 2017-18 \$'000	Budget Variance %
Employee Expenses	27 463	29 522	32 875	34 544	5%	33 600	2%
Purchase of Goods and Services	15 208	15 812	15 320	15 137	(1%)	15 652	2%
Repairs and Maintenance Expenses	1 046	1 052	1 765	1 035	(41%)	1 178	(33%)
Grants and Subsidies	3 070	3 246	5 333	8 263	55%	8 978	68%
Depreciation and Amortisation	844	781	1 106	1 229	11%	1 235	12%
Other including DCIS Services received Free of Charge	4 018	3 692	3 924	3 810	(3%)	4 000	2%
Expenses Total	51 649	54 105	60 323	64 018	6%	64 643	7.2%

¹ Based on 2017-18 Estimate in 2018-19 Budget Paper 3.

BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARY

The Balance Sheet provides a summary of the department's balances at the end of the financial year for assets, liabilities and equity.

The balances reported are the net worth to Government of the departments' asset holdings (what is owned) against liabilities (what is owed).

The four year trend for net assets/equity is as follows:

	Actual 2014-15 \$'000	Actual 2015-16 \$'000	Actual 2016-17 \$'000	Actual 2017-18 \$'000
Assets	20 714	21 521	21 855	20 730
Liabilities	(9 625)	(9 230)	(8 352)	(8 027)
Net Assets/Equity	11 089	12 291	13 503	12 703

Assets

The department's assets at 30 June 2018 totalled \$20.7 million. The balance of assets consists of:

- Cash balances of \$1.8 million, representing cash held in a financial institution and petty cash and floats.
- Receivables of \$1.8 million representing the amount that is owed to the department for goods and services provided and delivered.
- Prepaid expenses of \$0.4 million representing expenses that have been paid before the good or service was received or provided.
- Property, plant, equipment and computer software of \$16.7 million.

Liabilities

The department's liabilities at 30 June 2018 totalled \$8 million. The balance of liabilities consists of:

- Deposits held of \$0.5 million predominately to recognise the liability for the Natural Heritage Trust Single Holding Account held on behalf of the Australian Government.
- Payables of \$1.4 million representing the amount owed to creditors for goods and services purchased and received.
- Provisions for employee entitlements of \$5.4 million, such as recreation leave, leave loading and leave fares to reflect the cost in present day dollars of employee entitlements that are to be paid in the future.
- Unearned revenue of \$0.7 million representing the amount received for services not yet provided.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY - SUMMARY

The Statement of Changes in Equity reflects movements in equity balances during the year.

Equity as at 30 June 2018 is \$12.7 million, a decrease in net worth of \$0.8 million from the previous year.

This decrease relates to:

- \$2.6 million transfer in of completed minor new works;
- \$0.5 million appropriation to purchase capital items; offset by
- \$3.9 million operating loss for 2017-18 financial year.

	Actual 2014-15 \$'000	Actual 2015-16 \$'000	Actual 2016-17 \$'000	Actual 2017-18 \$'000
Balance of Equity at 1 July	6 982	11 089	12 291	13 503
Net Equity Injections	3 741	2 378	2 209	3 114
Movement in Reserves	1 759	-	(70)	-
Accumulated Funds	(1 393)	(1 176)	(927)	(3 914)
Balance of Equity at 30 June	11 089	12 291	13 503	12 703

CASH FLOW STATEMENT - SUMMARY

The Cash Flow Statement provides information on how cash was received and spent during the year.

The figures in the Cash Flow Statement vary to those in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as the Cash Flow Statement only includes cash transactions, whereas the Comprehensive Operating Statement includes non-cash items such as depreciation, non-cash adjustments for employee entitlements and notional charges for services received free of charge from Department of Corporate and Information Services.

The department's cash balances were \$1.8 million at 30 June 2018. The cash flows are summarised as follows:

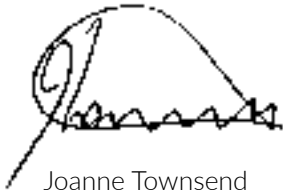
	Actual 2014-15 \$'000	Actual 2015-16 \$'000	Actual 2016-17 \$'000	Actual 2017-18 \$'000
Cash In				
Operating Receipts	48 557	50 622	57 389	57 281
Equity Injections/Capital appropriation/ Deposits	2 175	2 515	1 809	503
	50 732	53 137	59 198	57 784
Cash Out				
Operating Payments	(49 795)	(51 889)	(57 219)	(61 144)
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(687)	(2 212)	(1 160)	(478)
Equity withdrawals/deposits refunded	-	-	(1 594)	(48)
	(50 482)	(54 101)	(59 973)	(61 670)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held	250	(964)	(775)	(3 886)
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year	7 152	7 402	6 438	5 663
Cash at End of Financial Year	7 402	6 438	5 663	1 777

CERTIFICATE OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have been prepared based on proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions.

We further state that the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2018 and the financial position on that date.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Joanne Townsend
Chief Executive Officer
30 August 2018



Cynthia Loganathan
Chief Financial Officer
30 August 2018

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Income			
Grants and subsidies revenue			
Current		4 558	4 731
Capital		-	250
Appropriation			
Output		49 082	46 241
Commonwealth		510	1 625
Sales of goods and services		2 094	2 568
Interest revenue		-	14
Goods and services received free of charge	4	3 774	3 885
Gain on disposal of assets	5	4	-
Other income		82	82
Total Income	3	60 104	59 396
Expenses			
Employee expenses		34 544	32 875
Administrative expenses			
Purchases of goods and services	6	15 137	15 320
Repairs and maintenance		1 035	1 765
Depreciation and amortisation	11,12	1 229	1 106
Other administrative expenses ¹		3 810	3 910
Grants and subsidies expenses			
Current		6 297	5 333
Capital		1 966	-
Interest expenses		-	14
Total Expenses	3	64 018	60 323
Net Deficit		(3 914)	(927)
Comprehensive Result		(3 914)	(927)

¹ Includes DCIS Service Charges.

The Comprehensive Operating Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and deposits	8	1 777	5 663
Receivables	9	1 773	979
Inventories	10	4	11
Prepayments		409	260
Total Current Assets		3 963	6 913
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	11	15 967	13 868
Intangibles	12	800	1 074
Total Non-Current Assets	13	16 767	14 942
Total Assets		20 730	21 855
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Deposits held	14	463	512
Payables	15	1 385	1 814
Provisions	16	5 394	5 048
Other liabilities	17	785	948
Total Current Liabilities		8 027	8 322
Non-Current Liabilities			
Other liabilities	17	-	30
Total Non-Current Liabilities		-	30
Total Liabilities		8 027	8 352
Net Assets		12 703	13 503
Equity			
Capital		90 753	87 639
Asset revaluation surplus	19	3 539	3 539
Accumulated funds		(81 589)	(77 675)
Total Equity		12 703	13 503

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 30 June 2018

2017-18	Note	Equity at 1 July \$'000	Comprehensive Result \$'000	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners \$'000	Equity at 30 June \$'000
Accumulated Funds		(77 675)	(3 914)	-	(81 589)
Reserves					
Asset revaluation surplus	19	3 539	-	-	3 539
Capital - Transactions with Owners		87 639	-	-	87 639
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		-	-	503	503
Equity transfers in		-	-	2 611	2 611
		87 639	-	3 114	90 753
Total Equity at End of Financial Year		13 503	(3 914)	3 114	12 703

2016-17	Note	Equity at 1 July \$'000	Comprehensive Result \$'000	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners \$'000	Equity at 30 June \$'000
Accumulated Funds		(76 748)	(927)	-	(77 675)
Reserves					
Asset revaluation surplus	19	3 609	-	(70)	3 539
Capital - Transactions with Owners		85 430	-	-	85 430
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		-	-	974	974
Equity transfers in		-	-	1 044	1 044
Other equity injections		-	-	835	835
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawal		-	-	(598)	(598)
Equity transfers out		-	-	(46)	(46)
		85 430	-	2 209	87 639
Total Equity at End of Financial Year		12 291	(927)	2 139	13 503

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Operating Receipts			
Grants and subsidies received			
Current		4 558	4 731
Capital		-	250
Appropriation			
Output		49 082	46 241
Commonwealth		510	1 625
Receipts from sales of goods and services		3 130	4 526
Interest received		1	16
Total Operating Receipts		57 281	57 389
Operating Payments			
Payments to employees		(34 168)	(32 387)
Payments for goods and services		(18 712)	(19 483)
Grants and subsidies paid			
Current		(6 297)	(5 333)
Capital		(1 966)	-
Interest paid		(1)	(16)
Total Operating Payments		(61 144)	(57 219)
Net Cash (Used In) Operating Activities	20	(3 863)	170
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Investing Payments			
Purchases of assets	11,12	(478)	(1 160)
Total Investing Payments		(478)	(1 160)
Net Cash (Used In) Investing Activities		(478)	(1 160)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities			
Financing Receipts			
Equity injections			
Capital appropriations		503	974
Other equity injections		-	835
Total Financing Receipts		503	1 809
Financing Payments			
Repayment of Deposits		(48)	(996)
Equity withdrawals		-	(598)
Total Financing Payments		(48)	(1 594)
Net Cash From Financing Activities		455	215
Net (decrease) in cash held		(3 886)	(775)
Cash at beginning of financial year	8	5 663	6 438
Cash at End of Financial Year		1 777	5 663

The Cashflow Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 30 June 2018

1. Objectives and Funding
2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies
3. Comprehensive Operating Statement by Output

Income

4. Goods and Services Received Free of Charge
5. Gain on Disposal of Assets

Expenses

6. Purchases of Goods and Services
7. Write-offs, Postponements, Waivers, Gifts and Ex Gratia Payments

Assets

8. Cash and Deposits
9. Receivables
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11. Property, Plant and Equipment
12. Intangibles
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14. Deposits Held
15. Payables
16. Provisions
17. Other Liabilities
18. Commitments

Equity

19. Reserves

Other disclosures

20. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
21. Financial Instruments
22. Related Parties
23. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
24. Events Subsequent to Balance Sheet Date
25. Schedule of Administered Territory Items
26. Budgetary Information
27. Budgetary Information: Administered Territory Items

1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

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

Agency goals are as follows:

1. Strategically improve scientific and community knowledge and understanding of water, soils, landscapes and biodiversity to better inform adaptive and responsive management.
2. Advise on the effective planning, allocation, conservation and use of the Northern Territory's natural resources.
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.
4. Foster and sustain community participation from all regions of the Territory in sustainable natural resource use and management.
5. Manage and mitigate threats to regional communities and our natural ecosystems and native flora and fauna through shared responsibilities and partnerships.
6. Maintain an organisation with the capacity and capability to deliver effective services and that nurtures its human resources.

Additional information in relation to the agency and its principal activities can be found elsewhere in the annual report.

The agency is predominantly funded by, and dependent on, the receipt of Parliamentary appropriation. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the agency controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs. For reporting purposes, the agency includes the following outputs:

- Flora and Fauna
- Rangelands
- Water Resources
- Bushfires
- Environment Management and Policy
- Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (Statutory Authority)
- Corporate and Governance
- Shared Services Received

Note 3 provides summary financial information in the form of the Comprehensive Operating Statement by Output.

2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act* requires the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of agency financial statements should include:

- (i) a Certification of the Financial Statements;
- (ii) a Comprehensive Operating Statement;
- (iii) a Balance Sheet;
- (iv) a Statement of Changes in Equity;
- (v) a Cash Flow Statement; and
- (vi) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

(b) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which recognises the effect of financial transactions and events when they occur, rather than when cash is paid out or received. As part of the preparation of the financial statements, all intra-agency transactions and balances have been eliminated.

Except where stated, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The form of the agency financial statements is also consistent with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards. The effects of all relevant new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are effective for the current annual reporting period have been evaluated.

Standards and interpretations effective from 2017-18

The following new and revised accounting standards and interpretations were effective for the first time in 2017-18:

AASB 2016-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 107

This standard applies to the not-for-profit sector for the first time in 2017-18. The accounting amendment AASB 2016-2 requires the disclosure

of information that enable users of financial statements to evaluate changes in liabilities arising from financing activities. This disclosure is illustrated in Note 20(b).

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to the current reporting periods, but are considered to have no impact on public sector reporting.

Standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

On the date of authorisation of the financial statements, the following standards and interpretations were in issue but are not yet effective and are expected to have a potential impact on future reporting periods:

AASB 16 Leases

AASB 16 Leases is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 and will be reported in these financial statements for the first time in 2019-20. When the standard is effective it will supersede AASB 117 Leases and requires the majority of leases to be recognised on the balance sheet.

For lessees with operating leases, a right-of-use asset will now be included in the balance sheet together with a lease liability for all leases with a term of 12 months or more, unless the underlying assets are of low value. The comprehensive operating statement will no longer report operating lease rental payments. Instead a depreciation expense will be recognised relating to the right-to-use asset and interest expense relating to the lease liability.

For lessors, the finance and operating lease distinction remains largely unchanged. For finance leases, the lessor recognises a receivable equal to the net investment in the lease. Lease receipts from operating leases are recognised as income either on a straight-line basis or another systematic basis where appropriate.

It is not expected that the agency will have any operating lease commitments that will be required to be recognised in the balance sheet through a lease liability and corresponding right to use asset from 2019-20 in accordance with AASB 16 Leases.

AASB 1058 Income for not-for-profit entities and AASB 15 Revenue from contracts with customers

AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities and AASB 15 Revenue with Contracts with Customers are effective for annual reporting periods beginning

on or after 1 January 2019 and will be reported in these financial statements for the first time in 2019-20.

Under the new AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities, revenue from grants and donations will be recognised when any associated performance obligation to provide goods or services is satisfied, and not immediately upon receipt as currently occurs. Consequently, more liabilities will be recognised in the balance sheet after adoption of this standard.

AASB 1058 clarifies and simplifies income-recognition requirements that apply to not-for-profit entities in conjunction with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers.

While the full impacts are yet to be determined, potential impacts identified include:

- grants received to construct or acquire a non-financial asset will be recognised as a liability, and subsequently recognised as revenue as the performance obligations under the grant are satisfied. At present, such grants are recognised as revenue on receipt.
- grants with an enforceable agreement and sufficiently specific performance obligations will be recognised as revenue progressively as the associated performance obligations are satisfied. At present, such grants are recognised as revenue on receipt.
- grants that have an enforceable agreement but no specific performance obligations but have restrictions on the timing of expenditure will also continue to be recognised on receipt as time restriction on the use of funds is not sufficiently specific to create a performance obligation.
- grants that are not enforceable and/or not sufficiently specific will not qualify for deferral, and continue to be recognised as revenue as soon as they are controlled.

AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors

AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 and will be reported in these financial statements for the first time in 2019-20.

AASB 1059 addresses the accounting for arrangements that involve an operator providing public services related to a service concession asset on behalf of a public sector grantor for a specified period of time and managing at least some of those services.

Where a transaction meets the definition of a service concession arrangement, a service concession asset and liability will be recognised on the balance sheet and valued in accordance with the new standard.

The Territory's public-private partnership arrangements are currently under review to determine the applicability of AASB 1059 and the full impact of the new standard.

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods, but are considered to have limited impact on future financial reporting.

(c) Reporting entity

The financial statements cover the agency as an individual reporting entity.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is a Northern Territory department established under the *Interpretation Act* Administrative Arrangements Order.

The principal place of business of the department is:

1st Floor, Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Terrace
PALMERSTON NT 0832

(d) Agency and Territory items

The financial statements of the agency include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the agency has control (Agency items). Certain items, while managed by the agency, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than the agency (Territory items). Territory items are recognised and recorded by the Central Holding Authority as discussed below.

(e) Central Holding Authority

The Central Holding Authority is the 'parent body' that represents the Government's ownership interest in Government-controlled entities.

The Central Holding Authority also records all Territory items, such as income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled by the Government and managed by agencies on behalf of the Government. The main Territory item is Territory income, which includes taxation and royalty revenue, Commonwealth general purpose funding (such as GST revenue), fines, and statutory fees and charges.

The Central Holding Authority also holds certain Territory assets not assigned to agencies as well as certain Territory liabilities that are not practical or

effective to assign to individual agencies such as unfunded superannuation and long service leave.

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the agencies financial statements. However, as the agency is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of Government, these items have been separately disclosed in Note 25 - Schedule of Administered Territory Items.

(f) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2016-17 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

(g) Presentation and rounding of amounts

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of less than \$500 being rounded down to zero. Figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate due to rounding.

(h) Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2017-18 as a result of management decisions.

(i) Accounting judgments and estimates

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgments and estimates that affect the recognised amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

(j) Goods and Services Tax

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable or payable unless otherwise specified.

(k) Repairs and maintenance expense

Funding is received for repairs and maintenance works associated with agency assets as part of output appropriation. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on agency assets are expensed as incurred.

(l) Interest expense

Interest expenses include interest and finance lease charges. Interest expenses are expensed in the period in which they are incurred.

(m) Prepayments

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods and services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

(n) Leased assets

Leases under which the agency assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases.

(o) Finance leases

Finance leases are capitalised. A lease asset and lease liability equal to the lower of the fair value of the leased property and present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease, are recognised.

Lease payments are allocated between the principal component of the lease liability and the interest expense.

(p) Operating leases

Operating lease payments made at regular intervals throughout the term are expensed when the payments are due, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property. Lease incentives under an operating lease of a building or office space is recognised as an integral part of the consideration for the use of the leased asset. Lease incentives should be recognised as a deduction of the lease expenses over the term of the lease.

(q) Contributions by and distributions to Government

The agency may receive contributions from Government where the Government is acting as owner of the agency. Conversely, the agency may make distributions to Government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions, certain types of contributions and distributions, including those relating to administrative restructures, have been designated as contributions by, and distributions to, Government. These designated contributions and distributions are treated by the agency as adjustments to equity.

The Statement of Changes in Equity provides additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, Government.



Income

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, exclusive of the amount of GST. Exchanges of goods or services of the same nature and value without any cash consideration being exchanged are not recognised as income.

Grants and other contributions

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the agency obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon receipt.

Contributions are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

Appropriation

Output appropriation is the operating payment to each agency for the outputs they provide and is calculated as the net cost of agency outputs after taking into account funding from agency income. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

Commonwealth appropriation follows from the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, resulting in Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) and National Partnership (NP) payments being made by the Commonwealth Treasury to state or territory treasuries, in a manner similar to arrangements for GST payments. These payments are received by the Department of Treasury and Finance on behalf of the Central Holding Authority

and then passed on to the relevant agency as Commonwealth appropriation.

Revenue in respect of appropriations is recognised in the period in which the agency gains control of the funds.

Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised (net of returns, discounts and allowances) when:

- the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer;
- the agency retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold;
- the amount of revenue can be reliably measured;
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the agency; and
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Rendering of services

Revenue from rendering services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Corporate and information services	3 774	3 885
Total Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	3 774	3 885

5. GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Net proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets	-	-
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	-	-
Gain on the Disposal of Non-Current Assets	-	-
Proceeds from sale of minor assets	4	-
Total Gain on the Disposal of Assets	4	-

6. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES

The net deficit has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Consultants ¹	767	567
Advertising ²	120	206
Marketing and promotion ³	90	173
Document production	22	55
Legal expenses ⁴	114	80
Recruitment ⁵	69	56
Training and study	365	412
Official duty fares	1 157	1 117
Travelling allowance	544	597

¹ Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

² Does not include recruitment advertising, or marketing and promotion advertising.

³ Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.

⁴ Includes legal fees, claim and settlement costs.

⁵ Includes recruitment-related advertising costs.

7. WRITE-OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS, WAIVERS, GIFTS AND EX GRATIA PAYMENTS

	Agency Items		Agency Items		Territory Items		Territory Items	
	2018 \$'000	No. of Trans	2017 \$'000	No. of Trans	2018 \$'000	No. of Trans	2017 \$'000	No. of Trans
Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers under the <i>Financial Management Act</i>								
Represented by:								
<i>Amounts written off, postponed and waived by Delegates</i>								
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an agency written off	1	2	2	6	-	-	-	-
Public property written off	9	19	23	1	-	-	-	-
Total Written Off, Postponed and waived by Delegates	10	21	25	7	-	-	-	-
<i>Amounts written off, postponed and Waived by the Treasurer</i>								
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an Agency written off	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	-
Total Written Off, Postponed and Waived by Treasurer	-	-	10	1	-	-	-	-
Gifts under the <i>Financial Management Act</i>	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

8. CASH AND DEPOSITS

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Cash on hand	1	1
Cash at bank	1 776	5 662
Total Cash and Deposits	1 777	5 663

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash.

9. RECEIVABLES

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Accounts receivable	1 346	575
Less: Allowance for impairment losses	(35)	(9)
	1 311	566
Interest receivables	-	1
GST receivables	388	376
Other receivables	74	36
Total Receivables	1 773	979

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for impairment losses.

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analysis of the age of the receivables that are past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule under credit risk in Note 21 - Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable and other receivables are generally settled within 30 days.

10. INVENTORIES

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Inventories held for distribution		
At cost	4	11
Total Inventories	4	11

Inventories include assets held for distribution at no or nominal consideration in the ordinary course of business operations.

Inventories held for distribution are carried at the lower of cost and current replacement cost. Cost of inventories includes all costs associated with bringing the inventories to their present location and condition. When inventories are acquired at no or nominal consideration, the cost will be the current replacement cost at date of acquisition.

The cost of inventories are assigned using a mixture of first in, first out or weighted average cost formula or using specific identification of their individual costs.

Inventory held for distribution are regularly assessed for obsolescence and loss.

11. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Land		
At Fair Value	4 842	4 842
	4 842	4 842
Buildings		
At Fair Value	8 877	8 764
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(4 732)	(4 487)
	4 145	4 277
Infrastructure		
At Fair Value	2 957	489
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(151)	(140)
	2 806	349
Plant and Equipment		
At Cost	10 867	11 544
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(8 761)	(9 450)
	2 106	2 094
Transport Equipment		
At Cost	3 576	3 676
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(1 566)	(1 375)
	2 010	2 301
Computer Hardware		
At Cost	243	206
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(190)	(201)
	53	5
Construction (WIP)		
At Capitalised Cost	5	-
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	15 967	13 868

Property, plant and equipment reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2017-18 and 2016-17 is set out below:

2017-18	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Transport Equipment \$'000	Computer Hardware \$'000	Construction (WIP) \$'000	Total \$'000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July	4 842	4 277	349	2 094	2 301	5	-	13 868
Additions	-	-	-	478	-	-	-	478
Depreciation	-	(244)	(11)	(358)	(299)	(18)	-	(930)
Additions/ (Disposals) from Asset Transfers	-	112	2 468	(99)	8	66	5	2 560
Impairment Loss	-	-	-	(9)	-	-	-	(9)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June	4 842	4 145	2 806	2 106	2 010	53	5	15 967

2016-17	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Transport Equipment \$'000	Computer Hardware \$'000	Construction (WIP) \$'000	Total \$'000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July	4 932	4 452	359	3 001	348	15	-	13 107
Additions	-	-	-	840	334	-	-	1 174
Depreciation	-	(236)	(10)	(358)	(183)	(10)	-	(797)
Additions/ (Disposals) from Asset Transfers	(90)	84	-	(1 389)	1 802	-	-	407
Impairment Loss	-	(23)	-	-	-	-	-	(23)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June	4 842	4 277	349	2 094	2 301	5	-	13 868

Acquisitions

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$10 000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined further within this note. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$10 000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

The construction cost of property, plant and equipment includes the cost of materials and direct labour, and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Complex assets

Major items of plant and equipment comprising a number of components that have different useful lives, are accounted for as separate assets. The components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

Subsequent additional costs

Costs incurred on property, plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the agency in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of a complex asset they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

Construction (work in progress)

As part of the financial management framework, the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of government basis. Therefore, appropriation for the agencies capital works is provided directly to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that agency. Once completed, capital works assets are then transferred to the agency.

On rare occasions amounts are transferred to agencies prior to a project being finished and will sit as works in progress within the agency ledger until completed and capitalised.

Revaluation of assets

Subsequent to initial recognition, assets belonging to the following classes of non-current assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of these assets does not differ

materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- land
- buildings
- infrastructure assets.

Plant and equipment asset classes are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.

The agencies land, buildings and infrastructure assets are revalued at least once every five years. The latest revaluations as at 30 June 2015 were independently conducted by the valuer Territory Property Consultants. Refer to Note 13 – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets for additional disclosures.

Impairment of assets

An asset is said to be impaired when the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Non-current physical and intangible agency assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis or whenever there is an indication of impairment. If an indicator of impairment exists, the agency determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement. They are disclosed as an expense unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation surplus for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation surplus. Note 19 provides additional information in relation to the asset revaluation surplus.

Agency property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2018. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

Depreciation and amortisation expense

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated or amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

Amortisation applies in relation to intangible non-current assets with limited useful lives and is calculated and accounted for in a similar manner to depreciation.

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions and are determined as follows:

	2018 Years	2017 Years
Buildings	10 - 50	10 - 50
Infrastructure	8 - Infinite	8 - Infinite
Plant and Equipment	1 - 20	1 - 20
Transport Equipment	10	10
Computer Hardware	3 - 6	3 - 6
Intangibles	2 - 10	2 - 10

Assets are depreciated or amortised from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

12. INTANGIBLES

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<i>Carrying Amounts</i>		
Intangibles with a Finite Useful Life		
Other Intangibles		
At Cost	1 786	1 761
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	(986)	(687)
Total Intangibles	800	1 074

Impairment of intangibles

Agency intangible assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2018. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

Reconciliation of movements

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Intangibles with a Finite Useful Life		
Other Intangibles		
Carrying Amount at 1 July	1 074	858
Additions	-	28
Additions from Asset Transfers	25	497
Amortisation	(299)	(309)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June	800	1 074

13. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

(a) Fair value hierarchy

Fair values of non-financial assets categorised by level of inputs used to compute fair value are:

2017-18	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total Fair Value \$'000
Asset Classes				
Land (Note 11)		4 842		4 842
Buildings (Note 11)			4 145	4 145
Infrastructure (Note 11)			2 806	2 806
Plant and Equipment (Note 11)			2 106	2 106
Transport Equipment (Note 11)			2 010	2 010
Computer Hardware (Note 11)			53	53
Construction (WIP) (Note 11)			5	5
Intangibles (Note 12)			800	800
Total Fair Value	-	4 842	11 925	16 767

2016-17	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total Fair Value \$'000
Asset Classes				
Land (Note 11)		4 842		4 842
Buildings (Note 11)			4 277	4 277
Infrastructure (Note 11)			349	349
Plant and Equipment (Note 11)			2 094	2 094
Transport Equipment (Note 11)			2 301	2 301
Computer Hardware (Note 11)			5	5
Intangibles (Note 12)			1 074	1 074
Total Fair Value	-	4 842	10 100	14 942

There have been no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 or 3 during 2017-18 or 2016-17.

(b) Valuation techniques and inputs

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value in 2017-18 are:

Asset Classes	Level 2 Technique	Level 3 Technique
Land	Market	-
Buildings	-	Cost
Infrastructure	-	Cost
Plant and Equipment	-	Cost
Transport Equipment	-	Cost
Computer Hardware	-	Cost
Construction (WIP)	-	Cost
Intangibles	-	Cost

The latest revaluation of land, buildings and infrastructure asset classes was performed by Territory Property Consultants as at 30 June 2015.

Level 2 fair values of land were determined based on market evidence of sales price per square metre of comparable land.

Level 3 fair values related to buildings and infrastructure were determined by computing their depreciated replacement costs because an active market does not exist for such assets due to their unique nature and potential inherent restrictions upon use. The depreciated replacement cost was based on a combination of internal records of the historical cost of the assets, adjusted for contemporary technology and construction approaches, the remaining useful life of the assets, and current condition of the assets. The remaining Level 3 asset classes are based on depreciated historical cost.

(c) Additional information for Level 3 Fair Value Measurements**(i) Reconciliation of Recurring Level 3 Fair Value Measurements**

2017-18	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Transport Equipment \$'000	Computer Hardware \$'000	Construction (WIP) \$'000	Intangibles \$'000
Fair value as at 1 July	4 277	349	2 094	2 301	5	-	1 074
Additions	-	-	478	-	-	-	25
Depreciation and Amortisation	(244)	(11)	(358)	(299)	(18)	-	(299)
Additions/ (Disposals) from Asset Transfers	112	2 468	(99)	8	66	5	-
Impairment Loss	-	-	(9)	-	-	-	-
Fair Value as at 30 June	4 145	2 806	2 106	2 010	53	5	800

2016-17	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Transport Equipment \$'000	Computer Hardware \$'000	Construction (WIP) \$'000	Intangibles \$'000
Fair value as at 1 July	4 452	359	3 001	348	15	-	858
Additions	-	-	840	334	-	-	28
Depreciation and Amortisation	(236)	(10)	(358)	(183)	(10)	-	(309)
Additions/ (Disposals) from Asset Transfers	84	-	(1 389)	1 802	-	-	497
Impairment Loss	(23)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fair Value as at 30 June	4 277	349	2 094	2 301	5	-	1 074

(ii) Sensitivity analysis

Unobservable inputs used in computing the fair value of buildings and infrastructure include the historical cost and the consumed economic benefit for each asset. Given the large number of assets, it is not practical to compute a relevant summary measure for the unobservable inputs. In respect of sensitivity of fair value to changes in input value, a higher historical cost results in a higher fair value and greater consumption of economic benefit lowers fair value.

14. DEPOSITS HELD

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Natural Heritage Trust	462	509
Lodgement Fees Held	1	3
Total Deposits Held	463	512

15. PAYABLES

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Accounts payable	1 024	788
Accrued expenses	361	1 026
Total Payables	1 385	1 814

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the agency. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

16. PROVISIONS

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Current		
Employee Benefits		
Recreation Leave	4 146	3 855
Leave Loading	559	554
Other Employee Benefits	47	40
Other Current Provisions		
Superannuation	291	264
Payroll Tax	277	259
Other Provisions	74	76
Total Provisions	5 394	5 048

The agency employed 335 employees as at 30 June 2018 (328 employees as at 30 June 2017).

Employee benefits

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within twelve months of reporting date are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after twelve months of the reporting date are measured at present value, calculated using the government long-term bond rate.

No provision is made for sick leave, which is non-vesting, as the anticipated pattern of future sick leave to be taken is less than the entitlement accruing in each reporting period.

Employee benefit expenses are recognised on a net basis in respect of the following categories:

- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave, sick leave and other leave entitlements.
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the financial management framework, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of government agencies, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in agency financial statements.

17. OTHER LIABILITIES

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Current		
Unearned revenue	785	948
Non-Current		
Unearned revenue	-	30
Total Other Liabilities	785	978

Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the following schemes:

- Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities Superannuation Scheme (NTGPASS);
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS); or
- non-government employee nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The agency makes superannuation contributions on behalf of its employees to the Central Holding Authority or non-government employee nominated schemes. Superannuation liabilities related to government superannuation schemes are held by the Central Holding Authority and as such are not recognised in agency financial statements.

18. COMMITMENTS

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments. Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured.

	2018		2017	
	Internal \$'000	External \$'000	Internal \$'000	External \$'000
i. Capital Expenditure Commitments				
Capital expenditure commitments primarily related to the construction of infrastructure assets. Capital expenditure commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year	-	30	-	-
	-	30	-	-
ii. Operating Lease Commitments				
The agency leases property under non-cancellable operating leases expiring from 1 to 5 years. Leases generally provide the agency with a right of renewal at which time all lease terms are renegotiated. The agency also leases items of plant and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases. Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year	1 159	-	1 515	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	2 125	-	2 418	-
	3 284	-	3 933	-
iii. Other Expenditure Commitments				
Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year	-	7 111	-	5 222
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	8 755	-	6 146
Later than five years	-	1 083	-	2 166
	-	16 949	-	13 534

19. RESERVES

Asset revaluation surplus

(i) Nature and purpose of the asset revaluation surplus

The asset revaluation surplus includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the asset revaluation surplus.

(ii) Movements in the asset revaluation surplus

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Balance as at 1 July	3 539	3 609
Transfer to Other Government Agency	-	(70)
Balance as at 30 June	3 539	3 539

20. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

The total of agency Cash and Deposits of \$1.7 million recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'Cash' in the Cash Flow Statement.

Reconciliation of Deficit to Net Cash from Operating Activities

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Net Deficit	(3 914)	(927)
Non-Cash Items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	1 229	1 106
Repairs and maintenance non cash	25	25
Asset write-offs/write-downs	9	23
Assets acquired for nil consideration	-	(42)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) in receivables	(794)	(14)
Decrease/(Increase) in inventories	7	(9)
(Increase) in prepayments	(149)	(109)
(Decrease) in payables	(429)	(282)
Increase in employment benefits	303	351
Increase in other provisions	43	70
(Decrease) in other liabilities	(193)	(22)
Net Cash (Used In)/From Operating Activities	(3 863)	170

(b) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

	Cash Flows				Non Cash			
	1-Jul \$'000	Capital Appropriation \$'000	Other \$'000	Total cash flows \$'000	Other Equity Related	Operating Activities \$'000	Total non-cash \$'000	30-Jun \$'000
2017-18								
Repayment of Deposits	512	-	(49)	(49)	-	-	-	463
Provisions	5 048	-	-	-	-	345	345	5 393
Equity Injections	-	503	-	503	2 611	-	2 611	3 114
Total	5 560	503	(49)	454	2 611	345	2 956	8 970

21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Financial instruments held by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and deposits held. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

Financial assets and liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. The agencies financial instruments include cash and deposits; receivables; payables; advances received; and deposits held.

Due to the nature of operating activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statutory obligations rather than a contract. Such financial assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments as per AASB 132 Financial Instruments Presentation. These include statutory receivables arising from taxes including GST and penalties.

Exposure to interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, credit risk, price risk and liquidity risk arise in the normal course of activities. The agencies investments, loans and placements, and borrowings are predominantly managed through the Northern Territory Treasury Corporation adopting strategies to minimize the risk. Derivative financial arrangements are also utilised to manage financial risks inherent in the management of these financial instruments. These arrangements include swaps, forward interest rate agreements and other hedging instruments to manage fluctuations in interest or exchange rates.

(a) Categorisation of financial instruments

The carrying amounts of the departments financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below:

2017-18 Categorisation of Financial Instruments

	Designated at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss \$'000	Finance Assests - Loans and Receivables \$'000	Total \$'000
Cash and deposits	1 777	-	1 777
Receivables ¹	-	1 334	1 334
Total Financial Assets	1 777	1 334	3 111
Deposits held	463	-	463
Payables ¹	1 147	-	1 147
Total Financial Liabilities	1 610	-	1 610

¹ Total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts

2016-17 Categorisation of Financial Instruments

	Designated at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss \$'000	Designated at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss \$'000	Total \$'000
Cash and deposits	5 663	-	5 663
Receivables ¹	-	581	581
Total Financial Assets	5 663	581	6 244
Deposits held	512	-	512
Payables ¹	1 607	-	1 607
Total Financial Liabilities	2 119	-	2 119

¹ Total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts

Classification of Financial Instruments

AASB 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures requires financial instruments to be classified and disclosed within specific categories depending on their nature and purpose.

Financial assets are classified into the following categories:

- financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;
- held-to-maturity investments;
- loans and receivables; and
- available-for-sale financial assets.

Financial liabilities are classified into the following categories:

- financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL); and
- financial liabilities at amortised cost.

Financial Assets or Financial Liabilities at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

Financial instruments are classified as at FVTPL when the instrument is either held for trading or is designated as at FVTPL.

An instrument is classified as held for trading if it is:

- acquired or incurred principally for the purpose of selling or repurchasing it in the near term with an intention of making a profit;
- part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that are managed together and for which there is evidence of a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking; or
- a derivative that is not a financial guarantee contract or a designated and effective hedging instrument.

A financial instrument may be designated as at FVTPL upon initial recognition if:

- such designation eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise;
- the instrument forms part of a group of financial instruments, which is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with a documented risk

management or investment strategy, and information about the grouping is provided internally on that basis; or

- it forms part of a contract containing one or more embedded derivatives, and AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement permits the contract to be designated as at FVTPL.

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss include deposits held and accounts payable excluding statutory deposits and accrued expenses. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss include short-term securities and bonds.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market other than those held for trading and available for sale. Loans and receivables exclude statutory receivables.

(b) Credit risk

The department has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the department has adopted a policy of only dealing with credit worthy organisations and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults.

Additionally, the nature of the departments revenue is such that if the debtor was to default on the debt it would cause them to suffer a business impact, i.e. the department has the ability to discontinue licenses until financial obligations are met. In relation to the regulatory work performed on behalf of landholders (i.e. fire breaks under section 47 of the *Bushfires Management Act*). If a debt is not settled the agency has the ability, and does, take a lien over the property whereby the debt will be settled on sale of the property.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the agencies maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

Receivables

Receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. A reconciliation and aging analysis of receivables is presented below.

Internal Receivables	Aging of Receivables \$'000	Aging of Impaired Receivables \$'000	Net Receivables \$'000
2017-18			
Not overdue	3	-	3
Overdue for less than 30 days	-	-	-
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	-	-	-
Total	3	-	3

Internal Receivables	Aging of Receivables \$'000	Aging of Impaired Receivables \$'000	Net Receivables \$'000
2016-17			
Not overdue	510	-	510
Overdue for less than 30 days	-	-	-
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	-	-	-
Total	510	-	510

External Receivables	Aging of Receivables \$'000	Aging of Impaired Receivables \$'000	Net Receivables \$'000
2017-18			
Not overdue	517	-	517
Overdue for less than 30 days	781	-	781
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	79	35	44
Total	1 377	35	1 342

Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses	\$'000
Opening Balance	9
Written off during the year	(1)
Recovered during the year	(1)
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss	28
Total	35

External Receivables	Aging of Receivables \$'000	Aging of Impaired Receivables \$'000	Net Receivables \$'000
2016-17			
Not overdue	16	-	16
Overdue for less than 30 days	8	-	8
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	56	9	47
Total	80	9	71

Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses	\$'000
Opening Balance	8
Written off during the year	-
Recovered during the year	-
Increase in allowance recognised in profit or loss	1
Total	9

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the agency will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The departments approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

The following tables details the departments remaining contractual maturity for its financial assets and liabilities.

Maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities

2017-18	Variable Interest Rate		Total \$'000
	Less than a Year \$'000	Non - Interest Bearing \$'000	
Assets			
Cash and deposits	-	1 777	1 777
Receivables	-	1 359	1 359
Total Financial Assets	-	3 136	3 136
Liabilities			
Deposits held	-	463	463
Payables	-	1 147	1 147
Total Financial Liabilities	-	1 610	1 610

2016-17	Variable Interest Rate Less than a Year \$'000	Non – Interest Bearing \$'000	Total \$'000
Assets			
Cash and deposits	509	5 154	5 663
Receivables	-	581	581
Total Financial Assets	509	5 735	6 244
Liabilities			
Deposits held	509	3	512
Payables	-	1 607	1 607
Total Financial Liabilities	509	1 610	2 119

(d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. It comprises interest rate risk, price risk and currency risk. The primary market risk that the agency is exposed to is interest rate risk.

(i) Interest rate risk

The agency is not exposed to interest rate risk as agency financial assets and financial liabilities are non-interest bearing.

(ii) Price risk

The agency is not exposed to price risk as the agency does not hold units in unit trusts.

(iii) Currency risk

The agency is not exposed to currency risk as the agency does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.

(e) Net fair value

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The highest and best use takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible.

When measuring fair value, the valuation techniques used maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs are used to the extent that sufficient relevant and reliable observable inputs are not available for similar assets/liabilities.

Observable inputs are publicly available data that are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Observable inputs used by the department include, but are not limited to, published sales data for land and general office buildings.

Unobservable inputs are data, assumptions and judgments that are not available publicly, but are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Such inputs include internal department adjustments to observable data to take account of particular and potentially unique characteristics/functionality of assets/liabilities and assessments of physical condition and remaining useful life.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the following fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used:

Level 1 – Inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 – Inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and

Level 3 – Inputs are unobservable.

The fair value of financial instruments is determined on the following basis:

- the fair value of cash, deposits, advances, receivables and payables approximates their carrying amount, which is also their amortised cost;
- the fair value of derivative financial instruments are derived using current market yields and exchange rates appropriate to the instrument; and
- the fair value of other monetary financial assets and liabilities is based on discounting to present value the expected future cash flows by applying current market interest rates for assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles.

22. RELATED PARTIES

(i) Related parties

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is a government administrative entity and is wholly owned and controlled by the Territory Government. Related parties of the agency include:

- the portfolio minister and key management personnel (KMP) because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the agency directly; and
- spouses, children and dependents who are close family members of the portfolio minister or KMP; and

- all public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of government financial statements; and
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by the KMP's or portfolio minister or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

(ii) Key management personnel

Key management personnel of the agency are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Department Environment and Natural Resources. These include the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources, the Chief Executive Officer and the 11 members of the Governance Board of the Department Environment and Natural Resources as listed in Appendix 1.

(iii) Remuneration of key management personnel

The details below excludes the salaries and other benefits of the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources as the Minister's remunerations and allowances are payable by the Department of the Legislative Assembly and consequently disclosed within the Treasurer's Annual Financial Statements.

The aggregate compensation of key management personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is set out below:

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Short-term Benefits	1 847	1 647
Post-employment Benefits	213	200
Total	2 060	1 847

(iv) Related party transactions**Transactions with Northern Territory Government controlled entities**

The agencies primary ongoing source of funding is received from the Central Holding Authority in the form of output and capital appropriation and on-passed Commonwealth national partnership payments.

The following table provides quantitative information about related party transactions entered into during the year with all other Northern Territory Government controlled entities.

2018 Related Party	Revenue from related parties \$'000	Payments to related parties \$'000	Amounts owed by related parties \$'000	Amounts owed to related parties \$'000
All NTG Government departments	5 584	10 111	6	329

2017 Related Party	Revenue from related parties \$'000	Payments to related parties \$'000	Amounts owed by related parties \$'000	Amounts owed to related parties \$'000
All NTG Government departments	5 382	9 776	510	-

The agencies transactions with other government entities are not individually significant.

Other related party transactions are as follows:

Given the breadth and depth of Territory Government activities, related parties will transact with the Territory Public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public including paying stamp duty and other government fees and charges and therefore these transactions have not been disclosed. There have been no other related party transactions in excess of \$10 000.

23. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS**(a) Contingent liabilities**

The agency had no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2018 or 30 June 2017.

(b) Contingent assets

The agency had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2018 or 30 June 2017.

24. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE SHEET DATE

No events have arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that require adjustment to, or disclosure in these financial statements.

25. SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

The following Territory items are managed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on behalf of the Government and are recorded in the Central Holding Authority (refer Note 2(d)).

	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
Territory Income and Expenses		
Income		
Fees from regulatory services	88	69
Royalties and rents	5 004	4 992
Other income	12	25
Total Income	5 104	5 086
Expenses		
Central Holding Authority income transferred	5 104	5 086
Total Expenses	5 104	5 086
Territory Income Less Expenses	-	-
Territory Assets and Liabilities		
Assets		
Royalties and rent receivable	57	6
Other receivables	24	4
Total Assets	81	10
Liabilities		
Central Holding Authority income payable	69	10
Unearned Central Holding Authority income	12	-
Total Liabilities	81	10
Net Assets	-	-

26. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

Comprehensive Operating Statement	2017-18 Actual \$'000	2017-18 Original Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Note
Income				
Grants and subsidies revenue				
Current	4 558	3 278	1 280	1
Appropriation				
Output	49 082	48 345	737	2
Commonwealth	510	2 239	(1 729)	3
Sales of goods and services	2 094	1 172	922	4
Goods and services received free of charge	3 774	4 539	(765)	5
Gain on disposal of assets	4	-	4	
Other income	82	-	82	
Total Income	60 104	59 573	531	
Expenses				
Employee expenses	34 544	31 643	2 901	6
Administrative expenses				
Purchase of goods and services	15 137	13 554	1 583	7
Repairs and maintenance	1 035	1 571	(536)	8
Depreciation and amortisation	1 229	1 187	42	
Other administrative expenses	3 810	4 539	(729)	9
Grants and subsidies expenses				
Current	6 297	6 811	(514)	10
Capital	1 966	2 000	(34)	
Total Expenses	64 018	61 305	2 713	
Net Deficit	(3 914)	(1 732)	(2 182)	
Comprehensive Result	(3 914)	(1 732)	(2 182)	

Notes

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than \$0.5 million.

1. The increase in Current Grants income is due to additional external grant program funding sourced and reclassification of income budgeted as sales of goods and services.
2. The increase in Output Appropriation is due to the net movement of funding for projects, offset by the transfer of repairs and maintenance funding to minor new works, as well as a Treasurer's Advance.
3. The decrease in Commonwealth Grants is due to delays in project expenditure with funds being receivable upon milestone completion.
4. The net increase for Sales of Goods and Services is due to additional funds sourced, offset by reclassification of income received to grants and unearned income.
5. The decrease in Goods and Services Free of Charge primarily relates to notional DCIS Free of Charge expenditure which is subject to variances due to demand.
6. The increase in Employee Expenses is due to additional Territory funding and increase in externally funded project expenditure.
7. The increase in Purchases of Goods and Services is due to additional Territory funding and externally-funded projects.
8. The decrease in Repairs and Maintenance is due to Economic Stimulus funding transferred to minor new works.
9. The decrease in Other Administrative Expenses primarily relates to DCIS Free of Charge expenditure, which is subject to variances due to demand.
10. The decrease in Grants Expense is due to delay in payments.

Balance Sheet	2017-18 Actual \$'000	2017-18 Original Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Note
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash and deposits	1 777	5 415	(3 638)	1
Receivables	1 773	968	805	2
Inventories	4	2	2	
Prepayments	409	151	258	
Total Current Assets	3 963	6 536	(2 573)	
Non-Current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	15 967	12 986	2 981	3
Intangible assets	800	1 074	(274)	
Total Non-Current Assets	16 767	14 060	2 707	
Total Assets	20 730	20 596	134	
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Deposits held	463	1 508	(1 045)	4
Payables	1 385	2 096	(711)	5
Provisions	5 394	4 584	810	6
Other liabilities	785	1 000	(215)	
Total Current Liabilities	8 027	9 188	(1 161)	
Total Liabilities	8 027	9 188	(1 161)	
Net Assets	12 703	11 408	1 295	
Equity				
Capital	90 753	88 085	2 668	
Asset revaluation surplus	3 539	3 609	(70)	
Accumulated funds	(81 589)	(80 286)	(1 303)	
Total Equity	12 703	11 408	1 295	

Notes

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than \$0.5 million.

1. The decrease in cash held relates to decrease in liabilities.
2. The increase in receivables primarily relates to delays in funding receipts.
3. The increase in Property Plant and Equipment is net of works in progress transferred in offset by depreciation recorded.
4. The decrease in Deposits Held reflects payment made from the Single Holding Account.
5. The decrease in Payables reflects the amount outstanding at the end of the financial year.
6. The increase in Provisions relates to staffing movements and associated benefits.

Cash Flow Statement	2017-18 Actual \$'000	2017-18 Original Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Note
Cash Flows from Operating Activities				
Operating Receipts				
Grants and subsidies received				
Current	4 558	3 278	1 280	1
Capital				
Appropriation				
Output	49 082	48 345	737	2
Commonwealth	510	2 239	(1 729)	3
Receipts from sales of goods and services	3 130	1 172	1 958	4
Interest received	1	-	1	
Total Operating Receipts	57 281	55 034	2 247	
Operating Payments				
Payments to employees	(34 168)	(31 643)	(2 525)	5
Payments for goods and services	(18 712)	(15 125)	(3 587)	6
Grants and subsidies paid				
Current	(6 297)	(6 811)	(514)	7
Capital	(1 966)	(2 000)	34	
Interest paid	(1)	-	(1)	
Total Operating Payments	(61 144)	(55 579)	(5 565)	
Net Cash (Used In)/From Operating Activities	(3 863)	(545)	(3 318)	
Cash Flows from Investing Activities				
Investing Payments				
Purchases of assets	(478)	(573)	95	
Total Investing Payments	(478)	(573)	95	
Net Cash (Used In) Investing Activities	(478)	(573)	95	
Cash Flows from Financing Activities				
Financing Receipts				
Equity injections				
Capital appropriations	503	573	(70)	
Total Financing Receipts	503	573	(70)	
Financing Payments				
Deposits paid	(48)	-	(48)	
Total Financing Payments	(48)	-	(48)	
Net Cash From Financing Activities	455	573	(118)	
Net (decrease) in cash held	(3 886)	(545)	(3 341)	
Cash at beginning of financial year	5 663	5 960	(297)	
Cash at End of Financial Year	1 777	5 415	(3 638)	

Notes

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than \$0.5 million.

1. The increase in Current Grants Income is due to additional external grant program funding sourced and reclassification of income budgeted as sales of goods and services.
2. The increase in Output Appropriation is due to the net movement of funding for projects, offset by the transfer of repairs and maintenance funding to minor new works, as well as a Treasurer's Advance.
3. The decrease in Commonwealth Grants is due to delays in project expenditure with funds being receivable upon milestone completion.
4. The increase for Receipts from Sales of Goods and Services is due to new externally funded projects, own source revenue and GST refunded which is not included in the budget.
5. The increase in Payments to Employees is due to additional Territory funding and increase in externally funded project expenditure.
6. The increase in payments for Purchases of Goods and Services is due to externally funded projects, reduction in accounts payable and GST paid which is not included in the budget.
7. The decrease in grants expense is due to delay in payments.

27. BUDGETARY INFORMATION: ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

In addition to the specific department operations which are included in the financial statements, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources administers or manages other activities and resources on behalf of the Territory such as rent. The transactions relating to these activities are reported as administered items in this note.

The department does not gain control over assets arising from these collections, consequently no income is recognised in the departments financial statements. The transactions relating to these activities are reported as administered items in this note.

	2017-18 Actual \$'000	2017-18 Original Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Note
Territory Income And Expenses				
Income				
Fees from regulatory services	88	25	63	
Royalties and rents	5 004	5 063	(59)	
Other income	12	-	12	
Total Income	5 104	5 088	16	
Expenses				
Central Holding Authority income transferred	5 104	5 088	16	
Total Expenses	5 104	5 088	16	
Territory Income Less Expenses	-	-	-	
Territory Assets And Liabilities				
Assets				
Royalties and rent receivable	57	24	33	
Other receivables	24	20	4	
Total Assets	81	44	37	
Liabilities				
Central Holding Authority income payable	69	44	25	
Unearned Central Holding Authority income	12	-	12	
Total Liabilities	81	44	37	
Net Assets	-	-	-	

APPENDIX 1

DEPARTMENT BOARD AND COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP

The department's governance structure comprises a Governance Board and supporting committees that are focused on key governance elements.

The board and committee oversee the allocation of resources across the department and the development and implementation of policies, plans and procedures that provide a foundation of good governance for the department's activities.

The committees include:

Governance Board

- Chief Executive Officer (Chair)
- Executive Director, Rangelands
- Executive Director, Corporate Services
- Executive Director, Water Resources
- Executive Director, Flora and Fauna
- Executive Director, Bushfires NT
- Executive Director, Environment Protection
- Executive Director, Environment Policy and Support
- Executive Director, Onshore Gas Reform
- Executive Officer
- Regional Director, South
- Regional Manager, Katherine

Audit and Risk Management Committee

Previous members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee for 2017–18:

Committee Member	Division	Position
Ms Tania Moloney	Rangelands	Director Pastoral Lease Administration and Board
Ms Carly Holman (Secretariat)	Corporate Services	Manager Corporate Governance

Current members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee as at 30 June 2018:

Committee Member	Division	Position
Mr Simon Cruickshank (Chair)	Water Resources	A/Deputy Executive Director
Ms Collene Bremner	Bushfires NT	Executive Director
Mr Keith Saalfeld	Flora and Fauna	Director Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program
Ms Kathleen Davis	Environment	Director Environment Policy
Mr Nigel Weston	Rangelands	A/Director Weed Management Branch
Mr Stephan Jackson (external member)		Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics, Senior Director Engineering and Environmental Services
Ms Erin Noyes (Secretariat)	Corporate Services	A/Manager Corporate Governance

Divisional Work Health and Safety Committees

Bushfires NT

- Collene Bremner (Chair)
- Lisa Williams
- Joshua Fischer
- Miranda Seib
- Ken Baulch
- Lucas Fiddaman
- Troy Munckton
- Des Oakhill

Flora and Fauna

- Alaric Fisher (Chair)
- Jo Pridham
- Keith Saalfeld
- Glenn Edwards
- Neil Smit
- Luke Einoder
- Plaxy Purich
- Debbie Randall
- Peter McDonald
- Bert Lukitsch (Weeds)
- Tess Cooper (Parks)

Environment

- Paul Purdon (Chair)
- Alison Watters
- Mel Fox
- Simon Gummer
- David Rhind
- Fity Peehikuru

Water Resources

- Kiley Hanslow (Chair)
- Cherie Jackson
- Allan Russ
- Ralf Koberstein
- Matthew Majid
- Pru Ducey
- Duncan Rance
- Noel Gibbons
- Mohammed Dilshad
- Stephen Hester

Corporate Services

- Vicki Highland (Chair)
- Michelle Murray
- Edwin Edlund
- Leanne Williamson
- Rebecca Litten
- Megan Hughes

Rangelands

- Luis Da Rocha (Chair)
- Jason Hill
- Tahnee Thompson
- Chris Brown
- Kara Maclean
- Cameron Wallace

Emergency Management Committee

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

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Governance Committee

- Regional Director, South (Chair)
- Executive Director, Flora and Fauna
- Executive Director, Corporate Services
- Executive Director, Environment Protection
- Senior Manager, Geospatial Services Branch
- Director, Policy and Engagement, Bushfires NT
- Director, Land Assessment Branch
- Chief Information Officer, Corporate Services.

APPENDIX 2

STATUTORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES – MEMBERSHIP

Water Advisory Committees

Alice Springs Water Advisory Committee

- Mr Jimmy Cocking
- Mr Rod Cramer
- Ms Jocelyn Davies (Chair)
- Mr Adam Davis
- Ms Robyn Grey-Gardner
- Mr Richard Hayes
- Ms Veronica Lynch
- Mr Glenn Marshall
- Ms Eli Melky
- Ms Wendy Stuart

Darwin Harbour Water Advisory Committee

- Ms Annie Andrews
- Mr Nigel Browne
- Mr David Ciaravolo
- Ms Shenagh Gamble
- Professor Karen Gibb
- Mr Nick Hannigan
- Ms Maria Kraatz
- Ms Sue McKinnon
- Ms Shar Molloy
- Mr Terry O'Connor
- Ms Patricia Rigby-Christophersen
- Mr Mark Robertson
- Mr Alan Roe
- Mr Jim Smith
- Dr Claire Streten
- Mr Daniel Thompson

Howard Water Advisory Committee

- Ms Maree Bredhauer
- Mr David Ciaravolo
- Mr David George (Chair)
- Ms Jan Hintze
- Ms Donna Jackson
- Mr Shane Papworth
- Ms Kate Peake
- Mr Bill Risk
- Mr Matthew Salter
- Mr Mark Smith
- Mr Gerry Wood

Katherine Water Advisory Committee

- Mr Neal Adamson
- Ms Marie Allen
- Mr Allister Andrews
- Mr Warren de With
- Mr Rick Fletcher
- Mr Michael Jarram
- Dr Alison King
- Mr Peter Marks
- Mr Shane Papworth
- Ms Marie Piccone (Chair)
- Mr Peter Rix
- Mr Steven Rose
- Ms Charmaine Roth

Ooloo Water Advisory Committee

- Mr Malcom Baker
- Mr John Childs (Chair)
- Mr Warren de With
- Mr Phil Howie
- Dr Alison King
- Ms Mona Liddy
- Mr Robert Lindsay
- Mr Peter Marks
- Dr Lorrae McArthur
- Mr Sam McBean
- Ms Kate Peake
- Mr Richard Perry
- Mr Simon Smith
- Mr Eddie Webber

Western Davenport Water Advisory Committee

- Mr Peter Donohoe
- Mr Charles Frith
- Mr Vincent Lange
- Mr Paul McLaughlin
- Mr Mark Parsons
- Mr Alex Read
- Mr Ryan Roxas
- Mr Stuart Smith
- Mr David Sweeney
- Mr Peter Wood

Ti Tree Water Advisory Committee

- Mr Rodney Baird
- Mrs Sarah Cook
- Mr Adam Davis
- Ms Robyn Grey-Gardener
- Mr Mitch Jones
- Mr Willie Lane
- Mr Vincent Lange
- Mr William (Bill) Low (Chair)
- Mr Dan Pepperill
- Mr Laurie Price

Tindall-Mataranka Daly Waters Water Advisory Committee

- Mr David Ciaravolo
- Dr David Crook
- Mr Allister Andrews
- Ms Tracey Hayes
- Ms Sharon Hillen
- Ms Jocelyn James
- Ms Sarah Kerin
- Mr Vincent Lange
- Ms Helena Lardy
- Dr Rebecca Mohr-Bell (Chair)
- Ms Clair O'Brien
- Mr Peter Rix
- Mr Kerry Roberts
- Mr Kane Younghusband

Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee

- Mr Neal Adamson
- Professor Karen Gibb
- Ms Donna Jackson
- Mr Ian Kew
- Ms Robin Knox
- Mr Ian Lancaster (Chair)
- Mr Tim Moore
- Ms Lisa Peters

- Ms Julia Schult
- Mr Nigel Weston

Drillers Qualification Advisory Committee

- Mr Mark Ballard
- Mr Trevor Edwards
- Mr David George
- Mr Tom Harris
- Ms Kirsten Marmion
- Mr Lance Martin (Chair)
- Mr Henry Van Tilburg
- Mr Des Yin Foo

Water Resources Review Panel

- Mr Colin Beard
- Mr John Childs
- Mr David George
- Mr Philip Howie
- Mr George Roussos

Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory

- Mr Shaun William Ansell
- Ms Alice Maree Bielby
- Ms Elizabeth Marie Bird (Chair)
- Mr Paul John Blore (D/Chair)
- Mr Matthew Braitting
- Mr Paul Burke
- Mr Gary David Cook
- Mr Benjamin Kaethner
- Ms Karen May
- Ms Patricia Rigby-Christophersen
- Mr Nigel Gellar
- Mr Todd Smith
- Mr Mark Spain
- Mr Ian Stewart
- Ms Dianne Tynan

Alice Springs Regional Bushfires Committee

- Ms Kristen Appel
- Mr Alastair Bayly
- Ms Elizabeth Bird
- Mr Ben Cromarty
- Ms Donna Lian Digby
- Mr Edward Andrew Hayes
- Mr Benjamin Frank Heaslip
- Mr Benjamin Kaethner (D/Chair)
- Ms Kimberly McKay
- Mr Ashley Armstrong Severin

Arnhem Regional Bushfires Committee

- Ms Jessie Alderson
- Mr Otto Bulmaniya Champion
- Mr Nigel Gellar (Chair)
- Ms Anna Pickworth
- Mr Simon Ponto
- Mr William Rioli
- Mr Clarry Rogers (D/Chair)
- Mr Connell Tipiloura
- Mr Jakob Weigal
- Mr Greg Wilson

Barkly Regional Bushfires Committee

- Mr Kenneth Gerard Ford
- Mr Ian Halstead
- Mr Michael Donald Johnson
- Ms Lena Perkins (Chair)
- Mr Donald Shadforth

Savanna Regional Bushfires Committee

- Ms Jessica Beckhouse
- Ms Alice Beilby (Chair)
- Mr Simon Cheers
- Mr Campbell Elliott
- Mr Michael Harding
- Ms Tammy Kruckow
- Mr James (Benjamin) Lewis (D/Chair)
- Ms Heidi Millership
- Mr Thomas Shephard
- Mr Sam Tapp

Vernon/Arafura Regional Bushfires Committee

- Mr Shaun William Ansell (Chair)
- Mr Rodney Beament
- Mr Colin Arthur Deveraux
- Mr Thomas Harrower
- Ms Susan Jones
- Mr David William McLachlan
- Mr Andrew McTaggart
- Mr Desmond Oakhill
- Mr Kevin Phillips
- Mr Ian James Stewart (D/Chair)
- Mr Daniel Thomson

Pastoral Land Board

- Mr Steven Craig
- Dr Leigh Hunt
- Mr David James
- Ms Anne Kilgariff
- Mr Paul Zlotkowski (Chair)

Northern Territory Weed Advisory Committee

- Mr Anthony David Cox
- Mr Garry Fisher
- Mr Jay Francis Mohr-Bell
- Dr Dionne Lee Walsh

NT Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA)

- Ms Samantha Louise Nunan
- Dr David Ritchie
- Ms Janice van Reyk
- Dr Paul Vogel (Chair)
- Dr Ian Geoffrey Wallis
- Mr Colin Joseph Woodward

Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River) Working Group

- Mr Alex McLean
- Mr Chris Day
- Mr David Letheby
- Dr Fiona Walsh
- Mr Geoff Kenna
- Dr Ken Johnson (Chair)
- Mr Robert Campbell
- Ms Sarah Fairhead
- Mr Scott Allen
- Ms Sophie Creighton
- Mr Stephen Brooks
- Mr Sunil Dhanji

Aboriginal Land Management Advisory Group

- Mr Adrian Hogg
- Dr Alaric Fisher
- Mr Brian Tipungwuti
- Mr Dean Yibarbuk
- Mr Henry Wilson
- Ms Karen May
- Ms Linda Ford
- Mr Matthew Salmon
- Ms Melissa George
- Mr Peter Donohoe
- Mr Paul Jenkins
- Mr Ronald (Ricky) Archer

Coastal and Marine Management Partnership Group

- Ms Katherine Winchester
- Ms Adele Pedder
- Mr Ross McDonald
- Ms Melissa George
- Ms Diane Brodie
- Ms Shar Molloy
- Mr Brian Tipungwuti
- Professor Karen Gibb
- Mr Ed Butler
- Ms Janice Warren,
- Mr David Ciaravolo
- Mr Graeme Williams
- Mr Trevor Cox
- Ms Robin Knox
- Ms Karen May

APPENDIX 3

Recipient	Grant name	NTG or externally funded	Amount \$
Alawa Primary School	Project Grant for sustainable farm management and education plan	NTG	17 440
Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation	Land Management and Conservation Grant - Integrated feral animal and weed management in the Arafura swamp	NTG	71 645
Arid Lands Environment Centre	Operational Grant to support the Centre	NTG	100 000
	Project Grant for EcocScience School days	NTG	20 000
	Project Grant for Ilparpa Claypans Bushcare Project	NTG	20 000
	Project Grant for Lower Todd River Bushcare Project	NTG	20 000
	Project Grant for Alice Springs Community Solar Project Business Plan	NTG	20 000
	Project Grant for Roadmap to DesertSMART Town (2013-18) Review	NTG	10 000
Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Ltd (ALFA)	West Arnhem Fire Management Agreement (WAFMA) between the Northern Territory of Australia and ALFA (NT) Limited and Darwin LNG Pty Ltd (DLNG). Funding to be used to conduct fire planning, mitigation and suppression activities on country in western Arnhem Land.	Externally Funded	1 396 615
Australian Drilling Industry Committee	Support the training and licensing of drillers	NTG	18 557
Australian Marine Conservation Society Inc.	Operational Grant to support the Centre	NTG	30 000
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	Establishment of a large feral free area at Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary	Externally Funded	50 000
Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers	Cane Toad Management at Marrara	NTG	11 400
	Project Grant for Intertidal Environmental Monitoring at Ludmilla Bay	NTG	14 000
Batchelor Area School	Project Grant for Sustainable Energy for Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre	NTG	23 762
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Djelk Rangers - Homeland hubs and maintenance workshop equipment	NTG	48 448

Recipient	Grant name	NTG or externally funded	Amount \$
Central Land Council	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for ranger groups coordinator - 4WD and trailer	NTG	88 182
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Anangu Luritjiku Rangers - Work shed Yuendumu	NTG	82 500
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Warlpiri Rangers - Work shed Willowra	NTG	85 000
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Warlpiri Rangers - Work shed Nyirripi	NTG	85 000
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Ranger and Land Management planning and reporting system	NTG	87 000
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Muru-Warinyi Ankkul Rangers - Strategic Fire Management in the Tennant Creek region	NTG	52 325
Charles Darwin University	Project Grant for Bioenergy Potential of The Northern Territory	NTG	20 000
	Research Agreement for monitoring and auditing services in relation to the WAFMA agreement	Externally Funded	50 000
City of Palmerston	Small Grant for Healthy Waterways signage	NTG	2 618
Coomalie Community Government Council	Project Grant for fencing the Adelaide River Transfer Station	NTG	24 684
Darwin Military Museum	Small Grant for Tree Management	NTG	5 000
Deewin Kurim Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Asyrikarrak Kirim Rangers - 4WD and trailer	NTG	69 728
DEMED Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Adjumarllarl Rangers - 4WD, 3 UTV's for spray equipment	NTG	87 150
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Adjumarllarl Rangers - Targeted Land Management: Fresh Water Bininj Mundbalk to Saltwater Bininj Mundbalk	NTG	72 113
Department of Environment and Energy	Contribution to establishment of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network	NTG	30 000
Department of Tourism and Culture	Waterfowl returns incentive	NTG	1 000

Recipient	Grant name	NTG or externally funded	Amount \$
Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Dhimurru Rangers - Harnessing drone technology for Sea grass mapping in Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area	NTG	23 617
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Dhimurru Rangers - Surface water temperature loggers - Dhimurru IPA	NTG	3 500
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Dhimurru Rangers - Cultural Landscape Mapping - Port Bradshaw	NTG	25 340
East Arnhem Regional Council	Small Grant for "Composting for the Future"	NTG	5 000
	Project Grant for East Arnhem Regional Council's Waster Oil Recycling	NTG	16 000
	Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grant for manufacturing recycling cages, freight to transport cages from Darwin to East Arnhem Land	NTG	30 000
Environmental Defenders Office NT Inc.	Operational Grant to support the Centre	NTG	50 000
GeoScience Australia	National Water Infrastructure Development Fund for extension of the Ord irrigation Scheme Stages 1 and 2. To provide new arable farming land by constructing irrigation channels from the Ord irrigation Scheme into the Northern Territory.	Externally Funded	663 193
Greening Australia NT	Project Grant for Todd River River Red Gum Fire Prevention and Vegetation Restoration.	NTG	19 139
Hornsby Property Services	Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grant for manual handling and glass container storage	NTG	27 200
Indigenous Land Corporation	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Fish River Rangers - UTV	NTG	19 000
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Fish River Rangers - spray units	NTG	18 405
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Fish River Rangers - Fish River Rangers' threatened species and biodiversity monitoring program	NTG	24 500
Industry Services Training Pty Ltd.	Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grant for Lajamanu community recycling program	NTG	18 630

Recipient	Grant name	NTG or externally funded	Amount \$
Jacob's Group Australia	National Water Infrastructure Development Fund - Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) investigate the economic and technical viability of certain aquifers in support of mosaic irrigation development. Feasibility study to assess if MAR and conjunctive water use in targeted areas of the Northern Territory is an economic and sustainable way in which to convert the excesses of the wet season to supply or augment water to irrigation projects in the dry season.	Externally Funded	450 180
Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation Centralised	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Jawoyn Rangers - 4WD and spray units	NTG	73 157
	Land Management and Conservation Grant - Strategic, Regional and sustainable Ranger led response to the threat of Gamba Grass on Jawoyn Lands	NTG	28 000
Keep Australia Beautiful Council	Operational Grant to support the Centre	NTG	200 000
Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Larrakia Rangers - 5.4m patrol vessel	NTG	98 705
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Yirralka Rangers - 2 x ATV's with spray equipment	NTG	64 131
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Yirralka Rangers - Laynhapuy IPA Feral Animal Control	NTG	31 625
Local Government Association of the NT	Operational Grant to support regional waste management	NTG	120 000
MacFarlane Primary School	Small Grant for Bush Tucker Garden	NTG	5 000
Marthakal Homeland Resource Centre	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Marthakal Rangers - 5.4 m patrol vessel	NTG	99 606
Milingimbi & Outstations Progress Resource Association Incorporated	Land Management and Conservation Grant - Using novel methods to establish turtle nesting monitoring techniques in remote locations, on Gurriba Island Turtle Sanctuary	NTG	24 151
Mimal Land Management Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Mimal Rangers - Solar power for Barrapunta Ranger Station	NTG	60 000
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Mimal Rangers - Mimal Land Management - Rangers delivering on country to manage weeds, fire, ferals and keep culture strong	NTG	80 822
North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance	Land Management and Conservation Grant - Indigenous State of the Region Report 2018-2020	NTG	105 000

Recipient	Grant name	NTG or externally funded	Amount \$
	Support a Kenbi Fire Liason officer under the Kenbi Bushfire Resilience Project	Externally Funded	83 360
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Waanyi Garawa and Garawa Rangers - Satellite Push to Talk System	NTG	9 948
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Yugul Mangi Rangers - work shed renovation, hazardous goods storage and chemical wash facility	NTG	89 000
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Malak Malak Rangers - Quad bikes	NTG	24 851
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Kenbi Rangers - field station Indian Island	NTG	100 000
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Wudicupildiyerr Rangers - facilities for Ranger base and Ranger coordinator house	NTG	100 000
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Wardaman Rangers - 4WD, ATV and trailer	NTG	90 908
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Malak Malak Rangers - 4WD	NTG	73 406
Northern Land Council	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Bulgul Rangers - ATV and spray unit	NTG	40 273
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Kenbi Rangers - Cultural and natural resource management activities on Kenbi land and sea country	NTG	112 500
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Bulgul Rangers - Increasing Aboriginal Ranger capacity in caring for country within the Finnis-Reynolds catchment	NTG	105 356
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Yugul Mangi and Numbulwar Numburindi Rangers - Protecting Art and Culture: Aboriginal Rock Art Site Management - Yugul Mangi, Numbulwar Numburindi and PWCNT	NTG	67 200
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Wardaman Rangers - Land Management Projects for Improved Conservation Practices & Cultural Maintenance on the Wardaman IPA	NTG	69 776
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Yugul Mangi and Numbulwar Numburindi ranger groups - Management of feral animals in the South East Arnhem Land Indigenous Protected Area (SEAL IPA)	NTG	39 675
Olive Pink Botanic Garden	Project Grant for capturing and Recording Land for Wildlife.	NTG	19 765

Recipient	Grant name	NTG or externally funded	Amount \$
Olive Pink Botanic Garden	Project Grant for capturing and Recording Land for Wildlife.	NTG	19 765
Parap Primary School	Small Grant for "Boomerang Bags" project	NTG	5 000
Queensland Department of Agricultural & Fisheries	Contribution to the National Four Tropical Weeds Eradication Program	NTG	50 246
	Red Witchweed Program due to new detections and subsequent impact	NTG	6 555
Queensland Department of Science Information Technology and Innovation	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	NTG	100 000
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grant for can crusher at Mataranka Regional Recycling Centre	NTG	30 000
Roper River Landcare Incorporated	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Mangarrayi Rangers - 4WD and ATV	NTG	79 171
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Mangarrayi Rangers - Leadership in Neem Control and Eradication in the Never-Never	NTG	21 300
Thamarrurr Development Corporation Ltd	Project Grant for Developing Environmentally Sustainable Practice	NTG	20 000
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital	NTG	99 933
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Thamarrurr, Asyrikarrak Kirim, Wudicupidilyerr and Malak Malak Rangers - Collaborative management of mimosa and gamba grass in the western Top End region	NTG	122 500
The Environment Centre NT Inc.	Operational Grant to support the Centre	NTG	100 000
	Small Grant for "COOLmob Sustainable House Day 2018"	NTG	5 000
	Project Grant for Transitions Film Festival Darwin 2018	NTG	5 000

Recipient	Grant name	NTG or externally funded	Amount \$
Tiwi Land Council	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Tiwi Rangers - work base facilities	NTG	2 117
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital grant for Tiwi Rangers - 4WD	NTG	66 662
	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital for Tiwi Rangers - 2 x quads and trailers, spray units	NTG	53 291
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Tiwi Rangers - Control and eradication of outlier weeds and ferals - Tiwi Islands	NTG	123 109
	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Tiwi Rangers - Towards an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) on the Tiwi Islands	NTG	27 165
Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal Ranger Grants - Capital for Tjuwanpa Women's Rangers - 4WD	NTG	70 197
University of Technology	Australian Research Council Linkage grant contribution for project titled Preventing and reversing population declines of northern quolls	NTG	10 000
Various recipients for bushfire grants relating to protective clothing or equipment	Funding for personal protective clothing and equipment is provided to volunteer firefighters on completion of basic training and becoming an Authorised Bushfire Volunteer (ABV)	NTG	90 685
	Subsidy is provided for landholders to purchase firefighting equipment and radios, at 50 percent for equipment and 80 percent for radios, of the purchase price (exclusive of GST) with maximum value of \$1 200 per applicant.	NTG	14 099
Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	Operational grant to support 22 volunteer bushfire brigades	NTG	592 607
	Vehicle replacement program for firefighting vehicles of the volunteer bushfire brigades	NTG	329 974
Voyages Indigenous Tourism Pty Ltd	Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grant for additional bins, conveyors, and signage due to recycling increase	NTG	24 286
Wangamaty (lower Daly) Landcare Group Inc.	Project Grant for Weed Management within the Nauiyu Land Trust	NTG	20 000
Warddeken Land Management Limited	Land Management and Conservation Grant for Warddeken Rangers - Transforming Philanthropic Support into a sustainable funding source for Indigenous Land and Sea Management	NTG	70 000
TOTAL			8 262 983

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