



**Parks and Wildlife
Commission of the
Northern Territory**

Annual Report **2015-16**



Our Report

PURPOSE

Annual Reports and budget statements are the principal formal accountability mechanisms between the Northern Territory Government and the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (the Commission).

The Commission's Annual Report summarises the key achievements, challenges, lessons learned and operating environment during the financial year from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. The report covers performance against operational, environmental, financial and community-based expectations in both qualitative and quantitative terms and communicates our future strategy, setting a forward plan for future challenges and opportunities.

The Commission has prepared this annual report in accordance with section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* (PSEMA) and section 12 of the *Financial Management Act*.

COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report is available as an electronic document and can be viewed online at www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au

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Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

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OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The Parks and Wildlife Commission has a diverse range of partners and stakeholders. The support and participation of these individuals and groups is essential in connecting people with the Territory's unique nature and culture, and achieving our strategic goals. This Annual Report aims to inform our stakeholders about our 2015-16 achievements.

Our stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- the wider community;
- recreational groups and organisations;
- commercial operators;
- tour guides and operators;
- wildlife traders, including pet shops;
- wildlife carers;
- schools;
- safari hunters;
- concessionaires and lease holders;
- permit holders;
- tourists;
- traditional owners and joint management partners;
- emerging Indigenous businesses;
- other government agencies; and
- land councils.

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Your Ref:

The Hon Lauren Moss MLA
Minister for Tourism and Culture
PO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Minister

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory for the financial year 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

The report provides information regarding the performance and key achievements of the Commission, as required under section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.

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

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

In making this declaration, I have had regard to, and relied upon, representations of the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission as at 30 June 2016, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Corporate and Information Services.

Yours sincerely



ALASTAIR SHIELDS
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Tourism and Culture
30 September 2016

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01 Introduction



The year in review



It is with great pleasure that I present the 2015-16 Annual Report for the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory. Parks and reserves play a very important role in ensuring the ongoing sustainability and maintenance of our environment. Parks are increasingly being recognised for the very significant social value they provide to the community. They are special places where we connect with nature and each other. Our parks and reserves play a crucial role in ensuring the Territory's social, environmental and economic future.

This year saw a significant investment in our parks with two major infrastructure builds in Litchfield National Park and Casuarina Coastal Reserve. Over \$20 million in capital works funding has seen the development of new and reinvigorated infrastructure and facilities. This will not only cater to a larger number of visitors to these parks, but will also ensure that visitors continue to enjoy these parks in the coming years.

During 2015-16, visitor numbers to major parks and reserves increased for the fifth consecutive year. Across the Territory, the increase was 4% with an increase of 4% in the Top End, 6% in the Savannah-Gulf area and 3% in the Central Australia. Visitor Experience Development Plans have been developed for four parks, with three to be completed next year.

Developing more adventure tourism activities in our parks and reserves responds to a changing tourism industry with many visitors now seeking an 'adventurous experience'. Next financial year we look forward to opening a treetop experience at Howard Springs Nature Park. This activity will allow visitors to explore the rainforest canopy by undertaking a series of challenges strung high in the tree tops. New visitor experiences have also been developed at our Wildlife Parks and Botanic Gardens.

The year saw the completion of a third Integrated Conservation Strategy; this one for Garig Gunak Barlu National Park and Marine Park.

Each Integrated Conservation Strategy is developed by a team including park planners, rangers, scientists, traditional owners and experts in weed and fire management; and sets clear objectives and measurable targets, for management of the key conservation values and priority threats identified for a major park or reserve.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission works tirelessly to ensure our parks and reserves are protected and that they provide opportunities for locals and tourists alike to enjoy them and our natural environment.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission is made up of passionate, committed, hardworking and diligent staff who recognise and understand the important role they play in protecting the social, economic and environmental future of the Territory. I am incredibly proud of the staff within this agency and take this opportunity to thank every member of the Commission for their professionalism and dedication to ensuring the effective management of our parks and reserves.

Andrew Bridges
Chief Executive Officer

1 September 2016

Highlights for 2015-16

VISITOR NUMBERS



- Visitor numbers to major parks and reserves increased for the fifth consecutive year, with an increase of 4% across the Northern Territory (NT). Visits to parks in the Top End increased by 4%, Savannah-Gulf increased by 6% and Central Australia increased by 3%.
- \$33.37 million was allocated to maintain and upgrade facilities and infrastructure in parks and reserves. Major improvements include \$10.43 million allocated to enhance visitor experiences at Litchfield National Park and \$10.68 million allocated to enhance visitor experiences at Casuarina Coastal Reserve.
- Our parks provide the perfect platform for commercial and tourism development with 159 tour operator permits and concessions granted on park.

NEW EXPERIENCES

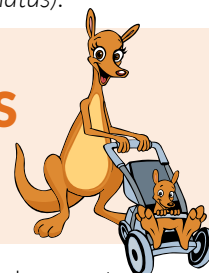


- New experiences on our parks included unique remote walking experiences in Litchfield National Park, scenic flights in Charles Darwin National Park, and a heli-fishing tour in Judbarra / Gregory National Park. A high ropes adventure course in Howard Springs Nature Park, has received all the necessary approvals and construction is due to commence soon.

- Our wildlife parks and botanic gardens are also providing new experiences. Alice Springs Desert Park now have several new and exciting animals on display such as the Central Australian Carpet Python (*Morelia bredli*), Burrowing Bettong (*Bettongia lesueur*), Numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*).

NEW EXPERIENCES

'BUSHWALKING BABES'



At the Territory Wildlife Park, parents and young children are able to socialise at 'Bushwalking Babes' and older children can be creative at the 'Animal Carnivale' or learn about coral bleaching by viewing the 'Crochet Coral Reef' project. George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens now provides monthly Dry season movie nights and 'Territory-made Markets' as well as the new 'African - Madagascar Garden'.

EXPANDED HUNTING AREAS



- Recreational hunting is an important pastime in the Territory. Lambells Lagoon hunting area has been expanded to provide additional areas for waterfowl hunting in the 2016 season, while improvements are being made to Harrison Dam and Shoal Bay to enhance the experience at these locations.
- Hunters from accredited hunting organisations now assist the Commission with pest management in Litchfield National Park, Black Jungle Conservation Reserve, Mary River National Park and Judbarra / Gregory National Park. These initiatives have been simplified with the introduction of a new five year hunting permit in 2015, which focused on streamlining the application process for all hunters.



Fence line maintenance

- \$216 670 was spent to implement the Flexible Employment Program (FEP) which is a direct employment model enabling employment of 58 casual staff. The Commission also employed nine Indigenous apprentices, two of which were school-based.
- Across the Top End, 246 Saltwater Crocodiles were captured under the Management Program for Saltwater Crocodiles in the Northern Territory.
- The 'Be Crocwise' program was delivered at 34 different community events, provided to 4000 students and was also translated into local languages in Arnhem Land schools. 'Be Crocwise' messaging was also incorporated into the Tourism NT 'Million Dollar Fish' promotion targeting fishing enthusiasts.

Saltwater Crocodile



BE CROCWISE

DELIVERED AT 34 DIFFERENT COMMUNITY EVENTS

- A full inspection and audit of the Commission's firearms assets was completed.
- Asbestos was removed at Casuarina Coastal Reserve, George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, Ormiston Gorge Ranger Station and Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve at a cost of \$230 000.
- Integrated Conservation Strategy was completed for Garig Gunak Barlu National Park and Marine Park.
- Visitor Experience Development Plans were completed for Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Litchfield National Park, George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens and Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve.



FOUR JOINT MANAGEMENT PLANS BECAME OPERATIONAL

- Four joint management plans became operational for Mary River National Park, Napwete / Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve, Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park and Iytwelepenty / Davenport Range National Park. These plans guide management objectives with significant input from traditional owners and stakeholders.
- The Casuarina Coastal Reserve Management Plan became operational and will define management objectives for rangers and information for the community.
- The Northern Australian Parks was divided into two, with the creation of the Savannah-Gulf parks division.



CELEBRATED 25 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The Junior Ranger Program celebrated 25 years of community engagement and education of young people with celebrations held in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs to commemorate the milestone.
- The Northern Territory Ranger Awards was very successful with over 60 nominations received.
- The Commission's Indigenous Employment Strategy (IES) continued to improve recruitment, retention and progression of current and future Indigenous employees in areas of land and wildlife management, business, administration, finance, botany, zoology and horticulture.

Goals for 2016-17

PARKS FOR WILDLIFE

- Integrated Conservation Strategies will be developed for Finke Gorge, Watarrka, Limmen and Mary River National Parks, adding to strategies that in place for Litchfield, Nitmiluk and Garig Gunak Barlu National Parks.
- Plans of management for Litchfield National Park and Howard Springs Nature Park will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly and the draft joint management plans for Tjoritja / West MacDonnell and Watarrka National Parks will be released to public comment. Joint management plans for Arltunga Historical Reserve and Ruby Gap Nature Park will commence.
- Our contribution to biodiversity research and protection will focus on the Largetooth Sawfish (*Pristis pristis*), Atlas Moth (*Attacus atlas*), Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), Slater's Skink (*Egernia slateri*), Mala (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*), Western Quoll (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*), Greater Stick-nest Rat (*Leporillus conditor*), and Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*).



Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*)

- A new airboat in 2016-17 will enable rangers to access difficult terrain and spray aquatic weeds such as *Mimosa pigra* and Olive *hymenachne* that continue to threaten our parks and reserves.
- Rangers' ability to make informed land management decisions will be enhanced with the rollout of new technology for collecting spatial data in the field.

PARKS FOR PEOPLE

- Visitor experience development plans will be prepared for Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park, Limmen National Park, Elsey NP, the Territory Wildlife Park and the Alice Springs Desert Park, adding to plans completed for the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve and the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- A new app, 'NT Hunting Mate' will deliver information to local and visiting hunters about waterfowl identification, season length and bag limits.
- Through a new commercial partnership with Trees Adventure, a high ropes adventure course will open at Howard Springs Nature Park, offering participants a fun and challenging way to explore the rainforest canopy.
- Capital works of \$20 million to construct sky walks or aerial platforms within parks. This builds on the major investment of \$21.33 million in Litchfield National Park and Casuarina Coastal Reserve which will be finalised during 2016-17.



Four mile camping.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

- The Indigenous Employment Strategy (IES) will be reviewed in collaboration with partners and stakeholders to deliver stronger outcomes for Indigenous communities and traditional owners.
- Explore research grant opportunities to expand on the positive outcomes from the Limmen Rock Art Protection project and encourage cultural management projects in other parks and reserves.
- Work with special interest groups to look for ways to involve them in land management and enter into formalised arrangements such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Establish a new park volunteer program to increase volunteer participation in delivering the Commission's programs.



Bush coconut



Wildlife Rangers checking crocodile trap

LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

- Increase the number of crocodile traps and develop new messages through 'Be Crocwise' to reduce the risk of human fatalities from crocodile attack.
- Enhance partnership with Charles Darwin University to support the turtle release program and community education.
- Collaboration with Charles Darwin University to introduce accredited training for working with crocodiles.
- Review and implement revised crocodile management plans for Katherine River and Darwin Harbour.
- Complete and implement a regulatory compliance and prioritisation procedure to guide enforcement officers during investigations.

OUR ORGANISATION

- In addition to the recruitment and retention of Indigenous staff, review the IES to further enhance opportunities for current staff to progress within the organisation.
- Implement the Strategic Workforce Plan to improve workforce capacity to counter an aging workforce, develop skills in middle managers and focus on succession planning.
- Implement a new publicly accessible on-line permit system.
- Revise the firearms policy and develop a new firearms tracking database.



Central Flexible Employment Program workers

02 Our Organisation



Ranger on patrol

Echidna tracks - The Echidna can be found on display at the Territory Wildlife Park.


Our Organisation

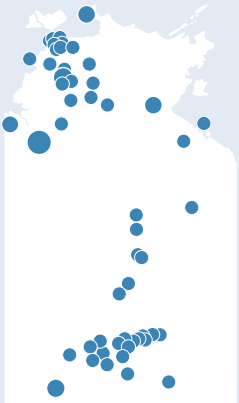
The *Parks and Wildlife Commission Act* establishes the Commission and specifies that the functions are to promote the conservation and protection of the natural environment of the Territory and the management of other land in accordance with Ministerial approval.

The current name **Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory** was first established in 1995 when it changed from Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory.

During the 2015-16 financial year our Minister was the Honourable Bess Nungarrayi Price MLA.

NEARLY **900** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS
were held across the Territory attracting over
50 000 people

32 
ranger stations and offices –
Territory wide

 **87**
parks and
reserves
covering

3.5 million
visitors per annum


50 069 km²
of land and water under the care, control
and management of the Commission

283 
FTE employees

 **6000**
permits administered

33 
JOINT MANAGEMENT PARKS

What we do

The Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory is responsible for the management, protection and sustainable development of the Territory's parks and reserves, including the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens. The Commission is also responsible for managing the Alice Springs Desert Park and Territory Wildlife Park as a Government Business Division and a separate financial report is prepared for this entity.

The Commission manages the conservation estate and wildlife throughout the Northern Territory for enhanced visitor experiences, to maintain the exceptional and precious natural and cultural values of the Territory, to create exceptional recreational opportunities for Territorians, and to promote the health and wellbeing of the community.

Our vision and purpose

The vision of the Commission is to connect people with the unique natural and cultural values of the Territory. There are clear links between people's experiences of nature, feeling connected with nature and becoming advocates for conservation. Moreover, there are demonstrated health benefits associated with nature-based recreation.

Therefore, one of the key priorities of the Parks and Wildlife Commission is to provide the local community and our visitors with opportunities to immerse in nature, experience culture, value our wildlife and enjoy the serenity of the Northern Territory environment.

Our parks and reserves lie largely within the intact landscape of the Northern Territory. The Territory environment offers lots of opportunities for effective conservation efforts. However, the Commission cannot do it alone. We rely on working with the community and with other agencies and partners to enhance management and conservation efforts to ensure a conservation estate that is well managed and balances use with protection for the benefit of all Territorians.

OUR VISION

Connecting people with the Territory's unique nature and culture.

OUR PURPOSE

To deliver high quality and sustainable environmental, cultural and visitor outcomes for Northern Territory parks, reserves and wildlife.

Strengthen local communities and economies by recognising that environmental and cultural resources are vital to delivering positive social, sustainable and economic outcomes.

Strategic objectives

GOAL 1 PARKS FOR WILDLIFE

STRATEGIES:

- Manage and conserve parks according to their unique natural value.
- Minimise threats to biodiversity health.

GOAL 2 PARKS FOR PEOPLE

STRATEGIES:

- Expand opportunities for recreation and education in parks and reserves.
- Grow sustainable nature and culture-based tourism.
- Enhance the quality and safety of the visitor experience.
- Protect and care for the natural and cultural assets within parks and reserves.

GOAL 3 STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

STRATEGIES:

- Develop meaningful opportunities to help care for and invest in our parks and wildlife.
- Build and strengthen relationships with the community.
- Strengthen Aboriginal partnerships and improve joint management.

GOAL 4 LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

STRATEGIES:

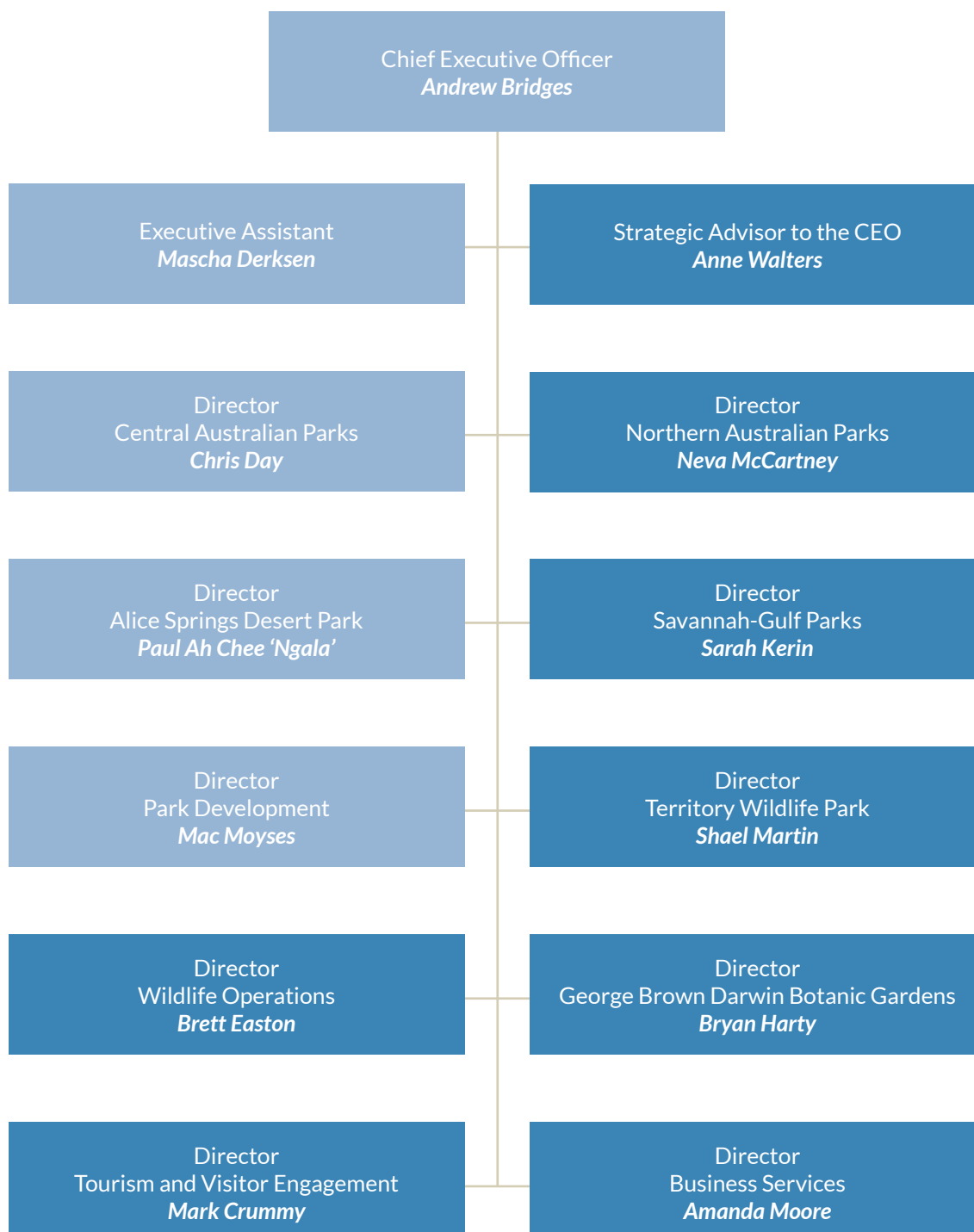
- Promote public responsibility and stewardship for living with wildlife.
- Minimise harm from crocodiles.
- Deliver effective wildlife management programs.

GOAL 5 OUR ORGANISATION

STRATEGIES:

- Inspire and support a collaborative and respectful workplace.
- Continue to improve business processes and streamline key internal systems.
- Build and enhance strategic leadership and workforce capability and diversity.
- Ensure a safe working environment in both office and field operations.

Organisational structure



Based in Alice Springs
Based in Darwin

Parks and Wildlife Leadership Team



Andrew began his career with the Commission at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in 1981. Since this time, Andrew has worked extensively throughout the Central Australian region. Through his career, Andrew has seen the evolution of protected areas management from a model that focused on protecting parks from people, to a model that works with people to protect parks for people. A model that encompasses social, economic and environmental benefits for local communities, including supporting jobs and economic wellbeing, and providing high quality sustainable experiences that build a love and appreciation of what the natural world has to offer. Andrew's passion is to help connect people with the wonders of the natural world.

ANDREW BRIDGES
Chief Executive Officer



CHRIS DAY
Director
Central Australian Parks



Chris began his career with the Parks and Wildlife Commission in 1981 as a T1 Ranger. Since then, Chris has worked at a number of parks throughout the Central Australian region, including Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve, Finke Gorge National Park, Watarrka National Park before becoming the Senior District Ranger and Chief District Ranger for Central, East and Barkly Parks and West District Parks. In addition to his extensive experience in protected areas management, Chris also has considerable expertise in joint management, training and development of staff, visitor management, interpretation, and community engagement. Chris thrives in the diversity of work provided by the Commission and believes that he has the best office in the world. Chris has been the Director of Central Australian Parks since 2012.

NEVA MCCARTNEY

Director
Northern Australian Parks



Neva commenced employment with the NT Public Sector in 1994 with the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory. Neva spent 12 years in the Katherine region with the Parks and Wildlife Commission before moving to Darwin in 2006 to pursue a career in natural resource management and policy development in other divisions of the former Department. Neva returned to the Parks and Wildlife Commission in 2011 as Director of Park Operations.

Neva has qualifications in park management, a public sector graduate certificate in public sector management, and has extensive knowledge and experience across a range of areas, including policy design and implementation, natural resource management, business management, contract management and Government processes. In 2013, Neva completed a Masters in Public Administration. Neva has been the Director Northern Australian Parks since 2012.

Sarah commenced her career with the Conservation Commission in Darwin in 1983 as part of the Wildlife Research team whilst at University. Sarah's career with the Commission has included wildlife research, natural resource management and protected area management in the Katherine and Northern regions in both field and administrative roles.

Sarah has extensive experience in park operations and visitor management in the Top End with a focus on joint management. In 2007, Sarah was seconded to the Department of the Environment's Parks Australia, where she was responsible for managing the world heritage Kakadu National Park for seven and a half years before returning to the Parks and Wildlife Commission in July 2015 as the acting Strategic Advisor to the CEO. Sarah has a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Zoology and has a strong commitment to the stewardship of the Northern Territory's parks and reserves for the benefit of Territorians and visitors. Sarah commenced in the role of Director, Savannah-Gulf in January this year.

SARAH KERIN

Director
Savannah-Gulf Parks



MAC MOYSES

Director
Park Development



Mac first arrived in the Territory as a 20 year old and commenced a 14 year career as a Ranger, mainly across the Central Australian region. During this time, he spent a year working in the South-West National Park in Tasmania on a ranger exchange program. Mac moved into the Planning Services team in 1999 and has been Director of Planning Services (now Park Development) for the past seven years. Mac has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Wildlife and Park Management, a Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Leadership and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Mac has a keen interest in planning, management effectiveness, joint management and enjoyment of the outdoors.

MARK CRUMMY**Director
Tourism and Visitor Engagement**

Mark has lived in Darwin for 30 years. He is a well-travelled Territorian and was the co-owner of the award winning safari business, Odyssey Safaris. He joined the NT Public Service in 2004 as Manager of Destination Marketing with Tourism NT where he also held the positions of Manager Trade Engagement and Director of Global Distribution. In 2010, he joined the Parks and Wildlife Commission in the position of Director of Tourism and Visitor Services. 2012 saw Mark return to Tourism NT for two years as Regional Director Top End. In July 2014, he re-joined the Parks and Wildlife Commission as Director of Tourism and Visitor Engagement where he oversees the Community Engagement, Tourism Development, and Interpretation and Communications units. Mark has served as a Board Member of Nitmiluk National Park for the past six years and he is a Board Member of the Industry Training Advisory Council CHARTTES. He has also served a number of years on the Executive Committee of the Regional Tourism Organisation, Tourism Top End in the capacity of President, Vice-President and Board member.

Brett commenced employment with the NTPS on a graduate traineeship with the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment in 1999. During this time he gained a strong appreciation for the Northern Territory's natural assets through extensive field work and the assessment of subdivision and development applications. Brett helped lead the introduction of land clearing controls for the Northern Territory in 2002 and later took on the role of Director, Vegetation and Land Management in natural resource management. Brett joined Parks and Wildlife in 2008 as the Director of Wildlife Management and implemented the 'Be Crocwise' program in 2010. In 2011, Brett convened an Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators Network conference in Darwin, which brought environmental and wildlife regulatory delegates together from all over the world. Brett has a Bachelor of Science and Graduate Certificates in both Urban and Regional Planning and Public Sector Management. Brett completed a Graduate Diploma in Government (Investigations) in 2007.

BRETT EASTON**Director
Wildlife Operations****SHAEL MARTIN****Director
Territory Wildlife Park**

Shael has worked with the NTPS intermittently since 1994. She has worked across a number of different agencies including the Department of Transport and Works, the Power and Water Corporation, the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport, and at the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment. Shael returned to the Parks and Wildlife Commission again in 2012. Shael has a strong background in human resources management, community development planning, and social development, gained through her considerable experience across a broad range of roles within in the Northern Territory, as well as through completion of a Bachelor of Psychology and Masters in Development Management.

Shael has been Director of the Territory Wildlife Park since October 2012.

PAUL AH CHEE 'NGALA'

Director

Alice Springs Desert Park



Paul is from Alice Springs and his Aboriginal heritage consists of Arrernte, Wangkangurru, and Yankunytjatjarra. Paul has worked in the private sector in cultural tourism and art. Prior to commencing employment at the Alice Springs Desert Park, Paul worked as a consultant with both the NT and Australian government as a business advisor. Paul has also held positions on the boards of the South Australian Museum and the Australian Tourist Commission (Tourism Australia). Paul is a current director on the board of Desert Knowledge Australia, as well as being on the Indigenous Tourism Advisory committee. He is also involved in different capacities with several not-for-profit community organisations within Alice Springs and is a well-known musician. Paul became the Director of the Alice Springs Desert Park in 2012 bringing his extensive business networks throughout the Northern Territory, and knowledge and leadership in cultural understanding and appreciation.

Bryan has been employed with the Parks and Wildlife Commission for just under four years. Prior to taking on the role of Director of the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, Bryan was employed as the Indigenous Employment Program Coordinator with the Commission. Bryan has a diverse employment background, having worked for Charles Darwin University, the Northern Land Council, Parks Australia at Kakadu National Park and Booderee Botanic Gardens. Bryan holds a Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science), an Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Tropical Horticulture), Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Teaching, and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. As such, Bryan has extensive knowledge and experience in protected areas management and Indigenous employment and training.

Bryan has held the role of Director George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens for the past three years.

BRYAN HARTY

Director

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens



AMANDA MOORE

Director

Business Services



Amanda has worked in the NTPS for the past 30 years. She commenced an Administrative Traineeship in 1985 with the Department of Transport and Works, transferring within the agency to gain experience across all areas of business support for five years. Amanda then transferred to the Department of the Chief Minister working across a range of areas, including payroll, staff development, human resources management, electoral, the Chief Minister's Office and youth affairs. Amanda commenced with the Parks and Wildlife Commission in June 2000 as the Manager of Secretariat. Since this time, Amanda has held a number of positions including, Manager Concessions and Permits, Business Officer Parks North, Manager Business Administration and Director Business Services. Amanda holds a Diploma of Business Frontline Management and a Diploma in Government Financial Services.

Amanda has held the role of Director of Business Services since November 2012.

SUSAN KIRKMAN

**Executive Director
Corporate Services
Department of Land
Resource Management**



Susan has extensive experience in senior corporate roles within both the private and public sectors. Susan was the Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (incorporating the Parks and Wildlife Commission), for a number of years before taking on the role of Executive Director in Corporate Services in 2008. For the past four years Susan has led the provision of corporate services through a shared service arrangement to the Departments of Land Resource Management, Arts and Museums, Sport and Recreation and the Commission. Prior to joining the public service, Susan undertook various financial management roles both locally and overseas in the banking, media, hospitality and public accounting sectors. Born and raised in the Territory, Susan holds a Bachelor of Business and is a Certified Practising Accountant.

Anne began her career with the Commission in 2007 as a Senior Scientist in the Katherine office, where she was responsible for overseeing a range of biodiversity projects as well as managing the Katherine Wildlife Operations Team. In 2008, Anne moved to Darwin, where she was involved in developing pest animal management programs across the Top End of the Northern Territory, often in partnership with Indigenous organisations and other stakeholders. In 2013, Anne took on the role of Strategic Projects Officer, followed by Executive Officer to the CEO, and later, Strategic Advisor to the CEO. Anne has been fortunate to gain significant experience across a range of issues within the Parks and Wildlife Commission. Anne particularly values the relationships she has made through her time and feels fortunate to have had the opportunity to make a difference to the Territory environment and its people.

ANNE WALTERS

**Strategic Advisor to the
Chief Executive Officer**

*Edith Falls*

Our divisions

The Parks and Wildlife Commission is made up of 10 business divisions with the Executive providing the overall direction and final decision-making function. The divisions include Northern Australian Parks, Central Australian Parks, Tourism and Visitor Engagement, Business Services, Wildlife Operations, the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, the Territory Wildlife Park, and the Alice Springs Desert Park. Planning and Technical Services merged to become Park Development and a new Savannah-Gulf Parks division was created. Each of these divisions are individually and collectively responsible for delivering the Commission's strategic goals and in ensuring the delivery of high quality environmental, cultural, tourism and visitor services.

Executive

The Executive is made up of the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Assistant and the Strategic Advisor. It provides executive support to the Chief Executive Officer and undertakes a range of functions including coordination of whole-of-agency information and assistance to the divisions. It is responsible for determining the policy directions across all divisions to guide the Commission's activities and service delivery.



Controlled burning

Northern Australian Parks

The Northern Australian Parks division is responsible for overseeing the management and protection of the parks estate in the Top End. This division undertakes the strategic management of feral animals, fire and weeds across the parks estate, promotes visitor activities on parks and undertakes biodiversity monitoring programs in partnership with scientists from the Department of Land Resource Management. Northern Australian Parks staff work with traditional owners to deliver joint management programs on jointly managed parks across the region.



Edith Falls weed spraying

Savannah-Gulf Parks

The Savannah-Gulf Parks division was created during this financial year and incorporates parks and reserves around the Katherine region from the border of Western Australia to the Gulf of Carpentaria. The division implements on-ground management programs for fire, weeds and feral animals, biodiversity surveys and promotes visitor activities to enhance the natural, recreational, cultural and tourism values of our parks and reserves. Savannah-Gulf Parks staff work with traditional owners to deliver joint management programs on jointly managed parks across the region.

*Larapinta Trail maintenance*

Central Australian Parks

The Central Australian Parks division is responsible for overseeing the management and protection of parks and reserves in the southern region, including the Barkly District. The division implements on-ground management programs for fire, weeds and feral animals, biodiversity surveys and promotes visitor activities to enhance the natural, recreational, cultural and tourism values of our parks and reserves. Central Australian Parks staff work with traditional owners to deliver joint management programs on jointly managed parks across the region.

Park Development

During this financial year the divisions of Planning Services and Technical Services merged to become Park Development. The planning unit within this division has care and responsibility for park planning and policy, land administration, spatial data management, performance monitoring and reporting. The Technical Service unit manages the Commission's infrastructure and asset programs and coordinates new works, repairs and maintenance of assets and fleet management.

Tourism and Visitor Engagement

This division comprises of units that oversee park interpretation, community engagement and tourism development. This division assists the Commission to effectively manage parks and reserves throughout the Northern Territory, with the view to improving visitor experiences, promoting tourism opportunities and experiences, and successfully engaging the local community through education and events. This division is also responsible for developing new and emerging opportunities to enhance the visitor experience on parks and reserves.

*Spectacled Hare-Wallaby (Lagorchestes conspicillatus)*

Wildlife Operations

The Wildlife Operations division balances the management and protection of our native wildlife with the community throughout the Territory. This ranges from crocodile management for public safety, enabling the community to care for wildlife through rehabilitation or as pets and the provision of advice and management of native and pest animals. In particular, the division is responsible for providing opportunities for community participation in wildlife-related programs and opportunities, enhancing community awareness for wildlife management practices, providing advice and education to the community and stakeholders, protecting public safety through delivering the problem crocodile management program consistently, and working with partners and the community to achieve our goals. The Division takes a lead role in improving the legislation and regulations to reduce the administration burden of the current permit system and improve service to the community.

Business Services

The Business Services division leads and manages the Commission's business, financial, human resource, legal services, secretariat, permits and concessions, capacity building and Indigenous engagement, and oversees the function of boards and committee services across the Northern Territory. The division is responsible for providing strategic and operational advice to the Executive Leadership Team and senior managers in relation to administrative requirements including good governance, systems and processes as set out by the Northern Territory Government and the Commission. The division facilitates the delivery of the Indigenous Employment Strategy and the Work Health and Safety management system.

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens



The Territory Wildlife Park aims to provide a quality experience to visitors through presentation of flora and fauna from a variety of Top End habitats and ecosystems. Specifically, the Park works to connect visitors with nature through authentic encounters and exciting experiences. The Park delivers high-quality education programs for its visitors and develops and promotes conservation strategies and initiatives to influence responsible community behaviour towards the Territory environment, inspiring change and long-term action by developing environmental awareness. The Territory Wildlife Park has a particular goal of continuing to develop programs to promote conservation of threatened species and plays a central role in facilitating and advocating conservation research programs in Northern Australia.

Alice Springs Desert Park



The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens provide an educational opportunity for visitors to view unique collections of local and exotic plants including palms, cycads and boabs. The living collection includes species that are uncommon or threatened in their original habitat. The location of the Gardens in close proximity to Darwin means that the site also provides an important recreational location for tourists and local people to enjoy. The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens support tourism by attracting and encouraging visitors to extend their stay. The Gardens are a venue for a number of significant social and cultural events such as the Darwin Festival, Tropical Garden Spectacular and many private functions such as weddings. The popular Eva's Cafe operates from the heritage-listed Wesleyan Church.

Territory Wildlife Park



The Alice Springs Desert Park plays a key role in showcasing the exceptional diversity of Central Australia's unique flora and fauna. The Park provides opportunities for the community and tourists to immerse themselves amongst the desert's plants and animals in a natural setting that is educational, interactive and inspiring. In addition to the significant role this Park plays in education and awareness-raising, this Park also presents its exhibits and presentations with interpretative information that entwines the significance of Indigenous culture to this region. The Park also provides invaluable conservation outcomes through specialised breeding programs and cooperative research projects. The Park provides an exceptional recreational and tourist experience and promotes visitor understanding, respect and enjoyment of the Territory's natural environment.

Corporate Governance

Corporate Governance provides the process and framework by which the Commission is governed, its reporting structure and internal management arrangements. Based on the Australian Securities Exchange principles of corporate governance, the Commission is guided by the following principles:

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

- 1 Government and public sector relationship**
The Commission's relationship with the government is clear.
- 2 Management and Oversight**
The Commission's management and oversight is accountable and has clearly defined responsibilities.
- 3 Organisational Structure**
The Commission's structure serves its operations.
- 4 Operations**
The Commission plans its operations to achieve its goals.
- 5 Ethics and Integrity**
Ethics and integrity are embedded in the Commission's values and operations.
- 6 People**
The Commission's leadership in people management contributes to individual and organisational achievements.
- 7 Finance**
The Commission safeguards financial integrity and accountability.
- 8 Communication**
The Commission communicates with all parties in a way that is accessible, open and responsive.
- 9 Risk Management**
The Commission identifies and manages its risks.



Emily Gap

GOVERNING LEGISLATION

The Commission's legislative framework includes acts, regulations, policies, procedures and directives enabling the Commission and governing the internal activities and external reporting requirements. The list below includes the most important legislation administered by, or governing actions of the Commission.

The Commission is responsible for administering 12 pieces of legislation on behalf of the Minister for Parks and Wildlife. This includes four Acts and eight pieces of subordinate legislation, as listed below.

- *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*
- Department of Land Resource Management is responsible for Part IV, Divisions 1 to 5 of the Act
- Barranyi (North Island) Local Management Committee Regulations
- Djukbinj National Park Local Management Committee (Djukbinj Board) Regulations
- Keep River National Park Local Management Committee Regulations
- Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation By-laws
- Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Regulations
- Tnorala Local Management Committee Regulations
- *Parks and Wildlife Commission Act*
- *Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Act*
- *Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park Act*
- Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land and Sanctuary (Entry and Camping) By-laws
- Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park (Rehabilitation Areas) By-laws

The legislation provides the statutory framework for the Commission to establish and manage the Northern Territory's parks and reserves and the study, protection, conservation and sustainable use of wildlife. In 2014-15, the Commission devolved responsibility for the administration and management of Part IV, Divisions 1 to 5 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* to the Department of Land Resource Management. This part of the legislation relates to the administration and management of wildlife, in particular the regulation of the crocodile egg harvest.



Tolmer Falls

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parks and Wildlife Leadership Team

The Leadership Team is the Commission's principal policy-setting and decision-making authority that supports the Chief Executive Officer as the Accountable Officer. Accordingly, the Leadership Team undertakes a 'board' like function in managing and reviewing the Commission's strategic and business objectives and governance matters. The Leadership Team also oversees the strategic deployment of resources across the Commission and the development and implementation of policies, plans and procedures that provide the foundation of good governance for the Commission's activities. Sub committees are formed when the subject matter requires specific and detailed advice and analysis before reporting back to the Leadership Team.

The Leadership Team is supported by a Terms of Reference. The Leadership Team met 12 times during 2015-16.

Audit and Risk Management

The Parks and Wildlife Leadership Team also acts as the Commission's Audit and Risk Management Committee and is chaired by the Director of Business Services, Amanda Moore.

The Committee's key responsibilities include:

- monitor strategic, corporate and operational risk management and the adequacy of the internal controls established to manage identified risks;
- monitor the adequacy of the Commission's internal control environment and review the adequacy of policies, practices and procedures in relation to their contribution to, and impact on, the Commission's internal control environment;
- monitor the internal audit function (including development and implementation of the internal audit plan, coordination of audit programs, monitoring of internal audit findings, including management's responses to, and implementation of the audit recommendations);

- monitor the Northern Territory Auditor-General's audit program; audit findings, including reports to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly; and, the Commission's responses to, and implementation of the audit recommendations;
- comment on the state of organisational governance within the scope of the Committee's ToR in the areas of the Commission's risk management framework, the internal controls framework and external accountability; and
- within the context of the Committee's purpose, undertake any other functions determined from time to time by the Chief Executive Officer.

Work Health and Safety Approving Body

The Leadership Team acts as the Commission's Work Health and Safety (WHS) Approving Body and in this capacity is responsible for work health and safety issues. As the WHS Approving Body, the Leadership Team provides agency-wide policy and direction to meet worker safety requirements and responsibilities as the 'Person conducting a business or undertaking' (PCBU) under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, and *Employment Instruction 11*.

Divisional WHS Committees report back to the Leadership Team, providing a consultative forum that addresses health and safety matters arising within the division in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*. The aim of the Divisional Committees is to:

- provide a forum for managers and staff to work together and consult on WHS;
- assist in the implementation, operation and review of the Commission's WHS management system and associated policies and procedures for the purpose of minimising worker injury and health issues; and
- advise and regularly report to the Commission's Leadership Team, as WHS Approving Body, on their actions.

ICT Governance Committee

In 2015-16, the Commission established an ICT Governance Committee after a Strategic ICT Review was commissioned and finalised in July 2015. Coinciding with the report, the Department of Treasury and Finance issued a comprehensive series of Treasurer's Directions in relation to the management and governance of ICT under the *Financial Management Act*. The Committee meets monthly to review and prioritise current ICT projects, monitors the steady state IT environment and reports outcomes to the Leadership Team. Chaired by the Director of Wildlife Operations, Brett Easton, it ensures a strategic approach to the development and implementation of the Commissions information, communication and technological (ICT) needs.

Corporate Services Arrangement

The Parks and Wildlife Commission receive corporate services through a shared service arrangement with the Department of Land Resource Management.

Corporate Services include:

- Human Resource Services – provides expert advice on all aspects of NTPS employment, administration of the human resource management and staff performance systems, facilitate training, workforce planning and development.
- Financial Services - provides financial services, budgeting support and compliance reporting to facilitate responsible financial management, a standard approach to financial issues and high level corporate governance practices.
- Information and Business Systems - providing focused and innovative Information Technology, Information and Records Management services, and Business Systems.
- Communications and Media - provides support, advice and coordination on a broad range of internal and external communications and media services to staff across all regions. The unit is also responsible for ensuring a consistent communications approach which aligns with whole-of-government directions.
- Corporate Governance - an independent, objective, assurance and consulting group designed to add value and improve the effectiveness of the Commission's governance, risk management and control processes.



Donna and Jack, Territory Wildlife Park

Information Management

The *Northern Territory Information Act* combines freedom of information (FOI), privacy and records management legislation. In compliance with section 11 of the *Information Act*, the Commission updates its information on the Commission website regularly and uses social media to inform the community. The Commission also use the print media, radio and television advertising as well as significant signage throughout parks and reserves.

The Commission's guidelines and procedures to enable access to information and to request corrections to personal information is available on the Commission website. Further assistance can be provided by contacting:

FOI Contact Officer
Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT
PO BOX 496
Palmerston NT 0831
08 8999 4420
<https://nt.gov.au/law/rights/freedom-of-information>

Requests for access to information in 2015-16 Part 3 of the *Information Act* sets out the process for accessing government information.

During the reporting year, there were two applications received by the Commission for access to government or personal information under the *Information Act*. One request required additional information from the applicant that was not provided and the request could not be completed. The other was referred to another agency.

Government information held by the Commission

During 2015-16, the Commission continued to improve record management practices, procedures to ensure compliance with Part 9 of the *Information Act* and the Records Management Standards. These require the Commission to develop and implement plans and processes to ensure full and accurate records are created, captured, discoverable, secure and disposed of in line with approved Record Disposal Schedules. During the year development of a retention and disposal schedule for the Territory Wildlife Parks was completed. The Commission's Information Management (Records) Security Delegations were also reviewed in accordance with Record Disposal Schedules and organisational structure.

During the year, the Records Training Program continued to provide training to staff on information management best practices and use of whole of government records management system, with a particular focus on improving electronic records capture and business processes.

The NTG Records Management System was upgraded across government with the Commission upgrade taking place in April. This included additional training to all Commission staff on the new system and features.

Narbarlek (Petrogale concinna), also known as the pygmy rock-wallaby or the little rock-wallaby.



Ombudsman Enquiries

During the reporting year, there was one Ombudsman enquiry received by the Commission.

Grant Programs

The Commission is responsible for administering a number of grants to Territorians including a number of recurring grant programs and one-off special purpose grants. All grants, regardless of their type, are distributed under a grant agreement which includes the purpose and the reporting process for confirming that the objectives of the grant have been achieved.

A full list of the grants administered by the Commission can be found below:

Grant Type	Grant Recipient	Amount '000
Operating	Olive Pink Botanic Garden	\$200
Incentive	NT Field and Game	\$2
Land for Wildlife	Low Ecological Services	\$50
Land for Wildlife	Greening Australia	\$100
Joint Management	Northern Land Council	\$120
Joint Management	Central Land Council	\$60
Wildlife	Wildcare NT Inc.	\$25
Wildlife	Wildlife Rescue Katherine	\$10
Wildlife	Wildcare Alice Springs	\$15
Community Service Obligation Payment	Territory Wildlife Park Alice Springs Desert Park	\$7 824
TOTAL		\$8 406

Insurable risk

The Commission does not take out commercial insurance against the risk of damage to its physical assets or the risk of economic or physical injury to a person. The Commission has a risk management framework to assist in identifying, managing and minimising risks. In accordance with Treasurer's Direction M2.1, Insurance Arrangement, the Commission self-insures its risks and meets costs as they emerge.

The categories covered by the Commission's self-insurance arrangements, mitigation strategies and processes employed to reduce the risk for each category, and the total number, value and average cost of self-insurance claims are as follows:

Insurable risk category	Mitigation strategies	Total number/total value of claims
Public liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal risk assessments completed. Repairs and maintenance program to reduce risks associated with physical activities. Ongoing review of practices and procedures to ensure public safety. Appropriate signage. Education campaigns for staff and public. Independent reviews. 	No claims.
Workers' compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal risk assessments completed. Work health and safety framework developed and implemented. Workplace safety policies and standard operating procedures. Work site assessments. Job-specific training and support. Employee Assistance Program. Early intervention profile. Critical incident debriefings. Work-life balance supported. 	<p>Open workers compensation claims were carried forward from the previous year: 11</p> <p>New cases raised during 2015-16: 10</p> <p>Cases closed during 2015-16: 10</p> <p>Compensation in 2015-16: \$588 185</p> <p>Claims to be carried forward to 2016-17: 11</p>
Assets and inventories – all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal risk assessment completed. Ongoing review of policies and practices to guide standard operating procedures to protect assets. 	No claims.

Buildings

- Building audits: security, maintenance and compliance.
- Appropriate security and testing of fire systems, alarms, patrols and staff.
- Repairs and maintenance and minor new works program.

There were 3 major incidents in which cost of repairs was met from our Repairs and Maintenance Program:

Fogg Dam Woodlands to Lily Walk required repairs after being burnt by vandals \$182 000.

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens Eva's Cafe required the repair and replacement of damaged doors \$32 000.

The Commission's Katherine office required crim safe on the windows/doors \$34 000.

Repairs and maintenance costs relating to damage from minor acts of vandalism is estimated at \$30 000 in 2015-16 from an estimated 50 incidents averaging \$600 each. These are incidents that are not specifically itemised in records systems. They include damage due to break-ins or attempted break-ins (windows and locks), damage to gates, signs (routed park entrance, interpretation and regulatory signs), graffiti and theft of, or damage to camping fee boxes.

There were two significant flood repairs bills in which cost of repairs was met from the repairs and maintenance program:

Southern Region Flood Damage: \$39 000.

Flora River Flood Recovery Works: \$21 000.

Vehicles (motor vehicles, four-wheel drives)

- Regular service and maintenance checks.
- Driver training (four-wheel drives).
- Safety equipment and accessories (particularly for off-road vehicles).

- Regular service and maintenance checks are carried out by NT Fleet who advise, authorise and audit scheduled servicing of vehicles, repairs, warranty work and accident assessment as outlined in their service statement for NTG agencies and is carried out in accordance with the manufacturing guidelines of each vehicle or machinery.

- Driver training is conducted as required and this year three staff members undertook driver-related training.
- Satellite phones are available for urban staff travelling to remote areas. All ranger vehicles contain a UHF radio or VHF (Cobourg) along with first aid kits that are supplied in each vehicle. All 4WD vehicles are fitted with a bullbar to aid in protection to the vehicle and occupants. Most ranger vehicles are fitted with a winch and have snatch straps
- Accident damage was \$30 830 from 16 accidents. From the 16 accidents, two were written off: these were a vehicle that cost \$27 475 and an ATV that cost \$12 372. This gave an accident/write off total value of \$70 677.

Corporate social responsibility

We are proud community partners and endeavour, where possible, to contribute to the community through participation, collaboration and support of a variety of activities.

With many of our parks located remotely, our rangers often support local activities and in some cases store supplies and vehicles for other essential service departments such as health clinics who fly in to service communities located on or near the park. Rangers provide the first response to any and all emergencies in both terrestrial and marine environments. In most locations, response to these emergencies would normally be conducted by police, emergency services, ambulance and customs.

Our Wildlife Parks contribute by donating many family passes to charities, schools and families who have terminally ill members. The Territory Wildlife Park supported the Brassia Butterflies

who are raising money for breast cancer and also supported the World's Greatest Shave this year, hosting a fundraiser event on Park. The Wildlife Park also conducted two hospital visits in conjunction with the Starlight Foundation and coordinated the National Threatened Species day event at the Waterfront.

The Darwin Harbour Clean-Up is a good opportunity to raise awareness about the sources and effects of rubbish ending up in the sea. This year the Commission again supported the event and collected over 200 kg of rubbish. This occurred a week after the other annual beach clean-up, following Territory Day celebrations.



Beach clean-up

Committees, working groups, stakeholder engagement

STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND BODIES

The Commission has a statutory responsibility for certain authorities and bodies. Statutory Authorities and Bodies as at 30 June 2016 are listed below:

Barranyi (North Island) Local Management Committee

The Barranyi (North Island) Local Management Committee is a statutory body established under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, and the Barranyi (North Island) Local Management Committee Regulations.

The Committee assists the Commission to manage Barranyi (North Island) National Park.

Members at 30 June 2016 were:

Chairperson: Ms Stephanie Jupiter
Members: Ms Roxanne Jupiter
Ms Kathleen Jupiter
Ms Mavis Timothy
Mr Graham Friday
Mr Ross Friday
Mr Andrew Davies
Ms Sarah Kerin
Vacant (2)

Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board

The Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park Board is a statutory body established under section 8 of the *Cobourg Peninsula Aboriginal Land, Sanctuary and Marine Park Act*. Its purpose is to jointly manage Garig Gunak Barlu National Park with the Commission.

Members at 30 June 2016 were:

Chairperson: Mr Solomon Cooper
Members: Mr Robert (Jr) Cunningham
Mr Ronald Lami Lami
Mr John Williams
Mr Paul Josif
Mr Fred Baird
Ms Neva McCartney
Mr Nigel Weston

Garig Gunak Barlu National Park



Conservation Land Corporation

The Conservation Land Corporation is a statutory body established under Part IV section 27 of the *Parks and Wildlife Commission Act*. Its purpose is to acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property in accordance with the Act.

The Commission provides support in an administrative capacity. Members at 30 June 2016 were:

Chairperson: Mr Kenneth Johnson
Members: Mr Bart Irwin
Members: Mr Andrew Bridges

Djukbinj Local Management Committee

The Djukbinj Local Management Committee is a statutory body under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, and the Djukbinj Local Management Committee (Djukbinj Board) Regulations. Its purpose is to assist the Commission in the management of Djukbinj National Park.

At 30 June 2016 the Chairperson and member positions were vacant.

Keep River National Park Local Management Committee

The Keep River National Park Local Management Committee is a statutory body under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, and the Keep River National Park Local Management Committee Regulations. The Committee assists the Commission to manage the Keep River National Park.

At 30 June 2016 the Chairperson and member positions were vacant.

Keep River National Park



Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board

The Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Board is a statutory body under the *Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park Act*. Its purpose is the joint management of Nitmiluk National Park with the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Members at 30 June 2016 were:

Chairperson: Mrs Lisa Mumbin
Members: Mr Braun Bush
Mr Joshua Hunter
Mr George Runyu
Ms Jane Runyu-Fordimail
Mr Tony Walla
Ms Noeleen Andrews
Mr Alister Jones Andrews
Ms Sarah Kerin
Mr John de Koning
Mr Mark Crummy
Mr Robert Jennings
Vacant (1)

Olive Pink Botanic Garden

The Olive Pink Botanic Garden is declared a Reserve under section 79 of the *Crown Lands Act*. The Garden is run by a board of trustees who are entrusted with managing the gardens on behalf of the local community, and ensuring that it enriches the social and cultural life of the community and visitors.

Members at 30 June 2016 were:

Chairperson: Ms Elizabeth Prell
Members: Ms Helen Kilgariff
Mr Stephen Morton
Ms Liesl Rockchild
Mr Peter Renehan
Mr Scott Pullybank
Vacant (1)

Tnorala Local Management Committee

The Tnorala Local Management Committee is a statutory body established under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, and the Tnorala Local Management Committee Regulations. Its purpose is to assist the Commission in the management of Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Reserve.

As at 30 June 2016 all memberships were expired.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee

Members of the Parks and Wildlife Leadership Team also form the Commission's Audit and Risk Management Committee.

The following risk based internal audits were conducted under the Commission's 2015-16 Internal Audit Plan. The implementation of audit recommendations is monitored by the Commission's Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Internal Audit	Focus	Outcome
Cabinet Information Security Measures	Assess the Commission's compliance with the required Cabinet information security measures	No material weaknesses in controls were identified during the compliance check.
Official Travel	Review of the Commission's Official Duty Travel against the new NTG Air Travel Policy	A satisfactory level of compliance with official duty travel was identified. Recommendations were made to improve existing controls.
Tier 2 Procurement	Test the Agency's Tier 2 Procurement activities against the <i>Procurement Act</i> and Procurement Directions	No material issues or risks were identified. The audit found existing controls were satisfactory.
Corporate Credit Card Purchases	Evaluate the compliance of Agency Corporate Credit Card Purchases against the <i>Financial Management Act</i> , Treasurer's Directions and NTG policies.	The audit identified opportunities for improving internal controls and recommendations have been made to address these.
Petty Cash	Examine the Agency's petty cash electronic reimbursements and petty cash advance tills against the <i>Financial Management Act</i> and relevant NTG and Agency policies.	Several audit issues were identified during this audit and recommendations have been made to strengthen internal controls.
Firearms Audit	Determine the Commission's compliance with the <i>Firearms Act</i> and Corporate Firearms Licence requirements and review associated internal administration processes.	Opportunities exist to strengthen internal controls and improve compliance. Recommendations are being implemented and progress is being monitored by the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

ICT Governance Committee

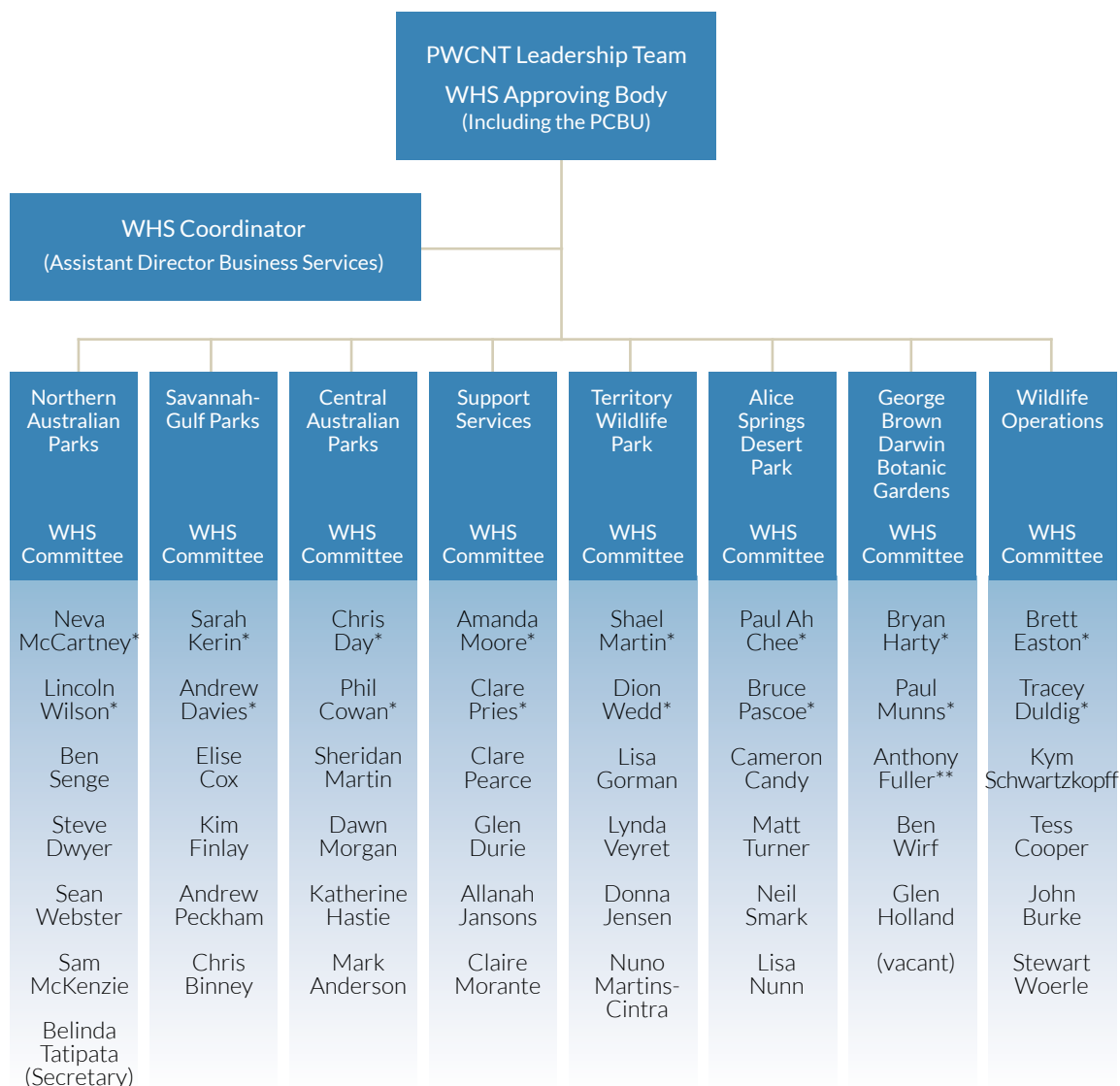
During the year the Committee reviewed and prioritised the outcomes and recommendations of the Strategic ICT Review and established an ICT help centre on the intranet to assist managers in meeting the Commission's governance responsibilities. The top ICT priorities for the Commission are improving remote access to the Wide Area Network (WAN), the development and implementation of a new wildlife and tour operators permit database and the development of a framework for regular steady state monitoring of all Business Application Systems.

Members:

Chairperson, Director, Wildlife Operations	Brett Easton
Director, Business Services	Amanda Moore
Director, Park Development	Mac Moyses
Assistant Director, Technical Services	Clare Pries
Chief Information Officer, DLRM Corporate Services	Marguerite Wall
Director, Tourism and Visitor Engagement	Mark Crummy

Work Health and Safety Approving Body

Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory Work Health and Safety Framework



*Employer Nominated Representatives

**Health and Safety Representative

During the 2015-16 year, the Parks and Wildlife Commission split the Northern Australian Parks division into two, creating the Savannah-Gulf Parks division and added an additional WHS committee to represent staff of this new division. The Support Services Committee represents Business Services, Technical Services, Planning Services, and Tourism and Visitor Engagement.

The eight WHS Committees each have two

employer nominated members and four staff volunteer employee representatives. All committees include a nominated director as the WHS Approving Body representative and each committee is responsible for reporting to the WHS Approving Body. A WHS Coordinator position provides administrative support and acts as the collation point for all of the WHS Committee's information and data.

03 *Our People*



The Commission recognises that our continued success is a result of staff who are passionate, committed and hardworking. The Commission strives to be an 'employer of choice', attract the best talent and provide a workplace that effectively directs, supports and values people.

The achievements in this Annual Report have only been accomplished through the input of our staff and stakeholders. Senior managers support and encourage a positive workplace culture which is reinforced through programs, policies and frameworks that comply with legislative requirements. The Commission has an arrangement with the Department of Land Resource Management to provide Human Resource (HR) Services through a Service Level Agreement to deliver best practice in HR management for each and every employee.

This section provides an overview of our people and their achievements during the reporting period.

Key achievements 2015-16

- An information exchange occurred between our Wildlife Parks and Healesville Sanctuary with a visit to the Wildlife Parks by the CEO of Zoos Victoria and Director of Healesville Sanctuary in October 2015, and a visit to Healesville Sanctuary by Wildlife Park directors in March 2016.
- Bryan Harty, Director George Brown Darwin Botanic Garden attended the inaugural 'State of the World's Plants Symposium' in the UK.
- Maria Wauchope, Assistant Director Park Development and Phil Cowan, Senior District Ranger Central Australian Parks accompanied the CEO on a study tour in the United States of America.
- Professional development occurred when staff from Community Engagement and Visitor Communication units visited Parks Victoria and Parks South Australia on a 10 day information exchange to gain greater understanding into managing volunteers on parks and how to deliver improved accessibility outcomes for the disabled.
- Senior Wildlife Ranger Tess Cooper was awarded an Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement Network (AELERT) Scholarship to attend the Diploma in Government (Investigations) in Wollongong NSW.
- Wildlife Ranger Luke McLaren co-presented a paper on 'Human - Crocodile Conflict: Be Crocwise' with Kristen Appel at the 2016 World Ranger Congress in Colorado USA.
- Three staff at the Territory Wildlife Park completed a newly developed online e-Quarist course developed by 'The Aquarium Vet' to work in aquariums.
- Shael Martin, Director Territory Wildlife Park delivered a TEDx talk on 'Being Human Vs Being Humane' at the inaugural TEDx Palmerston event in October 2015.

Personnel Reporting

Snapshot as at 30 June 2016¹

STAFF NUMBERS	FTE		FTE		FTE	
	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
Full-time equivalent staff	276.4		293.3		287.6	
STAFF NUMBERS	Headcount	Percentage	Headcount	Percentage	Headcount	Percentage
Full-time staff						
Ongoing full-time	235	68.9%	241	62.2%	235	58.5%
Fixed Period (Temporary) full-time	35	10.2%	31	8.1%	35	8.7%
Part-time staff						
Ongoing part-time	18	5.3%	15	3.9%	15	3.7%
Fixed Period (Temporary) part-time	7	2.1%	3	0.8%	7	1.7%
Fixed Period (Casual)	46	13.5%	92	23.4%	108	26.9%
Total	341		385		402	
Early Careers						
Fixed Period ² (Temporary)	13	3.8%	3	0.8%	9	2%

Source: Personnel Information Payroll System

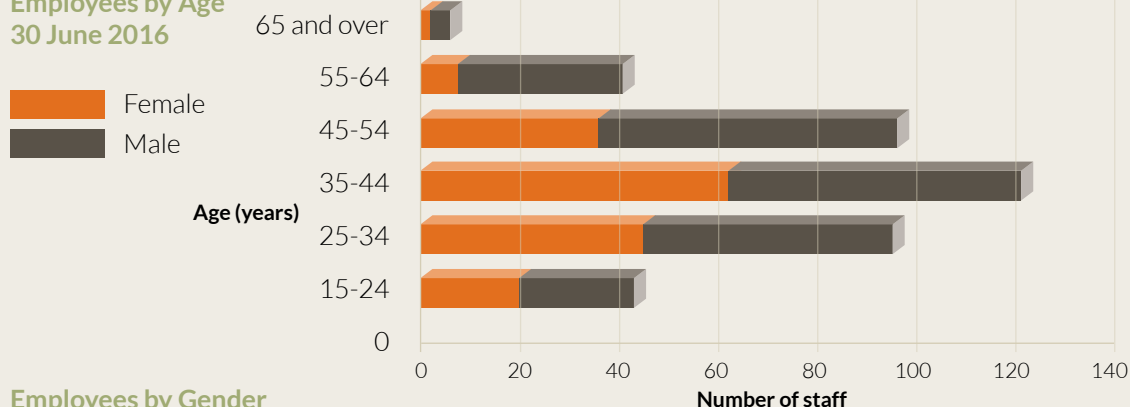
¹ Staff Snapshot is reflective of employees acting in positions within the Commission as at the reported date.

² DCIS employment program.

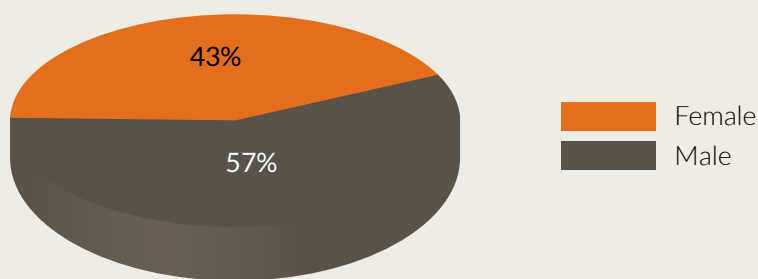
EMPLOYEE PROFILE

The following graphs detail the employee profile of the Commission:

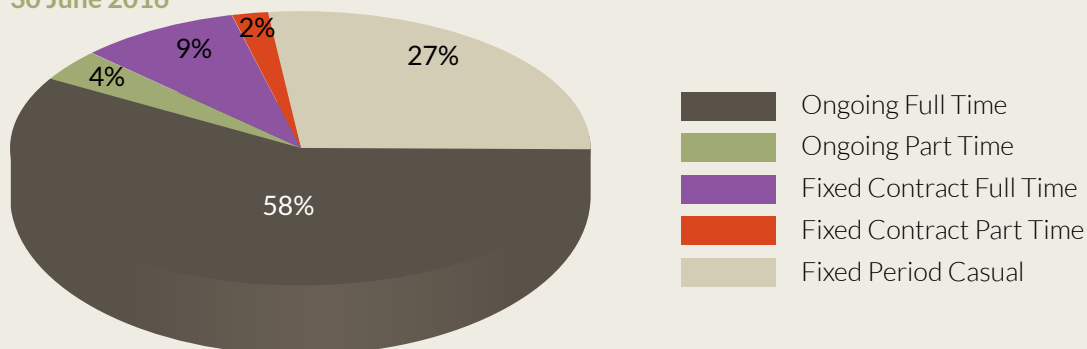
Employees by Age
30 June 2016



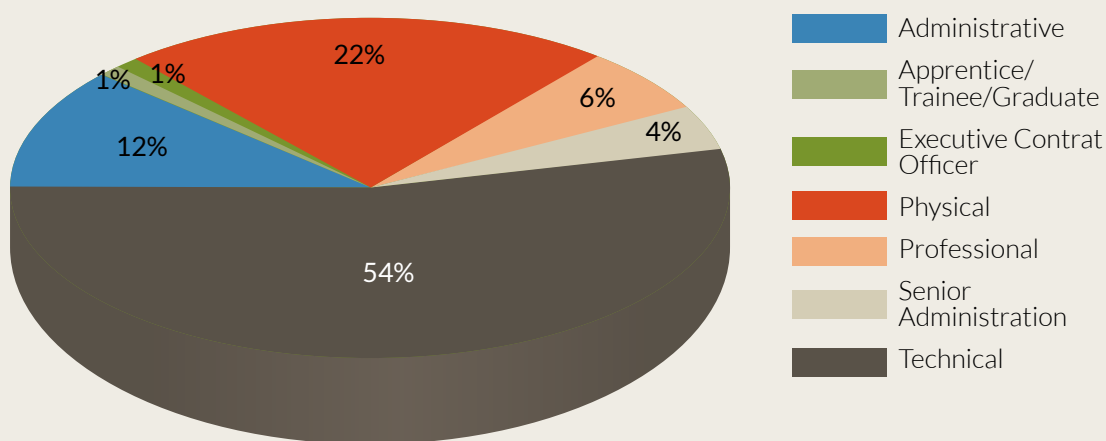
Employees by Gender
30 June 2016



Employees by Status
30 June 2016



Employees by Stream Profile
30 June 2016



Employee Classification	Total 2013-14 Headcount	Total 2014-15 Headcount	Total 2015-16 Headcount
Senior Administration Officer 1	5	10	9
Senior Administration Officer 2	10	8	7
Administration Officer 1	1	0	0
Administration Officer 2	3	4	4
Administration Officer 3	10	8	9
Administration Officer 4	9	12	17
Administration Officer 5	4	7	6
Administration Officer 6	4	7	5
Administration Officer 7	6	6	6
Executive Contract Officer 1	2	4	4
Executive Contract Officer 3	1	1	1
Professional 1	21	15	14
Professional 2	13	12	9
Professional 3	4	1	2
Physical 1	5	3	3
Physical 2	11	57	82
Physical 3	1	1	1
Physical 4	0	2	3
Other	0	0	1
Grad/Trainee/School Based Apprentice	10	3	2
Senior Professional 1	2	2	1
Technical 1	106	100	95
Technical 2	55	59	61
Technical 3	36	37	34
Technical 4	16	14	15
Technical 5	5	12	11
Technical 6	1	0	0
Grand Total	341	385	402

Since 2014-15 there was an overall increase of SAO1 positions due the reclassification of a role, and two vacancies filled and another backfilled. There was a slight reduction in SAO2 positions as one was transitioned to the ECO1 level and two incumbents resigned.

Since 2013-14 there has been an increase of eight AO4 positions due to: two roles being backfilled to cover parental leave; two new positions were created in the Business Services division and George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens; and four positions were recruited to / filled that were previously vacant.

The overall reduction of Professional stream positions is due to phasing out the dual banding ranger roles to now only having Technical stream rangers.

The increase in Physical 2 positions is due to the Indigenous Flexible Employment Program that provides casual employment for parks projects. In addition, trainees are also paid as Physical 2 which reflects as an apparent reduction in trainee positions.

The other minor variations are natural occurrences due to staff resignations, positions being filled that were previously vacant and reclassifications of positions to different levels or streams.

Recruitment and Retention

The Commission is committed to recruiting people according to merit and in alignment with the NTPS Recruitment and Selection Policy. Mandatory recruitment training is required for all panel members undertaken face-to-face or online and recruitment is generally finalised within six weeks.

The Personnel Evaluation System (PES) aims to align employee work goals to the Commission's priorities, and provides a consistent approach to managing and developing employees. PES also incorporates the NTPS Capability and Leadership Framework (CLF) to provide standard performance benchmarks against employee responsibilities and behaviours at each classification level. During 2015-16 86.9% of Commission staff had either commenced or completed their PES.

Priorities for 2016-17 will focus on exit surveys being completed by staff who are leaving the organisation so that the Commission can focus on continuous improvement to attract and retain valued staff.



Ranger and visitors

Diversity

The Commission is committed to employees being treated equally and their differences valued and respected in the workplace.

This year the Equal Employment Opportunity figures are:

	2014-15 Count	2015-16 Count	2015-16 Percentage of total	Change from 14-15 to 15-16
Indigenous in senior roles	1	1	4.5%	No change
Non English Speaking Background	14	17	4.2%	+3
People with a disability	5	5	1.2%	No change
Women in senior roles \geq SA02	3	4	36.4%	+1

The Commission is implementing the Indigenous Employment Strategy 2013-16 to advance Indigenous employment through improved recruitment, retention and progression of its current and future Indigenous employees.

Employment Programs

The Commission offers a range of capability building programs through the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment.

SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The School Based Apprenticeship Program is an opportunity for agencies to grow their own young skilled workforce with a range of employment opportunities after successful completion of the Program.

The Commission supported two school based apprentices in 2015-16, undertaking study in the area of Horticulture; both of the apprentices are expected to complete their studies in 2016.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Commission supported six apprentices in 2015-16 to undertake Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management. This initiative is a nationally recognised trade level qualification through structured training combined with practical experience.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Commission supported leadership development through the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE).

PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Public Sector Management Program equips middle to senior managers to meet challenges by providing them with the knowledge and ability to become effective public sector leaders.

CASE STUDY

One of the success stories of 2015-16 has been the career progression of a young Indigenous man who was recently appointed as an Indigenous apprentice to the Commission. Starting as a School Based Apprentice at the Darwin Botanic Gardens in 2015, he was subsequently successful in gaining a position with Darwin Urban Parks as a Flexible Employment Program casual ranger in early 2016. Following this experience he was able to win the full-time Apprentice position with the Darwin Crocodile Management Team in June 2016. He has continually impressed all of the supervisors and co-workers he worked with during his time and his appointment to a three year apprenticeship is a just reward for his efforts.

Three employees attended this program in 2015-16 with expected completion due in late 2016.

STUDY ASSISTANCE

The Commission supports employees gaining relevant professional and technical skills through higher education studies. Six employees accessed Study Assistance during 2015-16.

Areas of study supported through Study Assistance in 2015-16 included:

- Bachelor of Science (Honours)
- Bachelor of Business (Management)
- Diploma of Conservation and Land Management

MY DEVELOPMENT

In May 2016, the My Development initiative was implemented within the Commission to develop employee skills for future career opportunities. The My Development initiative is a commitment from the Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) to ensure that all employees in the AO 1 – AO5, Professional 1, Physical 1 – Physical 7, Technical 1–3 levels have access at least one week of cumulative

on or off the job learning (or a combination of both) for learning and development.

HR Services delivered information sessions to managers and eligible employees, on the new initiative in 2015-16 and continue to support the implementation of the initiative throughout the organisation.

CORPORATE INDUCTION

The Corporate Induction program is designed to support new employees with settling into their role with the Commission by providing integral information about the agency, its strategic priorities, corporate culture and key policies and procedures. It provides an awareness of corporate functions, performance agreement processes, entitlements and conditions of service, appropriate workplace behaviours and the NTPS Code of Conduct. Employees are also provided information on their accountability

and responsibilities under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act and the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act*.

The HR Services Unit held two face-to-face corporate induction sessions in 2015-16 prior to the roll out of the new eLearning Corporate Induction Program in March 2016. Face to face sessions were held in Darwin, and Alice Springs. A total of 21 employees have completed the training in 2015-16.

INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Commission is committed to advancing Indigenous employment through improved recruitment, retention and progression of its current and future Indigenous employees. To achieve this goal, the Commission has set targets and aims within the Indigenous Employment Strategy 2014-2017.

To provide a more accurate picture of Indigenous employment numbers, the Commission has moved from a single pay 'snapshot' approach to an average based on FTE (full time equivalent) over 12 months. Through the Strategy, the Commission has made a number of commitments in relation to Indigenous Employment including:

- Increase in employment opportunities for local Indigenous Territorians.
- Progression towards a 10 year goal of reaching and maintaining 30% Indigenous employment across the Parks and Wildlife Commission, reflecting the cultural diversity within the Northern Territory community.
- Provide opportunities for training, capacity building and professional development to work towards proportional representation of Indigenous people across all levels within the Parks and Wildlife Commission.
- A commitment to provide trainees, apprentices and cadets with full-time employment following successful completion of their training.
- Robust, fair and transparent recruitment processes to ensure the selection of suitably skilled and appropriate staff.
- Budgets and resourcing figures made available to partner organisations.
- A commitment to provide ongoing support, training, development and mentoring.
- In partnership with other organisations, seek funding to deliver Indigenous employment and training outcomes.

FTEs as yearly averages calculated off all pay period data

Commission	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016 All NTPS * (headcount only)
Total FTEs identified as ATSI†	37.1	39.7	40.1	2243
Percentage FTEs identified as ATSI†	13.1%	14.1%	14%	10%

† All data sourced from DLRM HR Services, numbers only reflect those who identified as ATSI.

* OCPE supplied figures as of June 2016.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The primary focus for employing local Indigenous Territorians from rural and remote regions has been the Flexible Employment Program (FEP). 58 Indigenous people have been employed to work on a broad range of park operational programs across 16 parks in the NT.

**\$216 670
WAS PAID IN WAGES
TO FEP PARTICIPANTS.**

- Over 40 Indigenous people participated in activities on-park through partnerships with the Community Development Program (CDP).
- 10 Aboriginal custodians were employed at Limmen National Park for 3 weeks on a rock-art protection project supported through the McArthur River Mine Community Benefits Trust (MRM CBT).
- The Commission has had stability in its Indigenous employment percentages during the three year period 2013-16. During 2015-16, it added 0.4 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) identified full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to have a total of 40.1 identified FTE or 14%. As at 30 June 2016, the NT Public Sector has a headcount percentage of 10%.
- Across the Commission, there are currently seven full-time apprentices, five in Northern Australia and two in Central Australia. Six apprentices are enrolled in a Certificate III Conservation and Land Management (CALM) and one in a Certificate IV CALM.

**THROUGHOUT 2015-16,
SEVEN
FTE INDIGENOUS
EMPLOYEES ACTED IN
HIGHER
POSITIONS
WITHIN THE COMMISSION.**

- The Commission works closely with existing Indigenous staff and their managers to identify barriers to progression, training requirements and leadership aspirations. This is coupled with one-on-one support and regular discussions aiming to facilitate the progression of existing Indigenous staff into management positions.
- Seven Indigenous staff either acted in temporary development opportunities at a higher designation or were awarded positions at the same level within a park.
- Another employee is continuing their studies of a degree level course through the University of Southern Queensland studying for a Bachelor of Business.

**32 INDIGENOUS
STAFF COMPLETED
19 DIFFERENT
TRAINING COURSES.**

- 54 people directly benefitted via employment and/or participation in three initiatives. These initiatives included the Green Army Program, the Community Development Program (CDP) and the McArthur River Mine Community Benefits Trust.
- The Commission's Red Centre Biodiversity Fund, currently in its fifth year, continues to benefit Indigenous communities by delivering crucial environmental outcomes on Watarrka, Finke Gorge and Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Parks and as well as their neighbouring Land Trusts. This project provided short-term employment opportunities for a total of 12 Indigenous men and women.

Training and Development

Ongoing learning, development and education opportunities were offered to all employees during 2015-16. The Commission promoted a range of learning and development activities to help grow the expertise and knowledge of employees across areas such as corporate governance, leadership, recruitment, cross cultural awareness and creating safe workplaces. The Commission spent almost \$200 000 on employee learning and professional development in 2015-16, equating to approximately \$500 per person.

The My Learning system is used to record all employee learning and development records. Staff also use the system to apply for approval to attend internal and external training courses, workshops, information seminars, and conferences. Information is provided on the intranet for employees about how to access study assistance and the professional development allowance. Employees were also encouraged to attend conferences, seminars and workshops on a range of topics relevant to their profession throughout 2015-16.

Through a shared service arrangement with the Department of Land Resource Management, HR Services facilitates corporate training for all Commission staff and also supports individual work units to seek focused operational training to adequately equip employees to carry out their duties.

The Commission promotes a range of learning and development activities including but not limited to:

- Corporate Induction
- Code of Conduct
- Cross Cultural Training (Basic and In-Depth workshops)
- Merit Selection Training
- Combat Bullying Program
- Performance Management Conversations
- Clear Writing Workshops
- Better Ministerial Writing Workshops
- Firearms handling
- HP TRIM Records Manager Information Sessions
- First Aid
- Chemical Training
- Finance related training
- WHS Committee training

Ranger with quick spray unit



Safety and Wellbeing

WORK LIFE BALANCE

The Commission offers flexible working options and supports employees to achieve a balance between work and personal commitments. Flexible workplace arrangements assist staff in returning from parental leave or with carer responsibilities, transitioning to retirement, career breaks, part time work, working from home and flexible working hours to meet

work life balance commitments. In 2015-16, the Commission supported 12 formal flexible working arrangements. The Commission also provide other work arrangements that deliver work life balance and flexibility outcomes for its staff. These include part time arrangements, working from home and utilising recreational leave at half pay.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Commission has a formal Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with six service providers available under the Northern Territory Government's panel contract. The EAP is a confidential counselling service for employees and their family members seeking assistance with personal, family or workplace issues

that may be affecting their work performance, productivity and wellbeing. The EAP also provides support to managers and employees on specific workplace issues.

In 2015-16, 56 employees and/or their family member accessed the Commission's EAP program.

VACCINATION PROGRAM

The Commission introduced the Occupational Immunisation Guidelines in 2015-16 covering both recommended vaccinations such as influenza and hepatitis as well as identifying

positions where the vaccine for Australian Bat Lyssavirus is compulsory. During 2015-16, the influenza vaccination program was offered to all staff in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Commission is committed to implementing and maintaining a process that ensures the systematic management of WHS will be inclusive of the following:

- Maintain a strong commitment to a safe working system, culture and practice;
- Ensure compliance with WHS legislation, standards and codes of practice;
- Maintain a positive safety culture through regular encouragement and active participation, consultation and cooperation of all workers, including through WHS Committees and workplace safety meetings;
- Set safety performance targets and measure and report on performance against these targets;
- Take a systematic approach through WHS management planning, audit and review;
- Identify workplace hazards, assess risk and implement appropriate controls to prevent harm;
- Ensure senior managers regularly visit worksites to discuss and resolve WHS issues;
- Identify and maintain worker competence and required training to work safely, particularly in the field;
- Actively respond to and investigate all incidents, including near misses, and ensure injured workers are returned to suitable work at the earliest opportunity;
- Maintain and review emergency plans, procedures and preparedness applied to work sites; and
- Distribute health and safety information to all workers and interested parties, through the Intranet, inductions, notice boards and WHS committees.

The Commission recognises its overall responsibility to provide a safe working environment and is committed to promoting a proactive health and safety management system based on effective communication, assessment and control of hazards to ensure compliance with the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* and the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (WRC Act)*.

The Commission's policies are strongly linked to WHS and provide a flexible framework for the day-to-day management of WHS matters, with a focus on continuous improvement and strong governance.

Work Health and Safety Incidents

There were a total of 99 incidents in the 2015-16 financial year, with workers compensation claims costing the Parks and Wildlife Commission \$515,966.



Rangers planning a patrol

Parks and Wildlife Commission WHS performance indicators, 3-year comparison

Performance Indicators	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Incidents with claim status	13	14	9
Incidents without claim status	42	49	90
Total incidents	55	63	99
Incidents with claim status ratio	24%	22%	9%
Incident claims requiring time off work	9	8	3
Lost days due to incident with claims	100	143	538
Lost time injury frequency rate (Injuries with lost time per 1 million hours worked)	23.5	19.6	5.6
Days lost per injury claim per 1 million hours worked	261.6	350.3	1005.6
Injuries requiring medical treatment per 1 million hours worked	34	34.3	16.8
Average workers compensation claim value	\$13 698	\$34,758	\$57 330

These numbers are based on the assumption that only lost time was that recorded in the workers compensation claims and only incidents with claims required medical treatment. It does not include any use of personal leave i.e. sick leave where a workers compensation claim has not been completed. Workers compensation costs are taken from the financial year and may not relate to incidents occurring in that year.

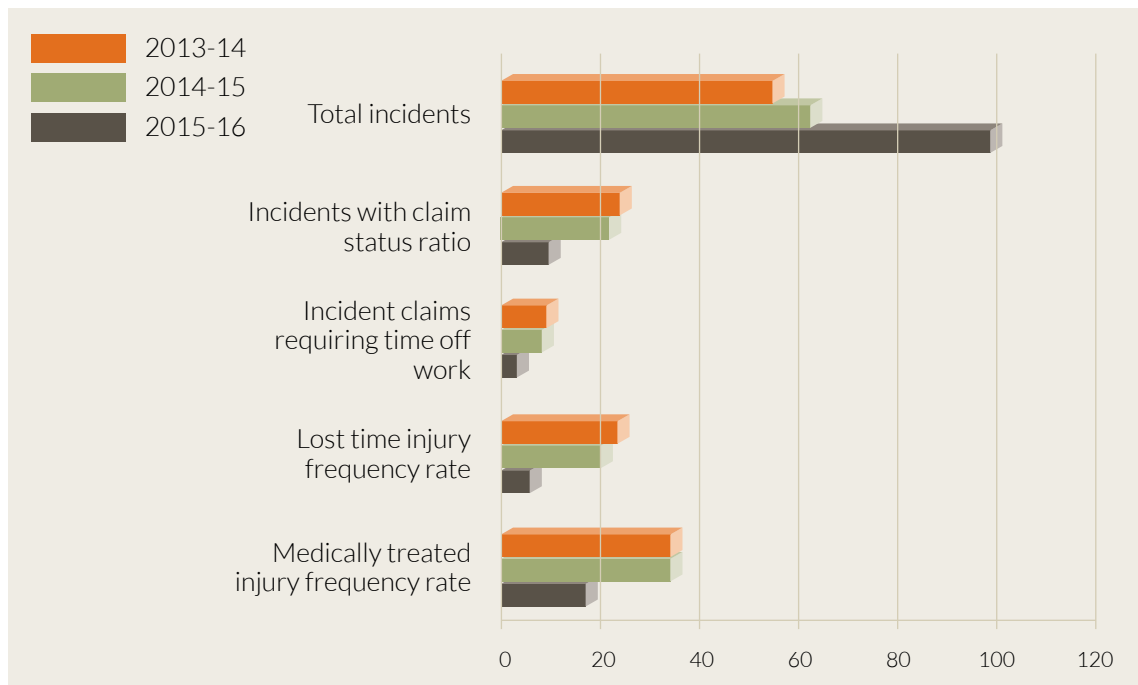
During 2015-16, the Commission experienced a 55% increase in reported incidents from 63 incidents in 2014-15 to 99 incidents in 2015-16. A large increase in incidents on its own is not a good outcome for the Commission, however, the nature of the incident data shows a trend in the opposite direction.

The graph below highlights that incidents have been increasing while at the same time incidents requiring medical treatment and/or time off work have decreased by over 50%, indicating that the Commission experienced less severe incidents than the previous two years. The increase in reported incidents may not mean there have been more incidents but rather a positive uptake of the Commission's work health and safety management system, the online reporting tool and the good work of the WHS Committees. This is a strong indication that staff are serious about workplace safety and their wellbeing whilst at work.



Tiwi Masked Owl, Territory Wildlife Park

Number of total incidents compared to incidents proceeding to a workers compensation claim including medical treatment and time off work, 3 year comparison.



The average time lost per incident and the average workers compensation claim cost has increased this year, however, this metric is difficult to compare year on year because lost time per incident and cost per claim of incident often relate to incidents occurring in previous years, while the time off and actual date of payout are measured during the financial year it occurs, not the incident year. The cost in claims and lost time is nevertheless increasing.

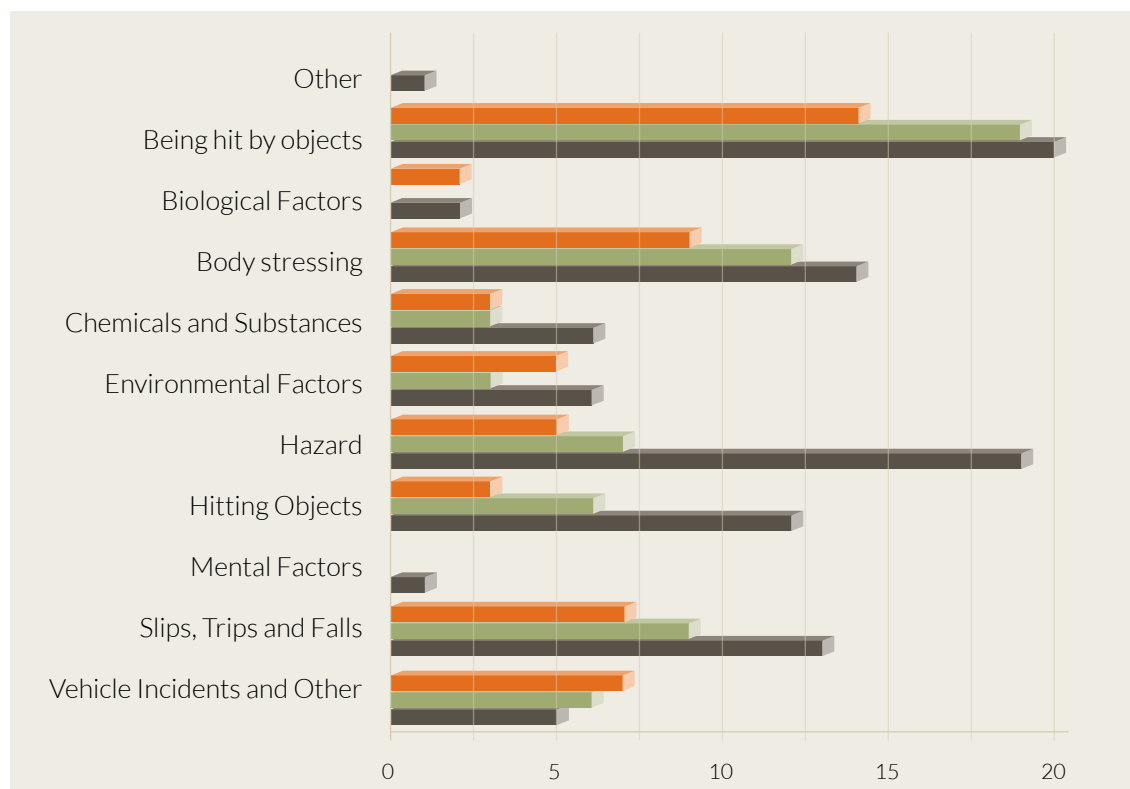
Work Health and Safety Incidents by Mechanism

The mechanism, by which incidents occur, is important data to understand to help prevent further incidents or injuries occurring. The following table and graph highlights the trend over the previous three years of the type of incidents that are occurring.

The four major mechanisms are: being hit by objects, body stressing, hitting objects, and slips, trips and falls. All four mechanisms showed an increase year on year and this also may be attributed to an improvement in the reporting frequency rather than an increase in actual incidents. Regardless of the reason for the increase in these categories, these four mechanisms account for almost 70% of all incidents, and will be a focus for WHS Committees heading into 2016-17.

There has been downward trend in vehicle incidents, and a substantial increase in hazards reported. Reporting hazards is an important measure because this allows staff and the WHS Committees to assess the risks and alter procedures to assist in preventing hazards turning into incidents.

Incidents occurring by mechanism - 3 year comparison



Work Health and Safety Claim Costs by Mechanism

When comparing the mechanism of an incident to the cost incurred to the Commission through workers compensation claims, the table and graph below highlight that over 70% of claim costs in 2015-16 are associated with slips, trips and falls but represent only 13% of total incidents. This relationship will require the WHS Committees to place more emphasis on this mechanism.

It should be noted that the total costs of workers compensation claims has increased this year by 6%, however, this metric is difficult to compare year on year because cost per claim often relate to incidents occurring in previous years. The cost in claims increased and that slips trips and falls are the biggest cost.

Paid claim costs through workers compensation compared to mechanism of incident, 3 year comparison

Claim Costs By Mechanism	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Being Hit by Objects	\$43 043	\$13 170	\$3 235
Biological Factors	\$8 846	\$5 253	\$0
Body Stressing	\$2 074	\$33 861	\$66 497
Chemicals and Substances	\$5 526	\$1 353	\$0
Environmental Factors	\$84	\$2 080	\$0
Hitting Objects	\$3 271	\$1 250	\$56 080
Mental Factors	\$20	\$0	\$18 667
Slips, Trips and Falls	\$107 624	\$405 121	\$370 877
Vehicle Incidents and Other	\$7 583	\$24 520	\$611
Total	\$178 071	\$486 608	\$515 967

Work Health and Safety Incidents by Division

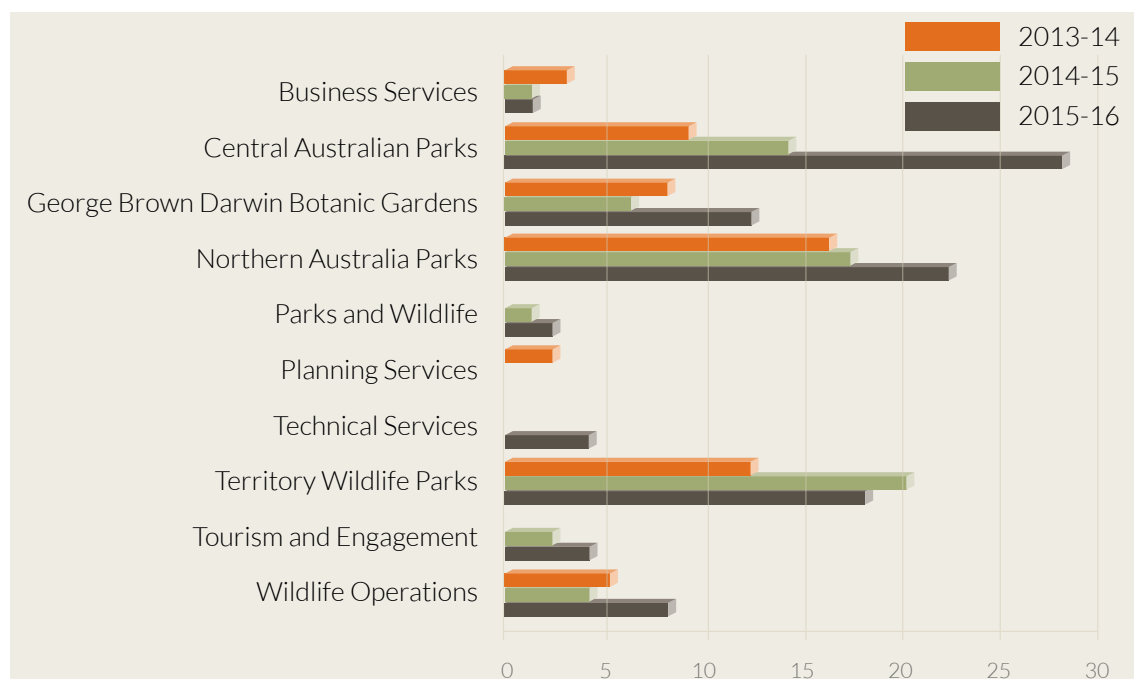
The Commission also reflects on the nature and severity of incidents occurring within each division. The size and work environments of individual divisions varies greatly so comparing divisions does not provide much data, however comparing each division over time can assist us in detecting where the effects of the WHS

management system and the uptake of policies has improved the occurrence of incidents and their type. Overall there was minimal change over the three year period, with the increase in incidents primarily due to an increase in reporting, which should be commended.

Incidents by division, 3-year comparison

Division	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Business Services	3	1	1
Central Australian Parks	9	14	28
George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	8	6	12
Northern Australian Parks*	16*	17*	23*
Savannah-Gulf Parks*			
Parks and Wildlife Exec		1	1
Planning Services	2		
Technical Services			4
Territory Wildlife Park*	12*	20*	18*
Alice Springs Desert Park*			
Tourism and Visitor Engagement		2	4
Wildlife Operations	5	4	8
Totals	55	65	99

The total number of incidents occurring by division, 3-year comparison



*Annual data for TWP and ASDP has not been split, and the new Savannah-Gulf Parks Division's data is still combined with Northern Australian Parks.



Rangers completing safety checklist

Comparing workers compensation claims data across the divisions (see table below) shows that all claims are primarily focused with operations and field work. The Territory Wildlife Parks, comprising the Territory Wildlife Park and Alice Springs Desert Park, accounted for over 50% of all claim costs over the three year period from, while only having about 25% of reported incidents.

Whilst this is a high percentage, the nature of the work must be taken into account. This does not mean acceptance of greater risks within those divisions but rather an indication of the focus that is required by the WHS committees and management to assist with developing actions and procedures to minimise those risks, which they are working towards.

Paid costs by division, 3-year comparison

Division	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Central Australian Parks	\$2 441	\$6 089	\$0
George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	\$28 093	\$214 712	\$19 875
Northern Australian Parks*	\$32 436	\$78 911	\$185 716
Territory Wildlife Parks*	\$100 297	\$173 234	\$307 068
Wildlife Operations	\$14 804	\$13 661	\$3 307
Total	\$178 071	\$486 607	\$515 966

*Annual data for TWP and ASDP has not been split, and the new *Savannah-Gulf Parks Division's* data is still combined with *Northern Australian Parks*.

Awards and recognition

STAFF RECOGNITION

In 2016-17, the Commission will be implementing its Milestone Recognition Guidelines that aims to ensure due recognition for employees who have dedicated long periods of employment with the Commission. It complements the Whole of Government guide Recognising Service Milestones.

NT RANGER AWARDS

These Awards celebrate the professional commitment of all staff working in protected area management and include outstanding environmental achievements, innovation in planning, leadership, on-ground efforts, and commitment to working with partners and stakeholders to achieve outcomes. The NT Ranger Awards program was very successful with over 60 nominations received. This year, the Ranger Awards were open to celebrate the exceptional work of rangers, frontline staff and support staff, including apprentices and non-government employees. The outcomes in each category were:

Award	Winner
NT Ranger Award for Outstanding Environmental Achievement	The Integrated Feral Team, Kakadu National Park
NT Ranger Award for Commitment to Partnerships and Diversity	Gulf Team for the Aboriginal Rock Art site protection project in Limmen National Park
NT Ranger Award for Outstanding Team Effort	Warddeken Rangers
NT Ranger Award for Innovation in Protected Areas Management	The team that developed the Garig Gunak Integrated Conservation Strategy
NT Ranger Award for Leadership in Protected Areas Management	Ms Josephine Grant from the Central Land Council



Innovation in Protected Areas Management Recipient with Minister.



Commitment to Partnership and Diversity Recipient with Minister.



Dripstone cliffs

Grievances / Complaints

The Commission has developed and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the management of feedback using the HP Records Manager system in line with the Better Practice Guidelines from the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The process outlined in the SOP ensures the Commission has a responsive, effective, fair and efficient process to receive, record, respond to and report comments, compliments and complaints regarding the service or actions of the Commission or its staff. The information can then be analysed to improve service delivery and promote public confidence in the Commission by ensuring transparency and consistency in the management of feedback.

The Grievance Policy and Procedure is available on the Commission's intranet. HR consultants work closely with managers to ensure processes are followed correctly. In 2015-16, an issue occurred that resulted in three internal complaints. Two complaints were finalised in 2015-16, one will be carried forward into 2016-17. No section 59 grievances occurred.

In 2015-16 the Commission advertised 120 (permanent and temporary) positions. 165 staff commenced/transferred in and 125 separated/transferred out. There were no promotions appeals lodged for this period.

LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Industrial Relations

The Commission is committed to working in partnership with employees and unions as needs arise.

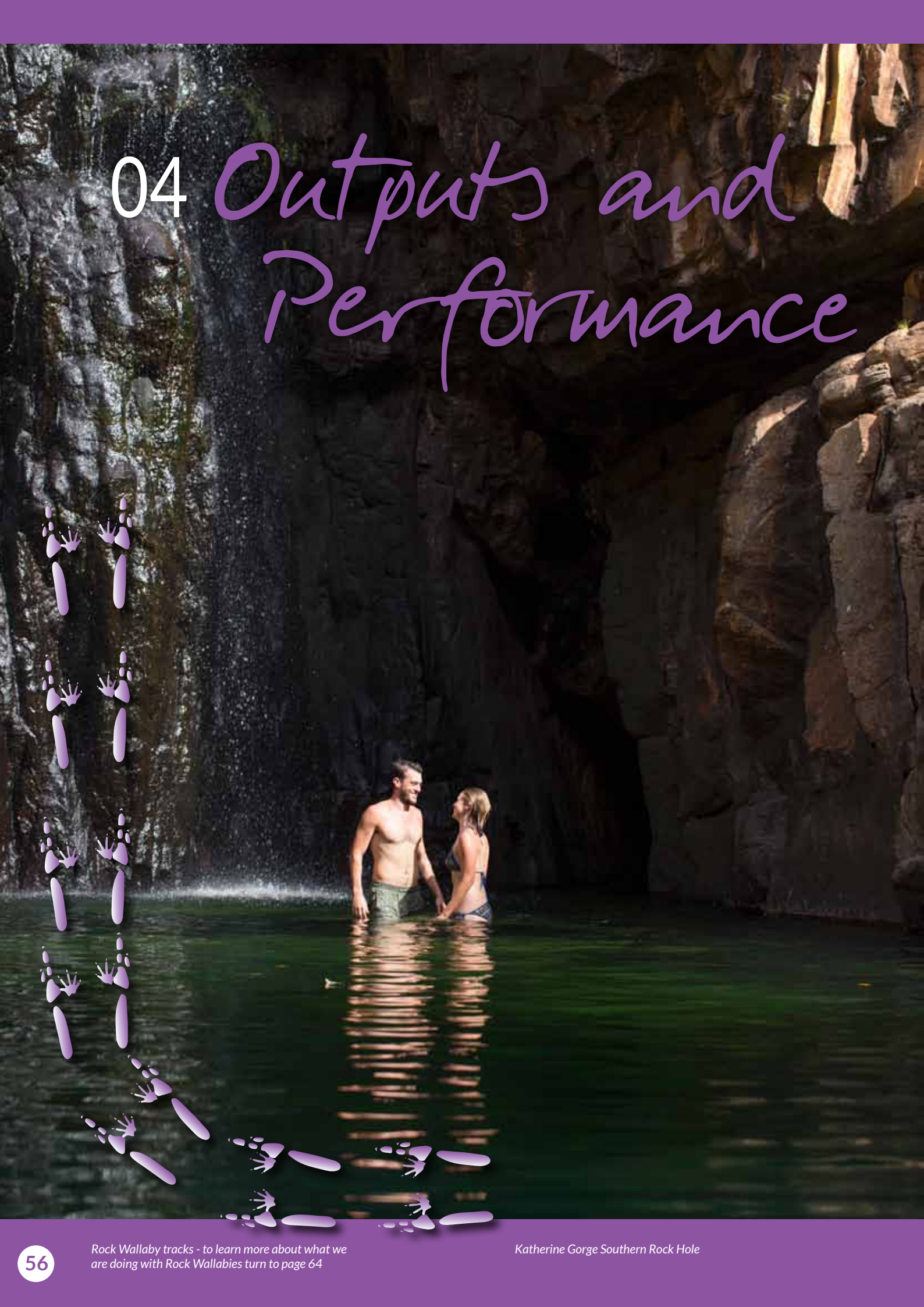
During 2016, the Commission offered 'Bounce Back' workshops and change management training, to support individual and team resilience through times of change.

Reporting against Employment Instructions

	Employment Instruction	Action
1	Filling Vacancies	<p>Recruitment and establishment procedures are available on the staff intranet. HR consultants provide advice to staff on recruitment and selection processes.</p> <p>Merit Selection training was offered online and face to face, facilitated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public employment (OCPE) throughout 2015-16.</p> <p>In 2015-16 the Commission advertised 120 (permanent and temporary) positions. 165 staff commenced/transferred in and 125 separated/transferred out. There were no promotions appeals lodged for this period.</p>
2	Probation	<p>The Commission has a current Probation Policy and flow chart consistent with the <i>Public Sector Employment and Management Act</i> and relevant awards. New employees in the agency are advised of the probation process during induction and provided information about their responsibilities.</p> <p>Senior management is advised monthly on the status of employee probations and manages the reports and timeframes.</p>
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 in internal policies and procedures.</p>
4	Employee Performance Management and Development Systems	<p>The Commission's performance management system, Personnel Evaluation System (PES) aligns with its strategic plan and objectives. An online system has been implemented across the agency to replace paper based versions.</p> <p>PES training sessions are conducted on a regular basis to support managers and employees in conducting performance discussions.</p> <p>In 2015-16, 86.9% of all employees had an active PES agreement in place.</p>
5	Medical Examinations	<p>Advice is provided to managers as required by HR consultants. There were no medical incapacity cases in 2015-16.</p>
6	Performance and Inability	<p>The performance and inability guidelines and procedures are available on the Commission's intranet. HR Services staff support managers dealing with under-performance issues and help managers and staff to improve performance. There were no inability cases in 2015-16.</p>
7	Discipline	<p>The Discipline Guidelines and Procedure is available on the Commission's intranet. HR consultants work closely with managers to ensure processes are followed correctly. In 2015-16, seven section 49 disciplinary actions commenced. None were carried forward from 2014-15. Four have been finalised in 2015-16 and three will be carried forward to 2016-17.</p>

	Employment Instruction	Action
8	Internal Agency Complaints and Section 59 Grievance Reviews	The Grievance Policy and Procedure is available on the Commission's intranet. HR consultants work closely with managers to ensure processes are followed correctly. In 2015-16, three internal complaints were received and no section 59 grievances. Two complaints were finalised in 2015-16, one will be carried forward into 2016-17.
9	Employment Records	The Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) stores all personnel files. The Commission complies with the DCIS policy regarding access to these files. Any requests to access employee records are made through the Director of Human Resources. No requests were lodged for employee information under the <i>Freedom of Information Act</i> in 2015-16.
10	Number 10 – Equality of Employment Opportunity Programs	The Commission adheres to the principles of the NTPS EmployAbility Strategy.
11	Occupational Health and Safety Standards Programs	The Commission has Work Health and Safety (WHS) Committees to ensure WHS compliance. The details of the activities are reported in the annual report. Current obligations, policies and procedures are available to all staff on the intranet.
12	Code of Conduct	The Code of Conduct is available on the Commission's intranet and is reinforced through the activities by HR consultants. The Code of Conduct is also covered through the corporate induction which is mandatory for new staff. In addition, six Code of Conduct workshops were held throughout 2015-16. 34 people attended from across the Territory.
13	Appropriate Workplace Behaviour	The Bullying Policy and Procedure is available on the Commission intranet. Training and education is provided to help prevent workplace bullying. 11 Combat Bullying workshops were held throughout 2015-16. A total of 41 people attended across the Territory. Advice is provided to managers on addressing appropriate workplace behaviour situations as required by HR consultants.
14	Redeployment and Redundancy Procedures	The Commission adheres to the current NTPS redeployment and redundancy provisions. One employee was declared surplus to requirements in the 2015-16 financial year. No redeployees were made redundant and none were transferred under the redeployment provision.
15	Special Measures	The Commission supports special measures and currently has two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander special measures plans in place. Through the Flexible Employment Program, the Commission recruits Indigenous applicants to project based, short-term and casual vacancies. These positions are specifically designed to provide employment and training opportunities to traditional owners and relevant Indigenous community members. The second special measures plan provides priority consideration for Indigenous applicants for any advertised vacancies the agency deems appropriate.

04 *Outputs and Performance*



Under the Territory's Financial Management Framework each government agency is funded by output groups as stated in the annual budget papers. A description and key deliverables for each of the Commission's Outputs are detailed below.

Output Group: Parks and Wildlife

This Output Group aims to provide opportunities for visitor enjoyment and education based on natural and cultural values, while protecting the natural and cultural conservation values of parks and reserves, and supporting wildlife management programs across the Territory.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Key deliverables	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2015-16	2016-17
	Actual			Budget	Estimate	Budget

Parks, Wildlife and Visitor Services

Parks and reserves

Visits to major parks ¹	2.8M	2.86M	2.86M	2.96M	2.86M	2.9M
Visitor satisfaction	94%	90%	92%	90%	90%	90%
Tourism businesses operating in parks	166	152	157	170	161	165
Parks and reserves covered by statutory management plans	79%	79%	88%	91%	87%	90%
Area of land in care, control and management of the Commission (000 km ²)	46.3	47.3	50.6	47.2	47.2 ⁴	47.6

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

Visitors ²	250 000	281 000	348 200	295 000	383 800	366 000
Visitor Satisfaction	99%	99%	100%	95%	99%	97%
Special Events	10	4	5	10	11	11
Functions ³	76	99	104	92	137	135

Wildlife management

Number of problem Saltwater Crocodiles removed from the wild (numbers) ⁴	272	333	294	300	270	270
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Corporate and Governance

Minister satisfied with strategic policy and operational service delivery ⁵	Not recorded	5	5	≥ 4	≥ 4	≥ 4
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Explanatory notes to the table:

- ¹ The 2015-16 estimate is based on year to date visitor numbers.
- ² The increase in 2015-16 relates to the commencement of new programs and initiatives in 2015-16.
- ³ The increase relates to the promotion of the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens as a function venue and improved service provision.
- ⁴ The variation mainly reflects a decrease in the number of problem saltwater crocodiles as a result of weather conditions.
- ⁵ Rating of 1 = extremely dissatisfied through to 5 = extremely satisfied.

Output Group: Corporate Governance

This Output Group undertakes a range of functions to serve the Commission's core corporate, executive and governance needs, including financial services, human resource management, information and communication technology, governance and risk services, and communications and media.

CORPORATE AND GOVERNANCE

Key deliverables	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16		2016-17
	Actual			Budget	Actual	Budget
Minister satisfied with strategic policy and operational service delivery ¹	Not recorded	5	5	≥4	5	≥4

Explanatory notes to the Table:

- ¹ Rating of 1 = extremely dissatisfied through to 5 = extremely satisfied.

Shared Services Received

Corporate Services are received from the Department of Land Resource Management under a service level agreement including financial services, human resource management, information and communication technology, governance and risk services, and communications and media.

Business Lines: Territory Wildlife Parks

Territory Wildlife Parks is responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park.

The key responsibility of both parks is to showcase the Northern Territory's unique flora and fauna in a natural environment that is educational, interactive and interesting for the visiting public. The park experience enables people to understand, respect and enjoy the Territory's natural environment.

BUSINESS LINE - TERRITORY WILDLIFE PARK

Outcome: Provide a quality experience to visitors through the presentation of flora and fauna in a variety of natural Top End habitats and ecosystems. Provide high-quality education programs for visitors to the Park and develop and promote conservation strategies and initiatives to influence responsible community behaviour towards the Territory environment. Continue to develop programs to promote conservation of threatened species.

Key deliverables	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16		2016-17
	Actual			Budget	Actual	Budget
Visitors	55 705	59 849	60 235	65 900	55 631 ¹	60 000
Biodiversity conservation programs	3	4	4	3	4	4
New visitor experiences	5	4	5	3	6 ²	6
Visitor satisfaction	98%	95%	94%	95%	94%	95%

Explanatory notes to the Table:

- ¹ The variation in visitor numbers includes a significant drop in interstate visitors, however school camp numbers increased due to the opening of 'Camp Woollybutt'.
- ² New visitor experiences include implementation of the 'Art Trail' art exhibition, Wild Encounters interactive experiences, and a new campground.

BUSINESS LINE - ALICE SPRINGS DESERT PARK

Outcome: Provide a quality experience to visitors through the presentation of flora and fauna in a variety of natural Central Australian habitats and ecosystems. Provide high-quality education programs for visitors to the Park and develop and promote conservation strategies and initiatives to influence responsible community behaviour towards the Territory environment. Continue the Alice Springs Desert Park's threatened species breeding programs.

Key deliverables	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16		2016-17
	Actual			Budget	Actual	Budget
Visitors	48 472	56 028	65 918	59 900	64 442 ¹	69 200
Threatened species breeding programs	5	5	5	5	5	5
New visitor experiences	7	5	5	6	6 ²	5
Visitor satisfaction	99%	97%	91%	95%	94%	95%

Explanatory notes to the Table:

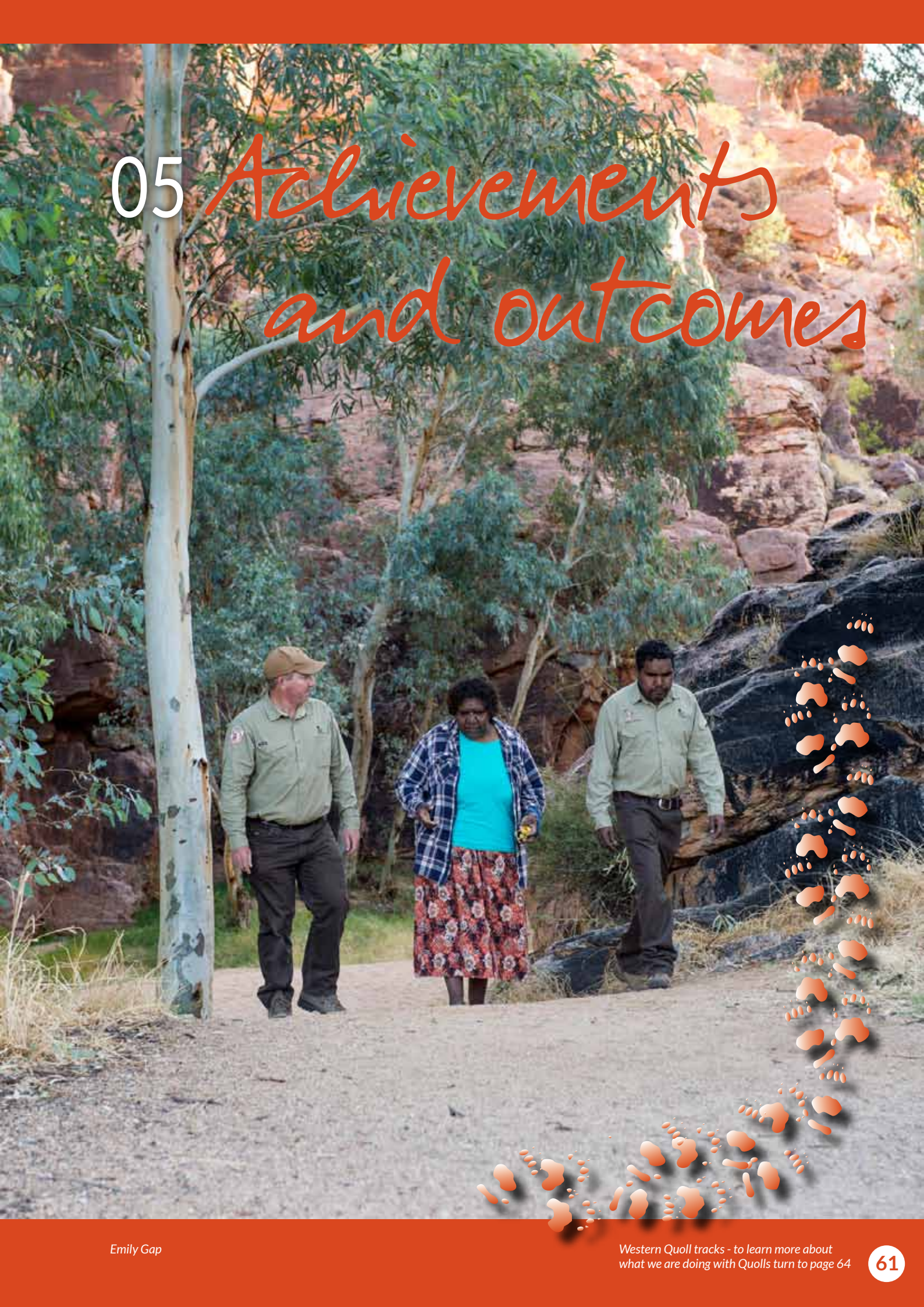
- ¹ Visitor numbers variation is increased compared to the budget figure is due to an increase in local school students as well as national, international and local visitors.
- ² This includes new displays for Central Australian Carpet Python (*Morelia bredli*), Burrowing Bettong (*Bettongia lesueur*), Numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*). New presentations at the emu enclosure, a new evening 'Mulga Walk' and an event called 'March into the Park'.

Dingoes Digger and Marle, Alice Springs Desert Park.



05

Achievements and outcomes



GOAL 1 Parks for Wildlife

BIODIVERSITY

It is well recognised that maintaining and preserving biodiversity has significant benefits for ecosystem function, environmental integrity, pastoral productivity, economic growth, sustainable use of wildlife industries and social wellbeing.

Protecting the Territory's biodiversity not only ensures that ecosystems are able to function effectively to support the diversity of animals and plants that live within them, but also that local people are healthier and happier.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission plays an important role in protecting biodiversity values by actively managing the threats to biodiversity such as weeds and pest animals within parks and reserves. Ensuring appropriate fire regimes are implemented across our parks and reserves is also important to the protection of biodiversity.

Biodiversity is protected and actively managed within our parks and reserves right across the Territory.

Darwin Region:

Darwin is fortunate to have a rich amount of biodiversity on its doorstep. It is the only capital city to have marine turtles nesting at its beaches. Marine turtles and their nests are tracked and monitored and just as they are about to emerge at Casuarina Coastal Reserve, the public are offered the chance to help these little creatures start their new lives at sea. This year, eight Flatback Turtle (*Natator depressus*) releases and one Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) release were conducted by rangers.

These rangers were also involved with shorebird capture and tagging (cannon netting) at Buffalo Creek as well as seagrass surveys in the harbour. Seagrass is the main diet for the vulnerable Dugong, known as the 'sea cow' of the ocean.

The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens continued its participation in the Global Trees and 1000 Species Projects as part of the Australian Seed Bank Partnership through the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens. This involvement includes field based collections of seed from a select range of Northern Territory plants that are not currently represented in any seed bank facility. These conservation seed banking initiatives are an important means of protecting native flora from the threats of changing environmental conditions and the effects of pest and diseases.

The Territory Wildlife Park provides an excellent facility to contribute to national and internationally important research. The Curator of the Wildlife Park was invited by the Minister for the Environment to attend the first National Threatened Species Summit in Melbourne July 2015.



Assistant Curator Damien Stanioch with Boris the Spectacled Hare-Wallaby (*Lagorchestes conspicillatus*)



Marine turtle public release at Casuarina Coastal Reserve

The Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) population has been hard hit by the invasion of the cane toad. Two integrated research programs are underway at the Wildlife Park; one program trains quolls from Astell Island to avoid eating the cane toad before being released back into the environment; and the other tests for innate cane-toad aversion in quolls from North Queensland. These programs are a partnership with the University of Technology (Sydney), University of Melbourne, DLRM and Parks Australia. All parties, including the Australian Wildlife Conservancy and the Australian Threatened Species Commission are contributing cash and in-kind support to progress this science.



Quoll



Quoll

The Wildlife Park is involved in other research such as a collaboration focusing on the Atlas Moth (*Attacus atlas*) and supports a range of other post-graduate level research being conducted by students from around Australia.

Priorities 2016-17: research is underway on another species, the Largetooth Sawfish (*Pristis pristis*), which is listed on the IUCN Red List as critically endangered. The results from this research and a PhD thesis will likely be submitted during the 2016-17 year.



Largetooth Sawfish

Savannah-Gulf Region:

The Nitmiluk Integrated Conservation Strategy 2015-20 is being implemented and this year saw monitoring sites in the Sandstone Heathland community set up to measure the impact of fire severity on spinifex and obligate seeders.

Rangers in this region collaborated with Charles Darwin University scientists to undertake surveys into the ecology and life history of Northern Sugar Gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*) along the Edith River. Its common name indicates its preference for sugary fruits and its ability to glide through the air using a gliding membrane that extends from their foreleg to hindleg.



Sugar Glider



Greater Bilby

Alice Springs Region:

The Alice Springs Desert Park is another facility well placed to contribute to the biodiversity of the region. The Desert Park has successfully bred a Western Quoll (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*). The breeding behaviour of quolls can make them difficult to breed, however staff at the Desert Park have once again had success. The Desert Park also provided a male Western Quoll to Arid Recovery in Roxby Downs for research into the effects of predators on mammal populations in large fenced enclosures.

Desert Park staff also contribute to conservation programs focusing on the Slater's Skink (*Ergenia slateri*), Mallee Emu Wren (*Stipiturus mallee*), Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), and the Mala (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*) and participate in surveys of reptiles, mammals and birds at the Newhaven Conservation Reserve. Greater Stick-nest Rats (*Leporillus conditor*) have been bred and 10 were sent to Mt Gibson in Western Australia as part of the Department of Conservation and Wildlife supported Wildlife Conservancy project.

Finke Goby (*Chlamydogobius japaipa*) are a threatened fish species that have been bred in part of the Park's revamped aquarium complex.

In the West MacDonnell Ranges, funding through the Red Centre Biodiversity Fund continues to support biodiversity programs, including feral animal survey and removal, aerial fuel load assessments, and flora and fauna surveys. Finke Gorge rangers have commenced flora and fauna surveys in partnership with Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM) whilst rangers at Watarrka have conducted Black-foot Rock Wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*) surveys in conjunction with DLRM and Traditional Owners.

INTEGRATED CONSERVATION STRATEGIES (ICS)

The Commission has adopted an innovative planning and management tool to protect and manage parks according to their unique natural values and potential threats. This year continues the work of previous ICSs that were completed on Nitmiluk and Litchfield National Parks. The ICS was completed on Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, formerly known as Gurig National Park and Cobourg Marine Park. More information can be found in the case study below.

Priorities 2016-17: *The Commission is looking forward to continuing to develop ICSs with the following being prioritised: Finke Gorge, Watarrka, Limmen and Mary River National Parks.*

CASE STUDY

The Commission is committed to managing and conserving parks for future generations. In order to do this, planning and management is targeted to individual parks to manage efficiently within available resources. This is done through an Integrated Conservation Strategy (ICS); an innovative approach to protected area management focussing management investment on defined key priorities using scientific expertise and inclusive consultation. An ICS is developed by a team of stakeholders including planners, park rangers, scientists, traditional owners and experts in weed and fire management.

Once developed, an ICS sets clear objectives and measurable targets for five years to manage the key conservation values and priority threats identified for each Biodiversity Class 1 Park. An ICS provides a clear definition of the desired condition of key values and describes how goals will be achieved. It provides direction for rangers to prepare annual fire, weed and feral animal action plans.

The ICS is a 'living' document as it can be adapted as new challenges or opportunities arise. The results throughout the term feed into planning for the subsequent ICSs which are developed every five years.

During this year, an ICS was completed for Garig Gunak Barlu National Park and Marine Park. This important Park is located about 570 km (by road) north-east of Darwin on the Cobourg Peninsula and covers about 4500km². The Park includes the entire Peninsula, the surrounding waters of the Arafura Sea and Van Diemen Gulf, and neighbouring offshore islands. Cobourg Peninsula is the only area in the Northern Territory which contains adjoining land and marine parks and was the first jointly managed park in Australia. The Park is historically significant containing Port Essington, the site of an attempted British settlement in the early 1800s. Being the very first Ramsar Wetland of International Significance site declared in 1974, it is recognised as being nationally and internationally significant for its diverse wetlands, endemic species, relatively unmodified landscapes, extensive mangroves and rainforests, nesting sites of threatened marine turtles and being home to more than 20 threatened species.

Garig Gunak Barlu National Park



The table below is from the ICS and shows the threats to the Park and their level of risk. With this identification, planners and rangers can develop plans and management strategies to prioritise their land management work according to the threat level.

Park wide threat priorities

HIGH PRIORITY

- Inappropriate burning
- Wildfire
- Gamba grass establishment
- Banteng
- Cat introduction/prevention
- Buffalo
- Ghost nets and marine debris

MEDIUM PRIORITY

- Annual Mission Grass and Perennial Mission Grass
- Pigs
- Rubber vine and Snakeweed
- Sickle pod and mossman river grass

LOWER PRIORITY

- Caltrop
- Sida and Hyptis
- Sambar

Managing parks to mitigate threats according to their potential risk is critical to ensure this unique park is protected and managed for future generations.

MANAGEMENT PLANS

The *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* requires Joint Management Plans to be prepared for jointly managed parks established under the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act* and Plans of Management for other declared parks and reserves. The Plans define the vision for a park's management based on what is most important – the main social and environmental values of the park and the considerations and requirements that relate to protecting and enhancing those values over the long term. Through the management planning process, the community and stakeholders have the opportunity to have their say in the management of parks and reserves.

Joint Management Plans became operational for Mary River National Park in September 2015, Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park, Napwerte / Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve and Iytwelepenty / Davenport Range National Park in February 2016.

The Litchfield National Park Draft Plan of Management was released to public comment in October 2015 and Casuarina Coastal Reserve Management Plan was approved in April 2016.

Priorities 2016-17: *The Plans of Management for Litchfield National Park and Howard Springs Nature Park will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly and the draft Joint Management Plans for Tjoritja / West MacDonnell and Watarrka National Parks will be released to public comment. Work will commence on the Joint Management Plans for Arltunga Historical Reserve and Ruby Gap Nature Park.*

MINIMISING THREATS

Protecting biodiversity, including natural and cultural values, is a key driver for the Commission. Threats to these values include fire, weeds and feral animals and much of the land management undertaken by rangers in the Northern Territory aims to reduce the impact of these threats.

All regions undertake fire, weed and feral animal control as part of their normal duties so that habitats and ecosystem processes can be protected.

Darwin Region:

In the Litchfield area, rangers collected data recording the effects of fire in the landscape by taking photos at 42 fixed sites, twice a year, for the last 20 years, collecting information relating to fire severity. Every five years, with assistance from DLRM and the Darwin Centre for Bushfires Research a complete fauna and flora survey is undertaken to statistically analyse the data and assist in future management.

Together with Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) and Charles Darwin University, an OZflux tower has been installed on the Tabletop range to improve our understanding of the response of carbon and water cycles in Australian ecosystems to climate variability, disturbance (fire, insects), land management and future changes in precipitation, temperature and carbon dioxide levels. It is one of a network of towers around Australia and the world which continuously measure the exchanges (flux) of carbon dioxide, water vapour and energy between the terrestrial ecosystem and atmosphere.

In Mary River National Park, Conservation Pest Management (CPM) conducted two permitted feral animal control operations in the McKinlay Reserve. Over 200 feral pigs were removed as well as horses and donkeys.

Weed management has also been a priority in this region, with over 20 hours of aerial spraying of Mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*) taking place on the Mary River Floodplain to help control this highly invasive weed. This year achieved a high kill rate, helped by the drier than average conditions.

Priorities 2016-17: *the Darwin region is looking forward to the delivery of a new airboat that will allow rangers to access difficult terrain and spray aquatic weeds such as Mimosa pigra and Olive hymenachne that continue to threaten parks and reserves.*

Savannah-Gulf Region:

Rangers at Limmen National Park continue their invasive species management programs with stakeholders and partners across the region. Early detection and treatment of several new invasive weed populations including, Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), Siratro (*Macroptilium autropurpureum*), Hairy Woodrose (*Merremia aegyptia*) and Calopo (*Calopogonium mucunoides*) has been achieved.

Rangers in Limmen National Park completed planning for the control of invasive feral animal species enabling a strategic approach to control measures. This included consulting with park stakeholders in the removal of cattle from the Park. Much smaller feral species, the highly invasive Big Headed Ant (*Pheidole megacephala*), were identified at Nathan River in collaboration with Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services (AQIS). Rangers implemented a control program to prevent further spread. Collaboration with AQIS also occurred in implementing their disease monitoring program. Rangers also partnered with James Cook University and DLRM to investigate mangrove dieback in the Limmen National Park.

Further to the east is Barranyi (North Island) National Park, part of the Sir Edward Pellew group of islands north of Borroloola. Rangers in this picturesque area planted 40 Coastal She Oaks (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) tree seedlings to stabilise the foreshore.

At Elsey National Park near Mataranka, invasive weed management programs were undertaken throughout the Park focusing on Bellyache Bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*) and Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) populations.

At Judbarra / Gregory National Park this year, the annual Devils Claw weed management program was undertaken in collaboration with local Community Development Employment Program employing traditional owners from across the Park.

Nitmiluk National Park, north-east of Katherine, conducted an aerial control program of pest animals in collaboration with the Northern Territory Police Tactical Response Group, targeting buffalo in the Katherine River and Upper Ferguson River catchments. Rangers also implemented a fireplot research program in the Park.

Alice Springs Region:

At the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve, the control program of the newly declared weed Cholla (*Cylindropuntia cactus*) is ongoing with support from Batchelor College and the Spencer Hill Landcare Group.

At Rainbow Valley, control of Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) has occurred in environmentally important zones whilst at Watarrka significant efforts were made to re-inforce fencing to provide an effective barrier against camels entering the Park from the north.

CASE STUDY - FIRE IN THE LANDSCAPE

Fires have been a natural part of landscapes in the Northern Territory and used by Aboriginal people throughout time to manage land and resources. Many plants and animals have adapted to a certain level and frequency of fires. Together with traditional and scientific knowledge, the Commission manages land to reduce the possibility of late, Dry season fires. Fires during this time are devastating for animals, the land and can threaten people's lives and property.

Throughout this year, Nitmiluk National Park rangers and members of the Jawoyn Association ranger group have been working collaboratively on a number of projects within the Park. One key project, Fire (*Jawoyn wurrk*), is an important tool in maintaining strong and healthy culture and looking after special places. This makes it essential that Jawoyn traditional knowledge guides fire management in the Park as far as possible. The partners have been working together to plan strategic burns and implement them in joint aerial and ground based burning.

Monitoring wildfires and working with partners to fight them late in the Dry season ensures country is looked after.

In October of 2015, a large fire threatened the north-western section of the Park containing important rock art sites and sensitive sandstone outcrops with fire sensitive plants. Together, Jawoyn and Nitmiluk rangers travelled to the remote headwaters of the Ferguson River to tackle the fire. It was very difficult working in extreme temperatures but the teams worked well together over a number of days to extinguish the fire. Nitmiluk rangers learnt new skills in dry firefighting through the use of back pack blowers to extinguish the fire without the need for water. Another benefit was young Jawoyn people getting back on their country and has created momentum for further joint works on the Park, including maintaining fire trails and visiting the art sites on the Upper Ferguson River to carry out protection works including small patch burns.



Rangers James Gorman and Sabrina Morrison



Flexible Employment Program fire management

GOAL 2 Parks for People

HAVING FUN IN OUR PARKS

The Commission recognises the value of our parks and reserves, not only just within the tourism sector but importantly at a community level, where the mantra of Healthy Parks Healthy People is gathering momentum. The Commission continues to create more opportunities for people to get outside and be active by providing facilities that encourage and enhance the range of park experiences.

The diversity of experiences provided by parks and reserves is significant. Parks in major centres such as Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs host sporting clubs and events, provide walking, cycling, running and fitness facilities and have playgrounds for children, barbeque and picnic facilities. By providing these opportunities, the community develops a strong connection with parks and reserves making them special places in their hearts and minds.



Bike rider, Casuarina Coastal Reserve



Runners, Casuarina Coastal Reserve



Meditating

Further afield, parks provide a magnificent backdrop for adventure through off-road four-wheel driving, camping, hiking and exploring. Exploring and learning about Indigenous culture in parks, as well as pioneering history, provides a deeper connection, ensuring their preservation into the future.



Campers

Mountain biking

Mountain biking has experienced enormous growth in popularity around the world in recent years. The potential to develop mountain biking in the Territory has been recognised, especially in Alice Springs, which has an extensive mountain bike trail network. A Master Plan for Mountain Biking in the Territory has been developed which sets the direction for the sport in the Territory with maximum benefits to tourism, the economy and the community. The Master Plan was a collaboration between Tourism NT, the Department of Sport and Recreation, the Parks and Wildlife Commission and other key stakeholders.

This year, construction of stage 2 of the trail network linking the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve to the West Macdonnell Range was completed. The Redback Mountain Bike race used reserve tracks and attracted over 200 riders including international competitors. Other major races included the Easter in the Alice mountain bike race and Firefly 12 hour race.

Priorities 2016-17: *A total of \$1.33 million has been committed over the next two years for the Commission to develop and maintain trails across the NT. \$200 000 has been committed in 2016-17 for trails located within the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve and east of the Reserve.*



Mountain bikers various parks and reserves



PLANNING VISITOR EXPERIENCES INTO THE FUTURE

Visitor Experience Development Plans look to revitalise existing experiences and create new and exciting recreation opportunities. The Plans also recognise the important link between time spent in nature and community health and wellbeing, and will be developed for the most popular locations. The Plans are developed by teams of planning experts, stakeholders and joint management partners and highlight the infrastructure and other experiences on offer to maximise public value for local users, visitors, investors and other partners. The Plans form the basis of capital proposals that will be put to government for budget proposals.

In 2015-16, visitor experience development plans were released for Casuarina Coastal Reserve and Litchfield National Park and were prepared for the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve and the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens. As a result of these plans, over \$10 million each was invested in both Litchfield National Park and Casuarina Coastal Reserve to upgrade facilities and enhance the visitor experience.

The visitor experience development plan guides future development at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens and includes exciting new experiences such as a visitor centre, an events stage, a plant display house, restaurant, Darwin's best nature-based children's playground, a canopy walk, an obstacle course and exercise area and an ephemeral wetland.

Priorities 2016-17: Visitor Experience Development Plans will be prepared for Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park, Limmen National Park, the Territory Wildlife Park and the Alice Springs Desert Park.

EVENTS AND FUNCTIONS

Parks and reserves are held close to the hearts of Territorians and visitors alike with many choosing to share special moments, celebrate weddings and birthdays, to get fit through mountain biking, rogaining or to just simply relax.

Events and functions in the Darwin Region

Casuarina Coastal Reserve and Charles Darwin National Park hosted 12 weddings during this year with the Botanic Gardens hosting 143 functions including 82 weddings, parties or celebrations. Parks and reserves around Darwin hosted:

- Top End Orienteers – Top End School Championships.
- Rogaining event.
- Darwin Off Road Cycling – 100km race and a six hour Enduro.
- Darwin Triathlon Club – two Duathlons.
- US Marine hovercraft landings – Talisman Sabre - Lee Point.

Mountain bikers various parks and reserves



The Botanic Gardens hosted 13 special events including the Teddy Bears Picnic, Territory Made Markets, the Friends of the Darwin Botanic gardens Plant Sale and the Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand 2016 Open Day. Completion of 500 metres of bitumen pathways in the Cycad area of the Botanic Gardens complement these by producing pathways of a high standard to enable people with prams, in wheelchairs as well as walking and riding.

Litchfield National Park attracts a **diverse** range of events and activities including:

8 separate trips by four-wheel drive clubs associated with the MOU with a total of 42 vehicles.

More than **50** participants at an NT Orienteering Club event

First time Tabletop Marathon attracted **23** participants with projected interest for this year at more than 50 people.

NT Field Naturalists event attracted **26** participants.

12 participants at the Tabletop Mountain Bike Ride - Parks Week.

26 participants in the Ranger Bush Walk - Parks Week.

Events and functions in the Savannah-Gulf Region:

Approximately 70 people attended the Anzac Day memorial service this year at Munbililla Campground, including the members of the Navy and Air Force.

Judbarra/Gregory National Park hosted a section of the route for the 2015 Landrover Discovery Tour of the Australian Outback showcasing the Park to a mixed group of journalists and competition winners.

Events and functions in the Alice Springs Region:

The first Run Larapinta commercial trail run experience was held on sections of the Larapinta Trail by Rapid Ascent and is likely to develop into a significant annual event.

The walking tracks around the Telegraph Station continue to support school and community group cross country running events. This included the development of a school orienteering course and the use of sealed roads for cycling club events. These improvements have seen a growing visitor base. The picnic area is now very popular for larger functions including the APEX Club Great Easter Egg Hunt, book launches and concerts. Community groups such as the heart foundation are using the tracks and trails for fitness and health programs including a local instructor conducting yoga lessons on park.

With the mountain ranges in the background, the Alice Springs Desert Park is popular for weddings, catered functions including gala dinners and international business conferences. The Desert Park holds an annual Red Centre Bird Festival attracting a wide range of visitors and stall holders alike.

Alice Springs Desert Park wedding.



NEW EXPERIENCES IN PARKS

Walk in the Park Program

The Commission has continued with the popular Walk in the Park Program. This series of fun, free and first time hiker friendly activities give participants the chance to accompany a ranger to explore tracks and trails in national parks and reserves with like-minded people. This year the walks took participants on some of the amazing tracks and trails around Nitmiluk National Park and Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park, Trephina Gorge Nature Park and the Alice Springs Telegraph Station.

Territory Parks Alive Program

The Territory Parks Alive program provides a range of different interpretive and awareness-raising experiences for visitors in parks and reserves throughout the Northern Territory. This program is a good opportunity to showcase parks while also increasing community knowledge, appreciation, support and advocacy for parks and reserves. The program continues to evolve and grow in popularity each year and in 2015-16, over 450 Territory Parks Alive activities were conducted with a reach of over 11 000 participants.

Hunting

Hunting is an enjoyable pastime for many Territorians and generates tourism with interstate and international hunters taking advantage of an annual waterfowl season in our wetlands as well as year round hunting of feral pigs.

Hunting organisations have provided valuable assistance to the Commission with pest management over many years in Litchfield National Park, Black Jungle Conservation Reserve, Mary River National Park and Judbarra / Gregory National Park.

The Australian Pig Doggers and Hunters Association and Australian Bowhunters Association NT have been issued permits for pig hunting in Litchfield, Mary River, Black Jungle, and Limmen National Parks and further opportunities are being investigated for Elsey National Park and Manton Dam.

These initiatives have been coupled with the introduction of a new five year hunting permit in 2015, which focused on streamlining the application process for all hunters.

Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve hunting area has been expanded to provide additional areas for waterfowl hunting in the 2016 hunting season and the creation of improved safety buffer zones for adjacent land holders, while improvements are being made to Harrison Dam and Shoal Bay to enhance the experience at these locations. The Commission is working with Joint Management partners and NT Field and Game Association to undertake works at Lambells Lagoon and Harrison Dam to upgrade levee banks and install sluice gates to harvest water and create further waterfowl recreational hunting opportunities.

Priorities 2016-17: *The Commission is in the process of developing an NT Hunting Mate 'app' that will deliver immediate and targeted information to local and visiting hunters about the waterfowl season, hunting zones, species identification and bag limits. It aims to promote public responsibility, safety and stewardship in the utilisation of wildlife for recreational hunting and connect people to the Territory's unique environment.*

New experiences in the Darwin Region:

The Territory Wildlife Park is the only place in the world where you can view the Nabarlek, (*Petrogale concinna*) and the endangered Tiwi Masked Owls (*Tyto novaehollandiae melvillensis*) which were unveiled this year. It is also the only place to have successfully bred the owl in captivity. Also at the Wildlife Park, visitors are now able to have a personal encounter and feed native animals such as sugar gliders and a tawny frogmouth in a new “wild encounters” experience.



Nabarlek



Tiwi Masked Owl

The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens have provided new experiences for visitors such as the introduction of monthly film nights, ‘Moonlight Movies’, during the Dry season aimed at providing family entertainment in a unique outdoor destination and Playtime in the Gardens activities for young children that runs fortnightly during the Dry season on Wednesday mornings. It attracts parents and young children to engage in safe unstructured play activities within the Garden’s Playground.

The monthly Territory Made Markets continue to draw thousands of people for a fun filled Sunday at the Gardens. The School Holiday Fun program runs twice a year during the April and October school holidays when it attracts around 3000 participants over two days of activities.

Priorities 2016-17: A significant development for the Howard Springs Nature Park, known as Trees Adventure, has recently been granted an Exceptional Development Permit to establish a high ropes adventure course where participants explore the rainforest canopy by undertaking a series of challenges strung high in the tree tops. At the Territory Wildlife Park, a community arts collaborative partnership project with Tactile Arts is underway. Referred to as Crocheted Reef Project, a future Artist-In-The-Park exhibition is planned for the Tactile Arts 2017 program.

Community Collaboration for Conservation, coral pylon project



New experiences in the Savannah-Gulf Region:

A new fishing experience is now on offer in the Victoria River with a helifishing tour operation now established within and adjacent to the gorge system of the Victoria River.

New experiences in the Central Australian Region:

A new initiative in Tennant Creek is now on offer to encourage locals to get outside and notice and learn more about the environment around them. Participants received a Nature Diary, monthly emails and are encouraged to join an online observation sharing site. Participants collect and submit observations online through Bowerbird.com on the project 'Tennant Creek Wildlife'. Regular ranger led activities encourage activity with over 50 people attending the most recent spotlight walk.

At the Alice Springs Desert Park, visitors can take an evening tour of the Mulga Walk and learn about conservation. The area contains six species from the IUCN Threatened Species listing for the NT with five of the six having bred. The six species are: Golden Bandicoots (*Isoodon auratus*), Greater-Stick Nest Rats, Brush-Tailed Bettongs (*Bettongia penicillata*), Burrowing Bettongs (*Bettongia lesueur*), Mala and Spectacled Hare Wallabies (*Lagorchestes conspicillatus*). Numbats (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) are also on display at the Desert Park for the first time in nine years, in an indoor temperature controlled display with improved visibility.



Mala

At the Desert Park, a new Carpet Python (*Morelia bredli*) enclosure has been constructed which houses two Central Australian Carpet Pythons. This species is only found in a small area around Alice Springs. They are one of the most spectacular of Australia's pythons and are beautifully displayed in a 'rock gorge' like display within the Desert Park's nocturnal complex.

Brush-Tailed Bettongs are extinct in the wild within the NT. Two males and a female have been released within the public area of the Park to enhance the visitor experience and assist in educating the public about conservation of threatened and endangered wildlife.

In an Australian-first, a new tourism display using the latest 'mist holographic technology' was completed and will tell the story of the Northern Territory's key role in one of the great engineering feats of the 19th century. The construction of the Australian Overland Telegraph Line in 1870 from Port Augusta, South Australia to Darwin connected Australia to the rest of the world. The new hologram display will celebrate our pioneering spirit and bring to life the little-known stories of some of the people who were involved in this significant milestone in Australia's history. The hologram display showcases characters involved in the project; John McDouall Stuart – the Explorer (1862); Laurence Wallace – the Morsecodian; Ah Hong – Chinese labourer on the Overland Telegraph line, cook and eat-house owner in Alice Springs (1950) and Doris Bradshaw – daughter of the fifth Officer in Charge of the Alice Springs Telegraph Station (1908).



John McDouall Stuart mist holographic

A new initiative at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve was an Open Day and Markets in April 2016 as part of the National Trust's Heritage Week. Visitors enjoyed a variety of stallholders and community organisations displays such as the Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, St Johns and the Australian Plant Society. Between 2000 and 2500 locals, tourists, young and old, enjoyed the family fun activities and market atmosphere in the Telegraph Station's historic atmosphere. Art and craft displays were on offer such as lacemaking, blacksmithing and rug making. Members of the Morsecodian Fraternity brought the old Telegraph Station post office alive by sending morsecode messages from visitors in Alice Springs to the Sydney Powerhouse that were then posted on to family and friends as a Telegram throughout the world. One of the stallholders commented

"Please hold this event more often if possible, as it's a wonderful family setting - I heard a lot of parents commenting how much they learnt. Just the whole atmosphere is great"



Visitors to the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve

Rangers at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve



CASE STUDY: BACK COUNTRY HUNTING

Since 2013, the Commission has been collaborating with Northern Territory hunting groups to investigate more opportunities for hunting on parks and reserves. One action was to investigate a back country hunting model that would allow hunting under permit on specified areas managed by the Commission.

A Back Country Hunting Accreditation Course Handbook has been developed to provide hunters with information to assist them to hunt legally and responsibly on Public Land. The handbook forms the basis of the accreditation and training required to become an Accredited Hunting Organisation (AHO) to train its members so back country hunting permits can be issued to authorised members. This system will ensure that hunters abide by the AHO code of conduct and the AHO is responsible for ensuring its members abide by the conditions. Visitor, public and hunter safety is paramount and the back country hunting areas are carefully selected to ensure the locations are not in or near public or visitor areas and do not conflict with any other hunting areas that have been identified for specific hunting activities.

The Commission will regularly audit the AHOs

and the training and assessment it provides to its members to ensure a high level safe hunting practices, animal welfare, ethics and conservation, disease surveillance, bushcraft and survival skills, game welfare and the safe use of hunting equipment is being applied on land under the care, control and management of the Commission.

This approach benefits AHOs and its members who are properly trained and hunt responsibly by providing exclusive access to new areas and the ability to explore more parks. The Commission will benefit by a reduction in feral animals and the provision of information and intelligence about people or groups that are hunting without an approved back country permit.

Feral animal species that may be hunted under a back country hunting permit include pigs, cleanskin cattle, donkeys, buffalo, cats and dogs (not including dingo). Under no circumstances is any accredited hunter permitted to kill any animal that is branded, has an ear tag or has any other unique identifier.

The process should be finalised in 2016-17 with the initial pilot back country hunting area identified on Litchfield National Park.

USING PARKS FOR EDUCATION

The provision of inspirational and educational experiences for children in particular, builds the foundations for a lifelong connection to parks.

Junior Ranger Program

This annual Junior Ranger Program provides an opportunity for Northern Territory children aged 9-12 years and their family to participate in hands-on activities such as identifying animal tracks and weeds, using maps, spotlighting, bird watching, nature craft, exploring Indigenous culture and quiz nights. Whilst having fun, children develop skills, knowledge and understanding about environmental awareness and protection of our natural assets.

The 2015-16 Junior Ranger program was delivered in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs catering for around 90 children and their families.



Junior Ranger

Highlights for the 2015-16 Junior Ranger members include:

- Being involved in Citizen Science projects such as the National School of Ants program;
- Exploring parks and reserves like Nitmiluk National Park and Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Reserve, Trepahina Gorge Nature Park and Charles Darwin National Park;
- Learning about fire and how rangers use it to manage parks and reserves;
- Gaining important field skills such as how to use binoculars, compasses and how to read maps;
- Meeting with traditional owners to share stories, learn about Indigenous plant use and joint management;

- Having the opportunity to camp under the stars and cook on a campfire, with some families experiencing this for the first time through the Junior Ranger program; and

In Katherine, the current Junior Ranger Program enrolment stands at around 30% Indigenous participants or 11 of 32 people. A junior ranger style program is also being run in partnership with the Stars Program at Katherine High for Year 8 Indigenous girls.

Environmental Campground

The Environmental Campground in Litchfield National Park hosted 22 school based groups with a total of 654 children and 156 adults. Rangers delivered six talks to the groups by request.



Junior Ranger bird watching

CASE STUDY: TURTLE RELEASES

Marine turtles in Australia are listed threatened species and are vulnerable to many threatening process including ghostnets, entanglement in fishing gear, marine debris, habitat loss, boat strike and feral animal predation. Darwin is one of the few capital cities in the world to have marine turtles nest on its city beaches and we are the only capital city in the world to have the Flatback Turtle (*Natator depressus*), nest on along its shores.

There are seven species of marine turtles in the world, six of these species occur in Australian waters and five of these species are known to nest on the sandy beaches of the NT; Flatback Turtle, Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and the Olive Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).

In Casuarina Coastal Reserve, Commission rangers conduct a turtle relocation, monitoring and release program to make sure the eggs hatch safely and the young make it to the water.

To coincide with this program, the Commission offers a free educational turtle release activity to members of the public. The activity is incredibly popular and a well-received community activity with comments on Facebook including

"So glad I get to see and witness this earlier this year great experience' and 'Was fantastic experience NT Parks and wildlife!! Thanks !!!"

It not only educates the public on the importance of our coasts but also shares ideas on how to best live with and coexist with our wildlife.

The activity is conducted in three parts:

- 1 a ranger presents a short educational talk on marine turtles;
- 2 hatchlings are released and escorted safely to the water; and
- 3 a few hatchlings are kept aside for visitors to hold a baby turtle and take a photo before these hatchlings are also released.

The turtle release activity is also part of the annual Territory Parks Alive guided walks and talks, and built into the popular Darwin Junior Ranger program. Since records started in 2002, there have been about 69 releases reaching over 10 000 people.



Hatchling Flatback Turtle

Interpretation

Ensuring park visitors gain an understanding of the environment, an appreciation of the Territory's cultural history and at the same time having a safe and enjoyable experience is a key function of the Visitor Communications Unit within the Commission. The highlights of 2015-16 include development of a full suite of interpretation and trail signage at Tjaetaba Falls in Litchfield National Park, static displays located at Nathan River in Limmen National Park interpreting the cultural and pastoral history of the Gulf country and orientation and signage at the new welcome shelter in Watarrka National Park.

In the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, \$25 000 was invested in the development and placement of interpretive signage for the new African Madagascan Garden so visitors could learn about the different Boab trees from around the world.

MORE PEOPLE VISITING PARKS AND RESERVES

2015 Show Circuit

The Show Circuit during July 2015 was well received by the public, with the Commission's displays well attended at all regional centres from Alice Springs up the Stuart Highway to Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin, attracting over 13 200 visitors. A great effort by all involved.

The Commission won Third prize in the 'Government' category at the Royal Darwin Show

Commission staff participated in and co-ordinated a variety of events including information stalls, community activities on parks, school presentations and show displays across the Northern Territory.

The Commission had a presence at regional shows in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Borroloola, Darwin and Freds Pass. A number of key community events were attended across the Territory including the Barunga Festival near Katherine, the EcoFair in Alice Springs and Splashfest in Darwin. Highlights included a Commission display at the Crocosaurus Cove open day, Crocodylus Park open day, Territory Natural Resource Management Conference and the Darwin 4WD, Boating and Outback Camping Expo and the Defence Welcome Expo. 'Be Crocwise' was showcased at a number of expos and trade fairs across the Top End delivering crocodile awareness and safety messages to the community. A highlight for 2015-16 was an extended trip into Arnhem Land where 52 'Be Crocwise' presentations were given to 1500 students.

GROWING SUSTAINABLE NATURE AND CULTURE-BASED TOURISM

With over 3 million visits to parks and reserves managed by the Commission, nature and cultural based tourism makes a significant contribution to the Territory's economy. To meet the growing needs of visitors, the Commission seeks partnerships with private and Indigenous businesses to develop visitor experiences whilst ensuring that the natural and cultural values of parks are protected and managed for future generations.

Economic benefits for Indigenous people

The Commission is dedicated to ensuring that park management contributes to broader economic benefits for Indigenous people. Late in 2014, the Commission advertised an Expression of Interest (EOI) for commercial tourism development across the estate. A number of submissions were received from Indigenous enterprises wishing to establish tourism businesses on park. The submissions were assessed by a panel of experts and throughout 2015-16 a number of these businesses have come to fruition. In particular, the establishment of the Arnhem Land Coastal Camp within Garig Gunak Barlu National Park provides for high end fishing and hunting safaris. The business is Indigenous owned and operated by local traditional Aboriginal owners.

2015-16 also saw local Katherine business, Nitmiluk Tours, take over the management and operation of the cave tours at Cutta Cutta Caves. Nitmiluk Tours is 100% owned by the Jawoyn Aboriginal Corporation and is a flagship tourism product in the Katherine region. Nitmiluk Tours also successfully operate boat cruises and canoeing on Nitmiluk Gorge as well as the caravan park, visitor information centre, helicopter scenic flights and the luxurious Cicada Lodge, all within Nitmiluk National Park.

Priorities 2016-17: *A number of other Indigenous enterprises are still working their way through the EOI process as issues such as native title and sacred site clearances are resolved. It is expected that 2016-17 will see at least another three Indigenous tourism enterprises begin operations within the parks estate.*

Nitmiluk Tours take over the management and operation of the cave tours at Cutta Cutta Caves.



Private partnerships

Parks provide the perfect platform for commercial and tourism development. The number of tour operator permits and concessions operating on park this year was 159 with seven commencing for the first time during this financial year. It is expected this number will increase next year as projects come online from the 2014 Expression of Interest for commercial tourism development within parks and reserves.

Throughout 2015-16, some 20 commercial tourism developments have progressed as a result of a Territory-wide EOI process. These include exclusive touring concessions, camping area leases, events on parks and a number of food and beverage concessions.

A second EOI process was conducted specifically for the Territory Wildlife Park, where a number of concessions including an in-house photography facility and a helicopter shuttle service have been approved.

2015 saw the introduction of an on-line booking system for the Jatbula Trail in Nitmiluk National Park. The booking system allows walkers to book and pay in real time on one of the Top End's most sought after walks. The system provides a streamlined interface between Free Independent Travellers, Commercial Tour Operators and the Commission.

Queensland based aviation company, Nautilus Aviation, has been granted a 10 year concession to operate scenic flights from Charles Darwin National Park on the outskirts of Darwin

city. Nautilus Aviation has many years of experience within the tourism industry and a significant number of contacts within the tourism distribution sector allowing them to 'hit the ground running' in terms of providing product and services to the tourism industry.

A local operator from Woolner Station, bordering Mary River National Park, has also been granted a licence to provide airboat tours to clients of the Wildman River Wilderness Lodge throughout the Mary River National Park wetlands. The airboat tours offer a different perspective of the wetlands by allowing patrons to access areas of the Park once considered inaccessible.

Several other helicopter operators have also been granted licences to provide scenic flights in remote parts of the Territory including Limmen and Judbarra / Gregory National Parks.

Five main commercial tour operators are now operating tours on the Larapinta Trail and all reported exceptional numbers for the 2015 walking season.

Priorities 2016-17: *Further progression on a number of Indigenous enterprises on jointly managed parks as well as a tree top canopy adventure in Howard Springs Nature Park.*

EXPERIENCES

In 2015-16, \$33.37 million was allocated to maintain and upgrade facilities and infrastructure in parks and reserves. This is made up of approximately \$28.37 million to upgrade and develop new infrastructure under the Capital Works Program and \$5 million for repairs and maintenance of existing assets.

Major infrastructure work

Major improvements include over \$20 million allocated to enhance visitor experiences at Litchfield National Park and Casuarina Coastal Reserve. Such works are critical for catering to an increasing population, promoting the Territory as a significant tourism destination, and

supporting the Territory lifestyle that so many families have come to enjoy.

This year saw significant infrastructure development in Casuarina Coastal Reserve, which is enjoyed by a large number of local Territorians and visitors for recreation, exercise and social activities on a day-to-day basis.

The whole project was allocated \$10.68 million and when finished, will create a diverse range of recreation opportunities for visitors through the development and upgrade of facilities as identified in the Casuarina Coastal Reserve Experience Development Plan.

Major improvements include:

- a new day use area and picnic facilities at the Dripstone Cliffs;
- moving the car park at Dripstone Cliffs to provide visitors with a better view of the sunset and improving drainage at the same site;
- a new toilet block, shelters and furniture upgrades at Dripstone Park;
- at Buffalo Creek, additional car and trailer parking and security lighting and CCTV;
- a new picnic area at Rapid Creek, including toilet block, dog wash area, sealed road, and the rehabilitation of beach access and off-road tracks;
- upgrades to furniture, a public art installation, and a new mountain bike track at Lee Point; and
- upgraded tracks and paths throughout the Reserve.

Litchfield National Park is a visually spectacular landscape that is rich in culture, flora and fauna. It is renowned for spectacular waterfalls, safe swimming areas and opportunities to experience the rugged landscapes of the Top End, as well as being recognised as a premier conservation reserve for its high biodiversity values and large number of species of conservation significance. Facilities and infrastructure in the Park were struggling to meet increased demand due to its rising popularity. Therefore, \$10.43 million was invested to increase the number of visitor sites to be enjoyed by locals, interstate and international visitors.

Major improvements include:

- redesigning the Buley Rockhole area with an expanded car park and day use area;
- upgrading parking and access roads and adding more camp sites at Florence Falls;
- redesigning Tjaynera Falls / Sandy Creek campground with additional campsites and a new toilet block;
- a new boardwalk and upgrades to the existing boardwalk at the termite mounds attraction and a new toilet block; and
- improvements to Tolmer Falls with a new toilet block, a new multipurpose picnic and function area and a refurbished viewing platform.



Dripstone Cliffs, Casuarina Coastal Reserve



Dripstone Cliffs, Casuarina Coastal Reserve



Dripstone Cliffs, Casuarina Coastal Reserve



Florence Falls, Litchfield National Park



Minor New Works George Brown Darwin Botanic Garden toilet block.

In addition to these two significant projects, \$2.5 million was invested in Alice Springs to improve the connectivity of cycle and walking tracks through the Capital Works Program and \$4.76 million in Minor New Works projects. Also in Alice Springs, primary paths within the Desert Park were improved to enhance the aesthetics of the park and allow easy, safe and clear access for all visitors. A shade structure within the courtyard was constructed which enables functions and events under shelter to be held and also provides comfort to patrons utilising the café in an outdoor setting. The Desert Park has now refreshed interpretive signage throughout, which is integral to the Park's branding. It has added a refreshing new element to the experience.

Some of the key Minor New Works infrastructure developments this year include:

- a new iconic visitor information shelter and improvements to the Kings Canyon Rim Walk in Watarrka National Park;
- Larapinta Trail Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park campsite upgrades with new shelters and toilets;
- upgrades to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens with a new toilet block with disabled access, continued upgrades to roads and paths and a new carpark;
- new walking track bridges and track improvements at Cascades Falls in Litchfield National Park;
- approximately 400m of mountain bike track repaired in Central Australia trialling the use of polymers;
- improvements to the Howard Spring Nature Park Rainforest Walk and a new large shelter for functions;
- improved access and visitor amenity at the Elsey National Park Hot Springs including extension of stone paving, and stabilisation of the banks;
- new campground facilities on the Nitmiluk National Park Jatbula Trail; and
- upgrades to key hunting reserve areas including installation of sluice gates to manage water levels at Harrison Dam and Lambells Lagoon and improvements to the access track to the Shoal Bay Conservation Reserve.

Over \$5 million was spent on Repairs and Maintenance which enable the Commission to service and repair the vast array of infrastructure located within parks. The maintenance of facilities, buildings, services, walking tracks, and viewing platforms in parks and reserves ensures Territorians and visitors can continue to safely enjoy their visits to parks and reserves.

	2015-16 Budget
	'000
Repairs and Maintenance Program	5 004
Capital Works Program	28 366
Revoted Minor New Works	668
New Minor New Works	4 088
Alice Springs Connectivity Project	2 500
Litchfield National Park Experience Development Plan	10 430
Casuarina Coastal Reserve Experience Development Plan	10 680
Total	33 370

	2016-17 Budget
	'000
Repairs and Maintenance	6 002
Total Capital Works	30 252
Revoted Minor New Works	297
New Minor New Works	4 459
Alice Springs Connectivity Project	(revote) 186
Litchfield National Park Experience Development Plan	(revote) 1 930
Casuarina Coastal Reserve Experience Development Plan	(revote) 3 380
Skywalk adventure experience	20 000
Total	36 254

Priorities 2016-17: Over \$30.2 million has been allocated for the Capital Works program to develop and upgrade facilities and infrastructure in 2016-17.

\$20 million is allocated to construct sky walks or aerial platforms within parks, with one for Nitmiluk National Park currently being considered. A skywalk at Nitmiluk National Park would be a great way for visitors to enjoy the splendour of the Gorge and help traditional owners to share their country and stories more widely. The development could also have the benefit of increasing visitor numbers in the Wet season, providing spectacular viewing when the Katherine River is flowing fast and the waterfalls are cascading. Aerial walks have been built in Western Australia and Queensland, and internationally at Jasper National Park in Canada and the Grand Canyon in the USA.

\$5.5 million is allocated to complete capital works projects commenced in 2015-16 including the Litchfield National Park and Casuarina Coastal Reserve Experience Development Plans, and the Alice Springs Connectivity Project.

Over \$4.7 million is allocated to the 2016-17 Minor New Works (MNW) Program and \$6 million has been approved for the 2016-17 Repairs and Maintenance Program. At Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve the 2016-17 MNW program will deliver a new carpark, walking tracks, interpretative shelters and signage and campground improvements including upgrading of the toilet and new barrier fencing.

VISITOR SAFETY

Visitor safety is of paramount importance. Unfortunately, June 2014 saw the tragic death of young English tourist Zoe Woolmer, after a fall at Watarrka National Park. Following this accident, the Commission developed a six point safety plan for implementation at Watarrka National Park. The Commission will work with the tourism industry during the introduction of a Tour Guide induction program that focusses on safe practices in parks and reserves. To further prevent unsafe practices on park, the Commission is seeking to remove images depicting or promoting unsafe behaviours on websites or social media at any park or reserve across the Territory.

Also, in Central Australia a major new iconic shelter will be constructed at the Kings Canyon carpark which has had significant input from the joint management committee. The aim of the redevelopment is to more effectively deliver key visitor safety messages and to manage visitor flow in the area.

Since the coronial findings into the 2014 deaths of Scott and Tran were handed down in 2015, the Commission has incorporated two new key messages into all of its 'Be Crocwise' material being:

1 THE SMALLER THE BOAT, THE GREATER THE RISK; AND

2 CROCODILES WILL SEE YOU BEFORE YOU SEE THEM.

The Commission has also focused on Be Crocwise initiatives that better reach recreational fishers and boat users in the Top End. These include:

- The 10 week 'Be Crocwise' 'Have you Caught On' social media campaign run through the Parks and Wildlife Commission Facebook page;
- 'Be Crocwise' messaging incorporated into the Tourism NT Million Dollar Fish promotion, every registered participant received 'Be Crocwise' information;
- The Commission has co-produced an information sheet 'Be Crocwise' when fishing and boating in the Top End' with the Amateur Fishing Association of the Northern Territory

(AFANT) and Kakadu National Park. 3000 copies were printed and it also available to the public online through NT.GOV.AU; and

- 'Be Crocwise' messaging has also been included the AFANT monthly members newsletters.

The Commission has worked with the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries to include Be Crocwise messaging into a recent upgrade of boat ramp signage in the Mary River National Park, including the two key messages originating from the coronial findings.

In Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park, construction of two new Larapinta Trail shelters have been completed, including the installation of a telemetry system to remotely monitor water tank levels. Walking track upgrades have also been completed on the Ghost Gum Walk (Ormiston Gorge), and at several locations on section three, four and 10 of the Larapinta Trail. In the East Macdonnell Ranges, walking track upgrades have been undertaken at Trephina Gorge Nature Park with erosion control works and stone stairs improving visitor safety as well as providing a natural appearance to the walk. Stone stairs installed at John Hayes Campground now provide campers with safer and easier access to toilets.

Asbestos has been an ongoing issue at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens after Cyclone Tracy caused havoc in the city in 1974. The Botanic Gardens was one of the sites where the rubble of Darwin was buried. This year saw the completion of the 2000m² Green Waste Storage area, allowing safe storage of vegetative waste in an area once subject to asbestos contamination. Also this year saw the completion of over two hectares of asbestos remediation works including new garden beds, new grassed areas and pathways capping contaminated soils.

Priorities 2016-17: At the Territory Wildlife Park, a new LED lighting system will be installed in the Nocturnal House with the potential to save over 50% of the power currently being consumed using the existing systems and provide additional lighting to visitors, improving their safety.

INNOVATION

Visitor Monitoring

Visitor monitoring is an important function of the Commission to accurately pinpoint where bottlenecks and overuse are occurring, in turn, informs where future capital works programs may be deployed. Visitor monitoring is also important for prospective investors who may be considering investing in enterprises operating within parks. To improve accuracy and gain efficiencies, a new Visitor Monitoring Database has been developed which allows the ongoing recording and easy retrieval of visitor statistics across the 20 most visited parks in the Territory.

Data collection

2015-16 has seen the development of a mobile data capture solution for the Parks and Wildlife Commission. This solution includes the design of specific CyberTracker sequences tailored to the Commission's needs which will be loaded onto Garmin Monterra mobile devices. The project is in the final stages of testing and will ultimately provide park rangers with a more efficient digital data capture solution ensuring spatial data standards are adhered to and data is captured consistently across Northern Territory parks. The final product will be rolled out across the parks estate in 2016-17.

PROTECTING NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS IN PARKS AND RESERVES

In 2015, the Gulf ranger team successfully completed an Aboriginal rock-art and cultural site protection project in Limmen National Park with support from the McArthur River Mine's Community Benefits Trust. Participants in the project carried out extensive site recording, environmental protection and interpretation works at 36 rock-art and other culturally significant sites within Limmen National Park. Key project outcomes were increased cultural management activities, employment and training for 10 local Aboriginal people, a strengthening of cultural ties with the country, transmittance of cultural knowledge about cultural sites to younger generations of Aboriginal people and increased collaborative relationships between Aboriginal land owners, managers and park rangers.

The project would not have been successful without the knowledge, commitment and support of the senior and junior Alawa, Marra and Gudanji Aboriginal people who participated in, and guided the project.

In recognition of the positive results achieved in the project, the Gulf ranger team were presented with the Partnership and Diversity Award at the NT Ranger Awards ceremony held in Alice Springs in June 2016.

The Commission was successful for a further grant from the McArthur River Mine's Community Benefits Trust to continue and expand the project in 2016-17.

Also in the Savannah-Gulf area, a new interpretation display outlining the environmental and cultural values of the park has been installed within the historic Nathan River Homestead. This has enhanced the quality of experience for visitors to the park. The rangers at Caranbarini Conservation Reserve consulted with traditional owners in regard to the cultural heritage management of the reserve, particularly in regard to visitor impacts on culturally important sites. At Barranyi National Park, rangers commenced discussions with the local Li-Anthawirriyarra Sea Ranger Group to explore opportunities for collaboration in natural heritage management programs.

In Central Australia, art site protection was requested by the Joint Management Committee and has now occurred at Trephina Gorge with fencing installed to prevent people from interfering with the art. Climbing is also now prohibited within Trephina Gorge Nature Park and relevant agencies have been notified. A fence has also been installed around Corroboree Rock to discourage park visitors from climbing the sacred rock.



Limmen National Park rock art project

GOAL 3 Strong Partnerships

VALUING VOLUNTEERS

The contribution made by volunteers is crucial to the Commission being able to manage parks and reserves across the Territory. The Commission conducted a six month scoping study aimed at evaluating current volunteer management practices. The study found that volunteering provides obvious opportunities to help build community knowledge and support for the work of the Commission, diversify the available skills base, complement the work of paid staff and broaden communication channels. The most recent volunteer figures suggest

that volunteering currently contributes close to 7000 hours work to the agency per annum. A key recommendation from the report was the recruitment of a designated volunteer coordinator position to be which will be realised in 2016-17 to manage volunteers within the organisation into the future.

There are too many valued and important volunteers to mention in this report but the Commission acknowledges and appreciates all the hard work they contribute.

INVOLVING OUR COMMUNITY

The Commission acknowledges and appreciates the dedication and input from the community to make our parks and reserves strong and valued. Each year, individuals, groups, educational institutions, 'friends of' groups, partner organisations and many others provide invaluable support to the Commission by dedicating their time to improve parks and reserves.

Community involvement in the Darwin Region:

The Territory Wildlife Park has strong engagement with the broader Darwin community through regular activities for local volunteers with the Community Involvement Day Program and facilitation of hands-on learning for students from Berry Springs Primary School, Sattler Christian School and Conservation and Land Management students from Charles Darwin University, plus continuing to host work experience placements for secondary and tertiary students. The Wildlife Park hosted a wide variety of volunteers and groups including Scouts, Girl Guides, Rustic Pathways, Police Cadets, the Australian Navy (a local Patrol Boat team as well as American naval personnel), the US Marine Rotational Force in Darwin and also continues to host the Darwin Correctional Services and Ironbark work crews on a regular basis.

Community involvement in the Savannah-Gulf Region:

Rangers in this region participated in activities in the Roper River Landcare Group, McArthur River and Victoria River District Landcare groups. They also participated in National Heritage Trust open day at Borroloola Police Museum and Borroloola Careers Day.

Judbarra / Gregory National Park staff have invited the Timber Creek Indigenous Ranger Group to include Commission activities in work plans and programs. Plans are being developed to undertake activities on park such as fire management and biodiversity surveys.

Community involvement in the Central Australian Region:

Commission rangers threw their support behind the Hermannsburg community's stand against domestic violence by participating in their White Ribbon Day March in November 2015. The march was attended by local traditional owners and community members, Ntaria, Areyonga and Wallace Rockhole schools, Tjuwanpa Rangers, Territory Police, the Norforce Infantry Regiment and the Finke River Mission.

'Friends of', advisory and other groups

The Commission well recognises that it cannot achieve its outcomes without the invaluable assistance of its friends, advisory groups and other non-government land management groups who share the passion and love of the Territory's parks and reserves.

The Commission values its partnership with the Friends of Fogg Dam. These dedicated people strive to promote, protect and enhance the ecological, cultural and aesthetic values of Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve and assists visitors to enjoy, understand and appreciate the unique

environment. The Friends of Fogg Dam secure funding to assist the Commission undertake weed control and contributes to purchasing key operational equipment. Its members work alongside park rangers on planned activities on the park. This year, nearly 100 hours of their valuable time was volunteered to control Olive hymenachne and working bees. This work is not always clean and is sometimes carried out in difficult conditions. Our Friends never complain and look forward to scheduling in the next activity. The improvement in the reduction of weeds and the amount of weed free water is a credit to everyone.



Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve

The Casuarina Landcare Group undertakes valuable work contributing to an increase in biodiversity values in Casuarina Coastal Reserve. The Landcare Group schedule rehabilitation projects such as native vegetation planting, undertake fire control and weed management, providing the Commission with extra pairs of hands to contribute to the overall management of the reserve and protect areas for important native plants and animals. In May 2016, the Casuarina Landcare Group worked in partnership with rangers to carry out a controlled burn to protect rehabilitation sites.

Four Wheel Drive NT is the peak organisation representing four wheel drive clubs in the Northern Territory. The Commission is proud to work closely with Four Wheel Drive NT and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to benefit both organisations. For the organisation's members, it provides greater access to four wheel drive tracks allowing them to bush camp and thereby reducing pressure on more popular campsites. For the Commission, Four Wheel Drive NT promotes conservation, ecologically sustainable visitor use as well as reporting regularly on environmental impacts, significant flora and fauna observations, weed management and other potential hazards. Our four wheel drive friends also undertake track maintenance improvements and are establishing driver awareness signage for four wheel drive track users; another example of working with the community.

The Commission works closely with the NT Field and Game Association (NTFGA) to ensure that hunting is supported and sustainable into the future. The Commission appreciates the assistance of the NTFGA in the work that they do on the hunting reserves. During this year they contributed over 200 hours controlling weeds, and installing and emptying bins at Harrison Dam.

The Friends of the Larapinta Trail reached 310 members in 2015 and their working bees contributed 57 volunteer hours on the Trail. This year saw a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the Friends of the Larapinta Trail. The MOU formalises a long relationship with the group with a commitment to meet twice a year to discuss the trail, future developments and plans. Under the arrangement, the Commission commits to processing the group's permits quickly whilst the 'friends of' group agree to undertake work that is consistent with park plans and strategies.

The Friends of the Alice Springs Desert Park volunteer their time in support of the Desert Park. They assist the Park in several ways including seed collection, management of the many Park functions, photography, delivering brochures and animal observation. They are particularly active in fund raising to provide equipment and programs that are normally outside the Park's reach.



4WD Club and park rangers - Mary River National Park

Friends of the Botanic Gardens in Darwin volunteer in many areas of the gardens. They aim to increase community awareness of the scientific, educational, horticultural, conservation and recreational functions of the gardens. They serve as a link between the Gardens and the community by encouraging the use and enjoyment of the Gardens by everyone. Through raising money to support projects in the Gardens, they also promote the objectives of the Gardens.

In Mary River National Park, the Humpty Doo Scouts and Four Wheel Drive NT partner with Commission rangers to maintain and open Hardies and Wildman four wheel drive tracks.

Joint management and partnering with Indigenous people

Joint management is a partnership between the Commission and the traditional owners of the park. Joint management is about the partners exchanging their knowledge and expertise, solving problems and sharing decisions. It is about achieving shared goals and aspirations, a richer visitor experience, protected natural and cultural values and opportunities for Indigenous people. Through partnerships, the interests of the wider Indigenous community and stakeholders can be realised.

The Commission was the gold sponsor of the 7th Indigenous Economic Development Forum held in Alice Springs in October 2015. 'Developing the North' was the theme of the Forum, which focussed on the growth of and access to development opportunities for Indigenous Territorians. The Forum attracted around 300 Indigenous and non-Indigenous delegates, and other dignitaries who have an impact on the emerging Indigenous business landscape.

Across the Commission estate there has been extensive collaboration, employment and opportunities for participation provided through initiatives such as Green Army, Community Development Program (CDP) and McArthur River Mine Community Benefit Trust Rock Art Project.

In Keep River National Park, the rangers have liaised with local traditional owners and stakeholders in relation to the use of local language place names in the park. In the Barkly region, rangers have been working with traditional owners to identify best weed and fire management strategies to ensure the protection of threatened flora and important plant communities within Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park from fire and weeds.

The Commission continued to work with Larrakia Nation ranger group by providing opportunities to bid for 'fee for service' contracts through the Repairs and Maintenance program. Larrakia Rangers also accessed external grants to engage in weed control and native plant regeneration works at Tree Point Conservation Area.

During 2015-16, the Commission:

- Provided **\$1.8 million** for lease payments to Aboriginal Lands Trusts for Aboriginal owned, jointly managed parks. These funds benefit Indigenous people in regional and remote areas.
- Allocated **\$120 000** to the Central Land Council to support joint management of parks and reserves.
- Allocated **\$120 000** to the Northern Land Council to support joint management of parks and reserves.
- **Continued to engage Aboriginal people as stakeholders in parks.**
- Supported Indigenous employment and training, providing **\$216 670** towards casual employment for 58 Indigenous people through the Flexible Employment Program.

GOAL 4 Living with wildlife

The Northern Territory has rich, diverse and abundant native wildlife. Animals such as the iconic Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*), Agile Wallaby (*Macropus agilis*) and the Little Red Flying Fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*) are found in large numbers, whilst others like the Oenpelli Python (*Morelia oenpelliensis*) and the Yellow Snouted Gecko (*Lucasium occultum*) are unique only to the Territory.

There are **25** venomous snake species found in the Territory, including the King Brown (*Pseudechis australis*) and Western Brown (*Pseudonaja nuchalis*).

Living with such diverse and abundant wildlife presents many challenges for the community and the Commission, to reduce both risk and harm, most notably from crocodiles and snakes, but to also protect valuable wildlife from over exploitation and illegal trade.

REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE

The Commission is responsible for administration of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* (excluding Part IV, Division 1 to 5) through a regulatory component of the Act which establishes offences for the unauthorised taking, interfering, possessing, exporting, importing or release of wildlife without the appropriate permissions. The offences apply to all protected wildlife, whether or not it is located on a park or reserve.

The Commission employs a gradational approach to all regulatory activity. Primarily, the Commission focuses on education and knowledge sharing including the provision of information on the web, through social media and during all face-to-face interactions with the community. The Commission further applies

standards and conditions through policy and procedures, so that the community is aware of their legal obligations and how to comply. Where non-compliance is identified, the Commission investigates and secures evidence, before determining the most proportionate response.

The Commission employs 17 staff whose primary focus is the implementation of the Act, as it relates to native wildlife. These functions include maintaining a regulatory system for the take and possession of animals and managing interactions between the community and wildlife. The Commission has 15 trained and experienced regulatory officers, known as Conservation Officers, whose role is to implement and enforce compliance specifically in relation to wildlife regulations.



Conservation Officer Tess Cooper

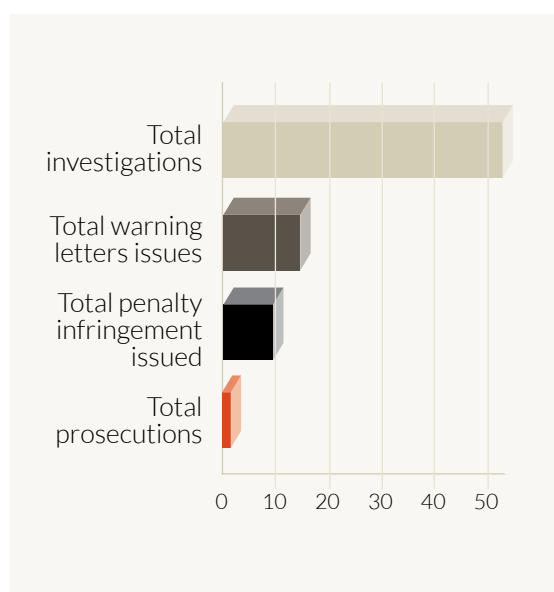
The Commission also played an integral role in the development of a Certificate III Level course 'Compliance Training for Indigenous Rangers'. The project was commissioned by the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon. Nigel Scullion MLA. The Commission experience in joint management and the strong use of compliance frameworks to look after country was a greatly valued contribution to the course. Eighteen Indigenous rangers from 15 different ranger groups, including Commission staff have already taken part and completed the course.

In 2015-16, the Commission introduced a new five year waterfowl hunting permit with the ability to apply on-line.

2370 waterfowl hunting permits were issued, which was a 9% increase on previous years. The vast majority of new applicants took up the five year permit option, thereby reducing red tape for the recreational hunting community.

Approximately **600** waterfowl hunters were checked for compliance against their permit conditions during the 2015 waterfowl hunting season. The Commission also conducted six waterfowl hunting patrols in conjunction with park rangers and NT Police and responded to complaints throughout the waterfowl hunting season.

In 2015-16 the Commission provided **18** staff in Alice Springs and Darwin, two internal refresher courses in basic law enforcement. The Commission also successfully prosecuted two cases for illegal take and possession.



The Commission also undertook a further: 72 investigations; issued 12 warning letters for keeping or taking wildlife without authorisation; issued six warning letters for waterfowl hunting breaches; issued 13 Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) for various wildlife offences; and issued two warning letters for breach of permit conditions.

Informing the public about native wildlife

In 2015-16, the Commission reviewed, updated and migrated all of its wildlife guidelines, policies and information into the new web-domain www.nt.gov.au. The Commission produces a wide range of information to keep the public informed about what to do with problem wildlife issues, such as possums in your roof and flying foxes in Katherine. There are also carer guidelines on how to look after sick and injured wildlife, like birds and bandicoots, and information on how to keep particular wildlife, such as crocodiles and spiders, as pets. A new 'Living with Peewees' poster was developed and distributed throughout the Darwin CBD to help raise awareness around nuisance bird strikes and brochures on snake identification were reviewed and updated.

Swooping Around

Name: Peewee, also known as Mudlark or Maggie Lark, *Grallina cyanoleuca*.

Behaviour: Peewees share our environment. Most Peewees are not aggressive towards people, however if they feel threatened, some may swoop to defend their families. This swooping usually stops once the chicks have left the nest.

Nesting: Main nesting season August – January.

How can I avoid being swooped?

- Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes.
- Take an alternative walking/cycling route.
- Do not give Peewees any reason to feel threatened. Walk by them normally. If you are cycling, wear a helmet and get off your bike near them to avoid an accident.
- Make a pair of 'eyes' to attach to the back of your hat or helmet (Peewees do not like being watched).

Swooping hotspots in Darwin include:

- Health House
- Ducks Nuts
- Deck Bar
- Parliament House

Peewees are a native Australian species and are protected in the Northern Territory.

Call Wildlife Operations, Darwin for more information 08 8995 5008

A new series of reporting mechanisms have also now gone live on the www.nt.gov.au domain, including how to report a problem crocodile, a wildlife crime or a snake.

In 2015-16, the Commission participated monthly in the Mix 104.9 community education talk back radio program and provided seven educational school talks, covering a broad range of native wildlife issues. Four Vocational Education and Training (VET) school based placements were also hosted and supported within the Wildlife Operations unit, providing school kids with an opportunity to learn about the Commission's wildlife program.

The Commission contributed to a workshop at Wadeye with the Thamarrurr Ranger Group, the Department of Land Resource Management, the Northern Land Council and NT Police to discuss crocodile management issues relating to trapping, harvesting and illegal hunting in the Fitzmaurice River.

The Commission hosted **five** turtle release talks at Casuarina Coastal Reserve, which were attended by over **200** enthusiastic wildlife loving members of the community. The Commission has commenced discussions with the Charles Darwin University to look at a partnership arrangement to continue to provide this opportunity for the public, whilst also supporting the University in becoming more involved in turtle rehabilitation and release.

BE CROCWISE



CROCODILE SAFETY

Saltwater crocodiles inhabit most waterways in the Top End of the Northern Territory and pose a serious risk to those people in the community that recreate or work in and around our waterways. The Commission has a dedicated crocodile management unit based in Darwin with five wildlife rangers who routinely bait, capture, remove and harpoon crocodiles from the Darwin Harbour and the surrounding rural areas. The unit also provides assistance, on request, to landholders and Indigenous ranger groups with problem crocodiles. An additional team of three wildlife rangers based in Katherine also undertake routine crocodile trapping to reduce risks for the Katherine community.

**246 SALTWATER CROCODILES
CAUGHT AND REMOVED ACROSS
THE TOP END IN 2015-16**

In 2015-16, the Commission caught and removed 246 saltwater crocodiles across the Top End. During this year, an additional six new aluminium crocodile traps were procured for deployment in throughout the Katherine and Darwin regions. Capital item funding also secured a new crocodile boat and trailer. The naming of the boat was opened to the public through a competition with the name "Sweetheart" announced at the 2015 Katherine Show by the Minister for Parks and Wildlife.

The Commission provided advice to the NT Coroner in relation to the 2014 deaths of Scott and Tran from crocodile attack. The Coroner acknowledged the significant efforts of the Commission to provide information to the public to reduce the risk of fatal crocodile attacks. The subsequent recommendations about boat sizes and the ability of crocodiles to remain largely unseen have now been introduced into the Commission's 'Be Crocwise' safety messages. In 2015-16, wildlife rangers also assisted NT Police in two search and retrieval operations for suspected crocodile attack and supported the annual Department of Land Resource Management crocodile population surveys. Rangers also provided support to various remote communities in crocodile capture and removal and assisted Indigenous communities, such as Jilkminggan Ranger Group, in establishing and maintaining problem crocodile trapping programs.

Additional advice was also provided to the Western Australia Department of Parks and Wildlife in the development of its Standard Operating Procedures for Crocodile Handling Techniques and to the Department of Land Resource Management in the development of the 2016 Saltwater Crocodile Management Program. Information and safety messaging was provided to residents and visitors camping at Batten Point for the King Ash Bay Easter Fishing Competition.

In 2015-16, the Commission sought legal advice on training non-Commission staff in the capture and handling of crocodiles and has now commenced discussions with the Charles Darwin University to develop and implement accredited training in the field of 'working with crocodiles'. Comprehensive risk-based assessment and review of crocodile management plans were undertaken and revised plans for Elsey and Nitmiluk National Parks were developed.

Aluminium crocodile traps were redesigned in 2015-16 to provide for a more flexible application and uniformity in hinge and gate designs and two new aluminium traps, using the new design, were procured. The crocodile management and Katherine marine vessels were upgraded and certified to comply with the new Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) safety standards. New life jackets and winches were purchased to assist in crocodile handling and work health safety standards.

During the first half of 2016, the sale of Commission caught crocodiles was successfully tendered and contracted to Porosus Pty Ltd. In 2015-16, the crocodile management unit hosted five separate media film crews seeking footage and stories from the Commission's crocodile management unit.

'Be Crocwise' Program

'Be Crocwise' is a campaign delivered by the Commission to educate people about crocodiles so the risk of attack is reduced. The Commission delivers the message at community events and to special interest groups, including fishing competitions, boat shows and festivals. In 2015-16, 'Be Crocwise' sessions have been delivered at 40 different community events, in the greater Darwin and Katherine region.

In the same period, close to 4000 students across the Top End have received a 'Be Crocwise' session in their school, including an intensive three week visit to Arnhem Land where 52 'Be Crocwise' talks were delivered to over 1500 students and 250 adults. The Commission visited communities including Ramingining, Milingimbi, Maningrida, Galiwinku and plan to visit Yarralin and Nganmarriyanga. A number of these presentations were jointly delivered in local languages with assistance from local Indigenous rangers. In February, a 'Be Crocwise in School' award was launched as part of the 2016 Keep Australia Beautiful Territory Tidy Towns initiative.



'Be Crocwise' visits Arnhem Land with the assistance of NT Police. Billy Williams (far right) is a Community Police Liaison Officer and spoke in his local Indigenous language as part of the Be Crocwise presentation.

A number of short 'Be Crocwise' videos have been posted through the Facebook page featuring various 'Be Crocwise' experts and wildlife rangers in the Top End. A targeted social media campaign, the 'Be Crocwise - Have you Caught On' campaign was run through the Commission's Facebook page to educate recreational fishers and boat users in the NT.

The Commission developed a 'Be Crocwise' animated video which was distributed on Facebook and Youtube, and screened at various events. The video has been translated into several local Indigenous languages. Highly cost effective, the message reached over half a million likes in the first month on Facebook alone. As a result, it was awarded the 2015 Chief Minister's Award for Innovation in the Public Sector.



Priorities 2016-17: 'Be Crocwise' messaging continues to be refreshed and material updated to reflect changes in messaging derived from questions from the general public and expert advice.



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

\$50 000 in grants was distributed to support community wildlife carer providers in the Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin regions. A comprehensive review was undertaken of the wildlife carer grants system which has now been streamlined and amended to ensure a more targeted delivery model.

One of the key public services facilitated by the Commission is the provision of a 24 hour snake collection service. In 2015-16, the Commission re-tendered for the delivery of this service in the three key regional centres. A contract for the Alice Springs region was awarded to Alice Springs Reptile Centre, with the other two regions awarded in the 2016-17 financial year.

A comprehensive audit was conducted of the Commission's firearm assets, storage facilities and management procedures, in accordance with the *Firearms Act*. The audit was conducted with the Northern Territory Police. Most of the recommendations have been completed.

The Commission commenced a review of its crocodile management plans. The review focussed on a more risk based assessment approach and a more prescriptive management schedule for parks and reserves that allow swimming. Two new plans are currently in draft and awaiting finalisation.

The Commission provided logistical support and equipment to the Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM) for their annual waterfowl and Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) surveys across the Top End and also provided regulatory support for Wildwatch in monitoring and responding to callouts for marine megafauna in the Darwin region. The Commission also assisted the Central Land Council with feral animal aerial shooting programs in the Alice Springs and Tennant Creek regions and also assisted in feral animal aerial surveys in the Alice Springs region.

The Commission participated on the Animal Welfare Advisory Council, the Wildlife Health Australia network and the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Zoonosis Committee throughout 2015-16. The Commission is also contributing to the development of the Territory Animal Welfare Emergency Plan, the NT Emergency Management Plan and the NT Oil Spill Response Plan.

Ten years of data on flying fox population trends has been compiled and provided to the CSIRO for the National Flying Fox Monitoring Programme. The programme seeks to understand and ultimately predict the movements and migration of flying foxes to assist landholders and the community to respond to the seasonal influx of bats which can cause major disruptions.

GOAL 5 Our Organisation

COLLABORATIVE AND RESPECTFUL WORKPLACES

The Commission promotes its positive working environment in various ways. The monthly Parks Newsletter sent out by the CEO is a compilation of articles from staff that showcase individual and team achievements, collaborative projects with stakeholders and / or other organisations, awards programs and new ideas or initiatives from other parks agencies.

In July 2015, a feedback option was created on the Commission's intranet to provide staff with a direct line of communication with the Chief Executive Officer about their ideas on how the Commission can do things better or differently or what is and is not working.

Staff are now notified each week of all upcoming vacant positions to be advertised on the government website to maximise staff opportunities to apply for positions.

A review of the Northern Territory Ranger Awards program resulted in a new category to recognise non-ranger staff or teams who provide

support in achieving parks and wildlife program outcomes. These Awards were the subject of a media release to publicly acknowledge the commitment and effort of the award recipients.

The process for filling short term vacancies through temporary higher duties provides staff with a way to gain exposure in other divisions by advertising internal positions as development opportunities. Senior managers gained experience in divisional director positions.

The Community Engagement Unit within the Tourism and Visitor Engagement Division won the Chief Minister's Award for Innovation in the Public Sector for its 'Be Crocwise' Animated Video and Social Media Campaign. The prize money enabled staff to undertake training and development opportunities.

A staff recognition program has been designed and will be implemented in 2016-17 to recognise the commitment and achievements of the Commission's long-serving staff.

BUSINESS PROCESSES AND INTERNAL SYSTEMS

The Commission welcomes audits with a view to make improvements to its processes and systems, accountability and efficiency.

The Commission has developed a new records management process to assist remote-based staff to meet the information management requirements which is currently challenging with limited access to the corporate systems due access to the WAN. The new process will be implemented in 2016-17.

In line with government's reduction in red tape initiative, new processes have been implemented for permits including online applications and payments. New longer term hunting permits means hunters do not need to apply each year as there are now, one and five year options.

Priorities 2016-17: The Commission will be working towards the development and implementation of a new wildlife and tour operators permitting system and the development of a framework for regular steady state monitoring of all Business Application Systems. The Commission is also investigating the implementation of an online booking and payment system for camping sites in parks and reserves.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP, WORKFORCE CAPABILITY AND DIVERSITY

The Commission provides and supports a number of initiatives where staff can gain experience in supervising and training others, sharing knowledge with similar organisations, engaging with and presenting to the executive leadership team. With an aim to capacity build potential employees, the Commission provides pre-employment opportunities for locals who may be considering a career in parks and wildlife management.

The Commission looks for other ways to provide opportunities to develop its staff and to meet its Indigenous employment targets. As base-grade vacancies arise, managers review operations with a view to temporarily converting the position to a trainee role. A vacancy occurred in the Wildlife Operations division and an Indigenous trainee position was made available in the crocodile management team.

A dedicated unit within the Commission, Capacity Building and Indigenous Engagement, focuses on increasing Indigenous employment within the Commission but also across all levels of the Agency. Career development is provided to Indigenous employees through identification of training or additional tasks that will allow staff to attain the skills that are aligned to their Development Plans, CLF and PES. Supervisor support sessions also assist the supervisor to guide and develop their work environment to align the apprentice / trainees development and training needs and achieve their goals.

Litchfield National Park secured a second Green Army project to assist with Gamba Grass control within the eradication zone on the Tabletop Range and support local Indigenous employment.

Adelaide River parks worked with Ironbark and provided an opportunity to 99 participants under the Work for the Dole scheme which resulted in 25% of participants achieving employment. Training included completion of Certificate 3 in Civil Construction and Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management.

Another Ironbark project was undertaken at Berry Springs and Manton Dam with participants assisting rangers with minor jobs including installation of a new stainless steel wire fence between the top of waterfall stairs and the main pool.

An exchange program provided a Darwin District Parks ranger with the opportunity to work with Dhimurru Rangers at Nhulunbuy to assist with relocating Northern Quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) collected on Astell Island off the north-east Arnhem Land coast. The quolls were relocated to the Territory Wildlife Park to undergo cane toad avoidance training and were eventually released back to Kakadu's Mary River district.

The 2015 YouthWorx NT Skills, Employment and Careers Expo roadshow was held in August 2015 and travelled through Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Darwin and Nhulunbuy. The annual roadshow aims to provide an opportunity for businesses, employers, government departments and others to engage with their target market and actively promote their organisation. School students were the largest representative group. The Commission ran a stall in each of the five locations and received positive feedback for the stall display at all five locations.

THE COMMISSION'S STALL WAS AWARDED 'BEST STALL' PRIZE IN KATHERINE.

Approximately 4836 people passed through the Expo's doors over the seven days with around 990 people stopping to engage directly with Commission staff. It was estimated that 340 or a third of all people engaged across all regions were Indigenous. Elsey National Park rangers attended the Jilkminggan School Career Day and talked to local students about careers in Parks and Wildlife.



Clare Pearce, Community Education Officer

Other programs the Commission is engaging with to attract Indigenous employees is the Foundation of Young Australians IMPACT forum. The students originate from all areas of the Northern Territory. Commission staff also regularly attends Clontarf Football Academy Community Role Model talks. Sessions focus on work and life balance issues and cross cultural awareness. Work is also underway with the Batchelor Institute of Technology to enhance the skill levels of entry level rangers. Intensive block courses designed and conducted to suit the land management industry are now being offered in Batchelor. Specific Conservation and Land Management ranger training via intensive week-long workshops in work-specific English Language and Literacy and Mathematics for rangers will be run in August 2016.

Working on whole of government programs provides staff with the opportunity to build networks and use their skills and knowledge in another context. In December 2015, the Commission provided equipment and personnel to assist in the Daly River Flood Emergency response.

The Flexible Employment Program (FEP) was successfully implemented across a range of parks, providing the opportunity for Commission staff to develop their training, team leadership and program planning skills, and for local traditional owners to gain on-the-job training. More information about the FEP program can be found in the case study on page 99.

Bryan Harty, Director, George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens, attended the inaugural 'State of the World's Plants Symposium' in May 2016 at the Royal Botanic Gardens in the United Kingdom (UK). The symposium coincided with the launch of the first annual State of the World's Plants report, written by UK scientists and collaborators. The report provides a baseline assessment of current knowledge about the diversity of plants on Earth, the global threats these plants currently face, and the policies addressing the threats.

In addition to attending the symposium, Bryan was able to meet and share learnings with staff from the Millennium Seed Bank located at Wakehurst, Kew's West Sussex country garden. Working with partners in 80 countries worldwide, seed from over 13% of the world's wild plant species have been successfully stored at this facility.

Maria Wauchope, Assistant Director Park Development and Phillip Cowan, Senior District Ranger Central Australian Parks, accompanied the CEO on a study tour in the United States of America (USA) to build on work commenced at the Sydney World Parks Congress in 2014. The key areas of focus for the delegation included:

- Healthy Parks Healthy People
- 'Friends of' groups and conservancies
- Visitor management (identifying carrying capacity and developments, managing high visitor numbers)
- Food for Parks
- Management of back country access
- Junior Ranger programs / engagement with children / youth programs
- Benefits to Indigenous people from parks.

The National Parks Service and other key organisations in the USA are global leaders in these areas. The study tour provided staff with the opportunity to meet with these organisations and gain a more detailed understanding of how they work in these spaces, what practices they have implemented, lessons learnt and how these practices may be applied to the Territory context. On return, staff presented to the Commission's executive Leadership Team.

Three Wildlife Operations staff attended the 2015 AELERT conference in Brisbane. The theme was, "Focus on the future: Innovative approaches to environmental regulation", and showcased the best examples of innovative solutions to real-world problems and leading practice in environmental regulation from around the region and around the world.

Three staff also undertook a Diploma in Government (Investigations), which focusses on providing a more strategic approach.

Priorities 2016-17: *The Commission recognises our people are our most valuable asset and will be implementing the 2016-20 Strategic Workforce Plan which includes succession planning and staff retention. Existing emerging leaders are supported and developed to influence and innovate for future business. Through the Plan, the Commission will strive to be a workplace that is high performing, fair, safe, accountable, and reflects the diversity of the community. The Commission will focus on supporting sustainable environmental, cultural and visitor outcomes, while maintaining effective relationships with joint management partners and improved service delivery across the Territory. Evidence based workforce planning will also be integrated within business planning to address business needs.*

CASE STUDY: FLEXIBLE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Flexible Employment Program (FEP) supported Indigenous casual employment and training, providing \$216 670 towards casual employment for 58 joint management partners and other Indigenous people across 16 parks in Northern, Central and Savannah-Gulf regions. The program is one method to prepare participants to transition to full-time employment through the use of competitive recruitment procedures where selection is merit based leading to employment and training.

In 2015-16, FEP workers undertook a broad array of land management activities.

Darwin Region: Work coincided with Wet season clean-up activities such as walking track maintenance, visitor node maintenance and repairs, weed management and general maintenance and patrols. FEP workers brush-cut and cleared many kilometres of walking tracks in Holmes Jungle Nature Park, Casuarina Coastal Reserve and Charles Darwin National Park. At Mary River National Park, casual rangers helped control Mimosa pigra and Gamba Grass (*Andropogon gayanus*).

Savannah-Gulf: FEP workers at Judbarra / Gregory National Park assisted in the maintenance of four wheel drive tracks often camping out for a week at a time. Casual rangers at Elsey National Park assisted in the repair and maintenance of fence lines and helped eradicate weeds from alongside the rivers and creeks. Casual FEP rangers also assisted in flood clean-ups at Flora River Nature Park. The FEP at Cutta Caves Nature Park provided local Wardaman people with employment to undertake a range of park management programs and infrastructure repairs post flood.

Central Australia: Projects involved casual rangers controlling Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) at Rainbow Valley and keeping the picnic area at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve maintained through mowing and brush cutting around trees and facilities. At Emily Gap, FEP casual rangers were involved in brush cutting around the newly installed tables, and installed bollards, fixed fences and filled in erosion. Future work includes preparing Rainbow Valley and Chambers Pillar for the visitor season and maintenance of the picnic area. Casual rangers at Owen Springs Reserve were involved in fuel reduction/vegetation clearing around the ranger station, sign installation, fence patrols, weed site checks, vehicle maintenance and small motor servicing. Future work at the Reserve includes weed control and survey, fence line clearing, sign painting and prescribed burning. At Simpsons Gap, a new shelter was installed by Commission rangers with assistance from FEP casual rangers.

Two FEP casual rangers have recently been appointed to full-time apprenticeships; one at Judbarra / Gregory National Park and the other with the Darwin Crocodile Management Unit.

SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENTS

The Commission's Work Health and Safety (WHS) management system was amended to add an additional committee to reflect the newly formed division, Savannah-Gulf Parks.

Quarterly reporting by each Committee has enabled the Commission to transition its reporting from using lag indicators to using lead or positive indicators. This provides the Commission with a more effective way to implement safety across the Commission.

The development of a visitor management incident reporting system also assists the Commission to identify hazards and risks in addition to its internal incident reporting system for employee workplace incidents.

More information about the WHS achievements and statistics can be found on pages 46 to 51.



Ranger providing visitors with park information.

07 *Our Visitors*



Interpretive display at Leliyn (Edith Falls)



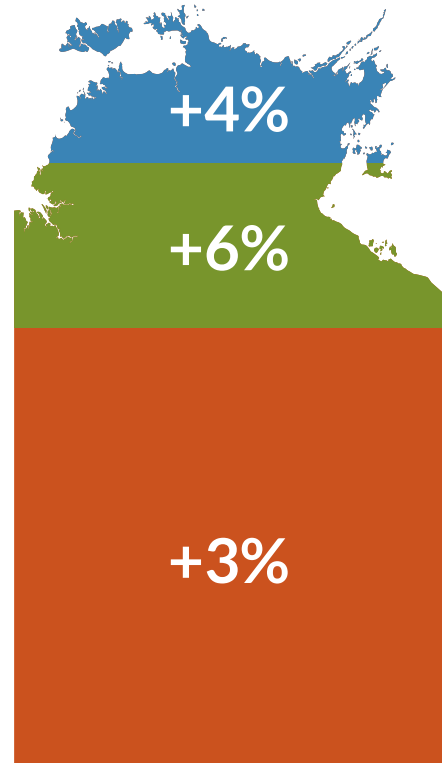
Python Tracks. More information about pythons can be found on page 75.

Our Visitors

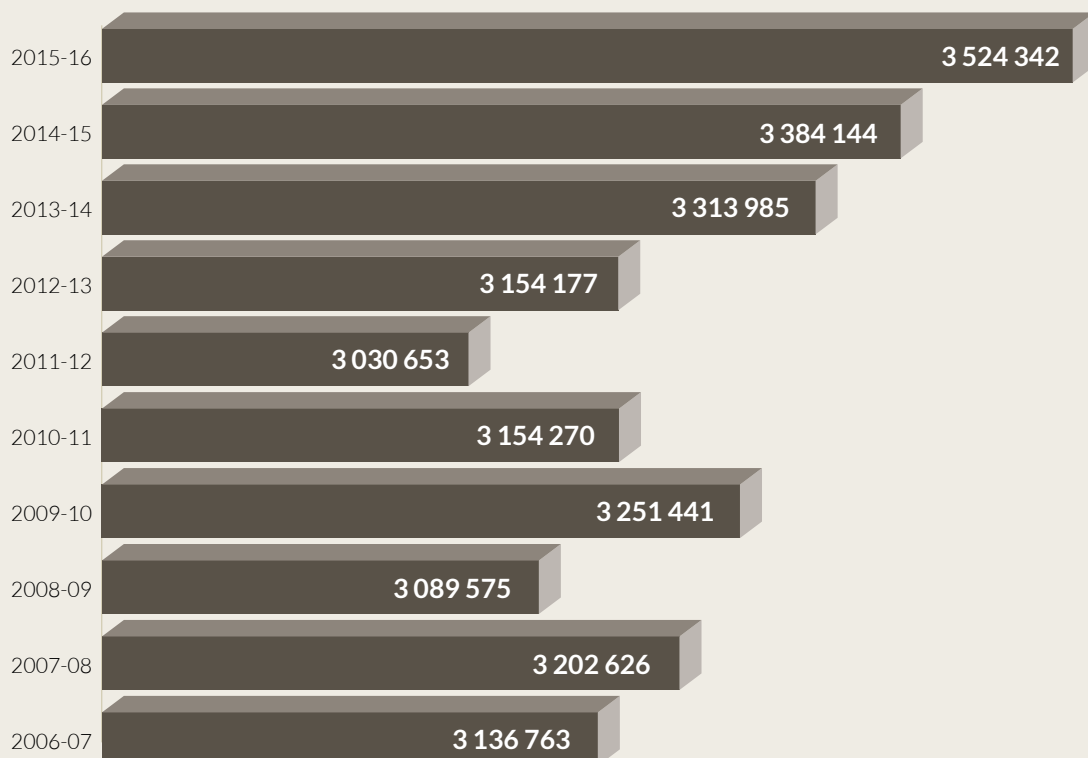
Parks and reserves exist for their spectacular natural, cultural, geological, historical, tourism and recreational values. Our parks and reserves make a significant contribution to the local economy, particularly in regional and remote areas, by attracting visitors from all over the world. There are 87 parks and reserves in the Northern Territory parks estate which are increasingly being used by the community for recreational activities and events and by tourists seeking to truly 'experience' the natural wonders of the Northern Territory.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission strives to maintain high levels of visitor satisfaction and uses independent visitor experiences (monitored through TripAdvisor), visitor numbers, Facebook posts and visitor satisfaction surveys to monitor our progress in providing unique and memorable experiences.

In 2015-16, 3.5 million people visited our parks across the Territory. This is a 4% increase from last year and continues a steady rise in visitor numbers across the parks estate. In the region's Top End, parks enjoyed an overall 4% increase, Savannah-Gulf had an overall 6% increase and Central Australian parks had a 3% increase in visitors.



Total number of visitors since 2006



Visitor numbers for the Commission's top Visitor Parks

Park name	2015-16
Berry Springs Nature Park	137 600
Casuarina Coastal Reserve	933 800
Howard Springs Nature Park	152 200
George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens	418 900
Territory Wildlife Park	55 600
Litchfield National Park	357 100
Window on the Wetland	55 900
Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve	59 400
Mary River National Park - Shady Camp	19 200
TOTAL Northern Australian Parks	2 189 700
Judbarra/Gregory National Park	34 600
Keep River National Park	12 600
Nitmiluk National Park	261 300
Cutta Cutta Caves Nature Park	9 800
Elsey National Park	176 200
Limmen National Park	16 900
TOTAL Savannah-Gulf Parks	511 400
Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve	114 600
Tennant Creek Telegraph station	14 600
Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve	191 900
Alice Springs Desert Park	64 400
Trephina Gorge Nature Park	23 600
Arltunga Historical Reserve	5 900
Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve	5 600
Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve	9 100
Tjoritja/West MacDonnell	150 400
Finke Gorge National Park	16 600
Watarrka National Park	226 500
TOTAL Central Australian Parks	823 200
TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	3 524 300

VISITOR SATISFACTION

TripAdvisor

One of the key methods the Commission uses to monitor visitor satisfaction is through sites such as TripAdvisor. This travel site enables independent travellers to review and rate our parks and reserves. If organisations consistently achieve outstanding traveller reviews they are awarded a TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. The Certificates are based on individual review ratings, the overall rating and the quantity and frequency of reviews. To be eligible, organisations must have a minimum number of reviews, maintain a rating of at least four out of five and have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months.

In 2015-16, the Parks and Wildlife Commission achieved 15 TripAdvisor Certificates of Excellence within its top 22 Parks and Reserves. The Territory Wildlife Park, Alice Springs Desert Park and George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens also achieved Certificates of Excellence. The Commission's Top Parks, Reserves and Gardens listed on Trip Advisor were all rated four out of five or higher.

Across the Commission's Top Parks, Reserves and Gardens the number of reviews on TripAdvisor increased by 46% from last year.

The following is an example of a very happy visitor to the Territory Wildlife Park:

"The Jewel in the Crown of the NT"

Third time I've been in the 5 years I have lived here. I am never disappointed. So much room, all of the animals seem contented and well cared for. Informative and interesting...

Visitor surveys

There were two scheduled visitor surveys conducted in 2015-16 at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve. A survey was completed during the high season in July 2015 and during the low/shoulder season in October/November 2015. Over 340 people were surveyed over the two periods. The surveys sought information about the demographics of who was visiting the park, what activities they enjoyed on park, what they did and didn't like about the park and what infrastructure was important to them.

From the survey, the park received a 90% visitor satisfaction rating and the results will be used to inform the development of the Visitor Experience Development Plan for the park.

Social media

Social media such as Facebook is a useful tool for the Commission to not only inform and engage the community about parks, reserves and wildlife but to also gauge the satisfaction levels of visitors.

Facebook page	Followers	Posts made on the page	Engagements: Shares, comments, reactions
Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife	23 401	860	3 784 001
Territory Wildlife Park	6380	252	75 358
Alice Springs Desert Park	4552	128	43 463

The George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens Facebook page will become operational in 2016-17.


The post that received the highest engagement was on 11 May 2016 - Python in the Charles Darwin National Park toilet (below).

Post Details

Reported state may be delayed from what appears on posts

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife added 4 new photos — with Tony Hopman.
Published by Carlos Gonzalez 1Y · May 11 · 4K

Rangers got a big surprise on a cleaning run in Charles Darwin National Park earlier this week. A three/four metre Olive Python visiting the ladies' toilets. It took a little bit of persuasion to encourage it to vacate the cubicle. Thankfully it was discovered by rangers and not some poor unsuspecting visitor – who may have had an encounter of their lifetime!



Get More Likes, Comments and Shares
Boost this post for \$26 to reach up to 4,900 people.

348,719 people reached

Boost Post

1.5K Reactions · 642 Comments · 2.1K Shares

Like · Comment · Share

348,719 People Reached

12,595 Reactions, Comments & Shares

Reaction	On Post	On Shares
Like	5,609	1,288
Love	50	40
Haha	200	153
Wow	963	809
Sad	18	17
Angry	16	14
Comments	3,519	2,492
Shares	2,225	74

57,837 Post Clicks

Click Type	Count
Photo Views	15,329
Link Clicks	12
Other Clicks	42,496

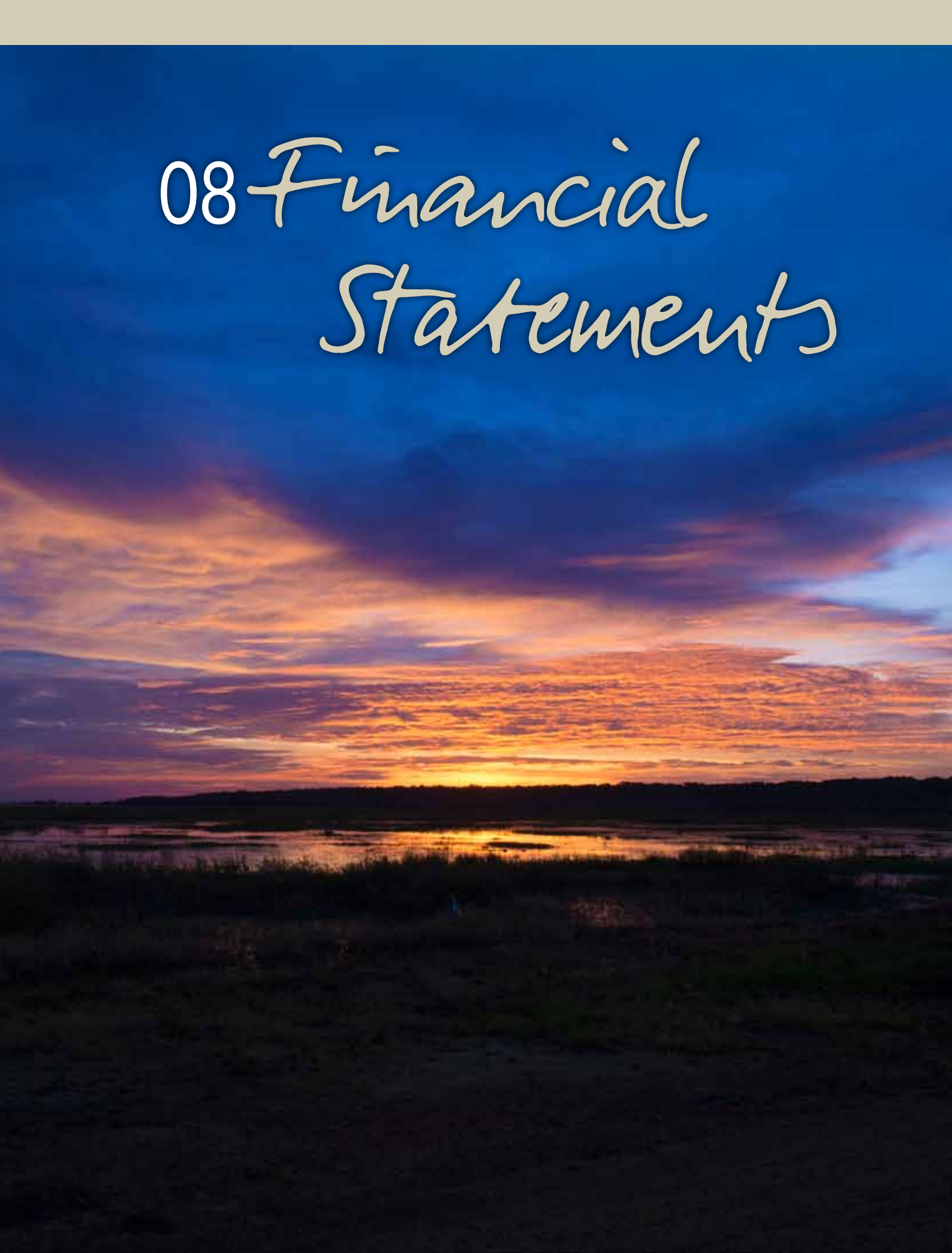
NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

Action	Count
Hide Post	323
Hide All Posts	56
Report as Spam	0
Unlike Page	0

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens



08 Financial Statements



The Commission comprises two reporting entities for the purposes of the *Financial Management Act* (the Act):

- Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory; and
- Territory Wildlife Parks, a Government Business Division (GBD).

The Act requires the Commission to prepare separate financial statements for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Accordingly, two separate sets of financial statements are provided:

- Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (the Commission); and
- Territory Wildlife Parks (TWPs).

This section of the report provides an analysis of the financial outcome of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory for the year ended 30 June 2016.

Financial Statement Overview

The Commission includes the following Divisions:

- Northern Australian Parks;
- Central Australian Parks;
- Savannah-Gulf Parks;
- Wildlife Operations;
- Tourism and Visitor Engagement;
- Park Development;
- George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens; and
- Executive and Business services.

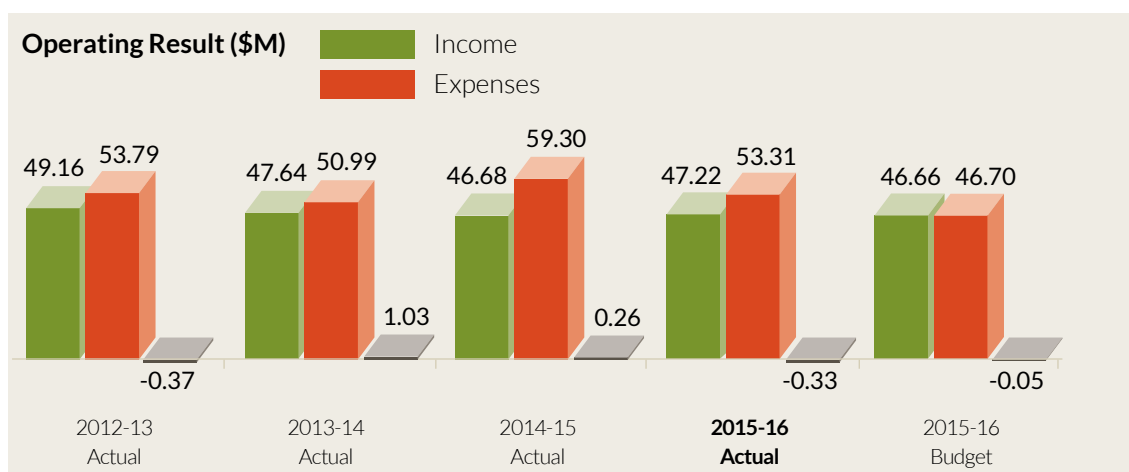
Financial Performance

In 2015-16, the Commission made a net loss of \$6.1 million and, after adjusting for \$5.8 million of non-cash items, made a net loss of \$0.3 million compared to an adjusted budgeted loss of \$nil.

The adverse operating result of \$0.3 million to budget predominately relates to:-

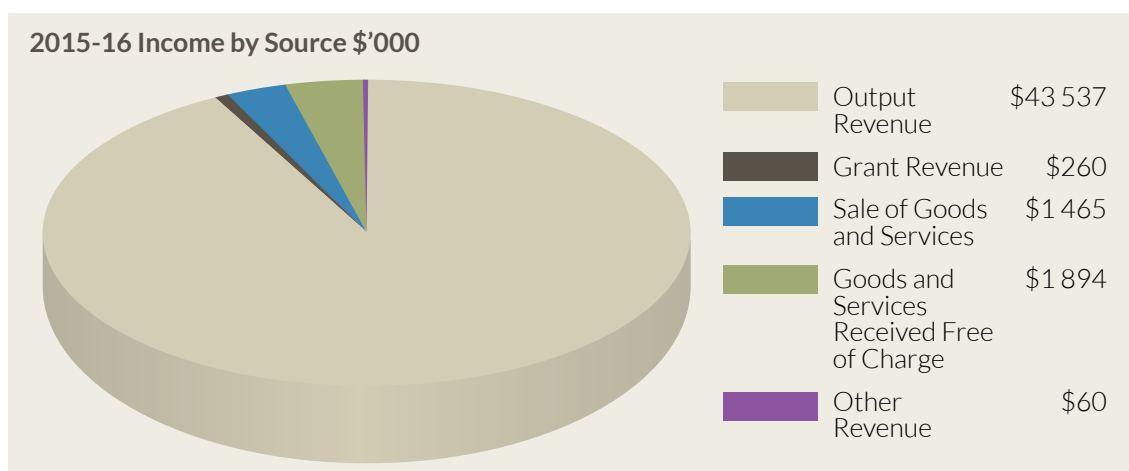
- additional employee and marketing costs as part of the Parks Expression of Interest process;
- additional crocodile team overtime to meet the growing demands necessary to maintain public safety; and
- costs associated with flood relief efforts arising from the Daly River Monsoonal Trough 2016.

The operating result is shown graphically below.



Income

The Commission received income of \$47.2 million in 2015-16, a \$0.5 million increase compared to 2014-15 and an increase a \$0.5 million increase compared to budget.



The Commission is funded primarily through Northern Territory Parliamentary appropriation. The next major income source is charges for our goods and services and a small income from grant revenue. Notional revenue for corporate services provided by the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) is also recognised.

OUTPUT REVENUE

In 2015-16, output revenue of \$43.5 million was received in accordance with budget. This represents 92.2 percent of total revenue.

Output revenue increased over the prior year by \$0.3 million predominately to cover workers compensation claims.

SALE OF GOODS AND SERVICES

In 2015-16, income from the sale of goods and services totalled \$1.5 million, an increase of \$0.2 million from 2014-15, and \$0.5 million more than budget. The increase reflects:

- Increased wildlife permit revenue and monies received for on park activities such as camping and site fees; and
- Increased contributions for Park apprentices.

GRANTS REVENUE

In 2015-16, \$0.3 million was received. This was \$0.1 million higher than the approved budget and \$0.1 million more than 2014-15. This increase over the prior year was predominately due to funds received for the McArthur River Mine project.

The externally funded projects in 2015-16 were:-

- Red Centre Biodiversity Fund for protecting and improving the biodiversity of the Red Centre's national landscape;
- McArthur River Mine project to protect Aboriginal rock art and cultural sites within the Limmen National Park; and
- Australian Seed Bank Partnership to conserve Australian's native plant diversity through collaborative and sustainable seed collecting, banking, research and knowledge sharing.

GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE

In 2015-16, notional goods and services received free of charge from Department of Corporate and Information Services totalled \$1.9 million, which was \$0.1 million more than 2014-15 and consistent with budget.

This income is offset by a matching notional expense item to allow the Commission to bring to account the full cost of corporate services it requires to operate.

The four year trend in income streams and the 2015-16 budget are as follows:

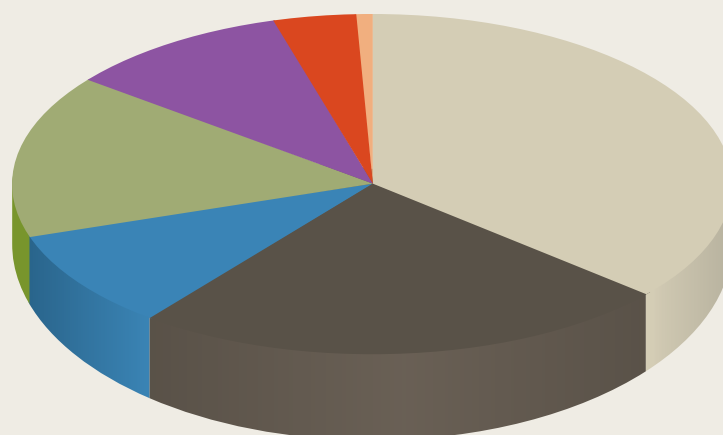
Income Type	Actual 2012-13	Actual 2013-14	Actual 2014-15	Actual 2015-16	Variance	Budget 2015-16	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	%
Output Revenue	45 856	44 382	43 209	43 537	1%	43 537	0%
Grant and Commonwealth Appropriation	601	201	198	260	31%	186	28%
Sale of Goods and Services	1 132	1 260	1 279	1 465	15%	1 035	29%
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	1 458	1 668	1 812	1 894	5%	1 898	0%
Other Revenue	97	125	185	60	-68%	-	100%
Income Total	49 144	47 636	46 683	47 216	1%	46 656	-1%

Expenses

The Commission incurred \$53.3 million in expenses during 2015-16. This represented \$51.3 million in the delivery of its programs and services and \$0.3 million from disposing of assets. Expenditure was \$1 million more than the delivery expenses budget and \$0.6 million less than 2014-15.

2015-16 Expenses by Type \$'000

Employee Expenses	\$19 184	Depreciation and Amortisation	\$5 309
Purchase of Goods and Services	\$13 160	Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	\$1 894
Repairs and Maintenance Expenses	\$5 073	Other - Including Loss on disposal of assets	\$284
Grants and Subsidies	\$8 406		



Payments to employees and purchase of goods and services account for 60.7 percent of the Commission's outlays. Payments of grants and subsidies and repairs and maintenance are the other major Commission expenses, with depreciation and corporate charges levied by DCIS representing non-cash transactions.

EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

Staffing costs represent 36.0 percent of total expenditure. In 2015-16, employee expenses totalled \$19.2 million, an increase over the prior year of \$1 million and \$0.4 million more than budget.

GOODS AND SERVICES EXPENSES

Actual spend on the purchase of goods and services in 2015-16 was \$13.2 million, \$0.7 million more than budget and \$0.1 million more than 2014-15.

GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES

Grants of \$8.4 million were distributed in 2015-16, \$0.1 million less than budget and the prior year. Grants payments include:-

- \$7.8 million for the community service obligation payment to the Territory Wildlife Parks for the delivery of non-commercial functions,
- \$0.2 million to support Olive Pink Botanical Gardens,
- \$0.2 million to support wildlife grants, and
- \$0.2 million to organisations to deliver Indigenous employment and environmental outcomes.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES

Actual repairs and maintenance expenditure was \$5.1 million, under budget of \$0.4 million, and consistent with 2014-15. The underspend was due to a focus on delivering the key capital infrastructure upgrades at Litchfield National Park and Casuarina Coastal Reserve of \$10.4 million and \$10.7 million respectively.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is the allocation of an asset's cost over its useful life. In 2015-16 depreciation was \$5.3 million, consistent with budget and \$0.6 million higher than the previous year, predominately due to revaluation of assets at the end of the 2014-15 year.

LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

In 2015-16 a \$0.3 million expense was recorded to reflect the decrease in asset values due to retirement of assets.

The four year expenditure trend and the 2015-16 budget are as follows:

Expense Type	Actual 2012-13	Actual 2013-14	Actual 2014-15	Actual 2015-16	Variance	Budget 2015-16	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	\$'000	%
Employee Expenses	17 662	16 700	18 185	19 184	5%	18 776	-2%
Purchase of Goods and Services	16 236	13 559	13 097	13 160	0%	12 541	-5%
Repairs and Maintenance Expenses	5 618	6 252	5 061	5 073	0%	5 386	6%
Grants and Subsidies	9 047	8 814	8 466	8 406	-1%	8 484	1%
Depreciation and Amortisation	3 738	3 989	4 651	5 309	14%	5 257	-1%
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	1 458	1 668	1,812	1,894	5%	1,898	0%
Other - Including Loss on Revaluation/Disposal of Assets	18	26	8,025	284	-96%	-	-100%
Expenses Total	53 777	51 008	59 297	53 310	-10%	52 342	-2%

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet provides a summary of the Commission'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 Commission's asset holdings (what is owned) against liabilities (what is owed).

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

	Actuals 2012-13	Actuals 2013-14	Actuals 2014-15	Actuals 2015-16
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Assets	91 489	94 261	198 435	196 772
Liabilities	(5 608)	(4 681)	(4 807)	(4 267)
Net Assets/ Equity	85 881	89 580	193 628	192 505

ASSETS

The Commission's assets at 30 June 2016 totalled \$196.8 million.

The balance of assets consists of:

- Cash balances of \$1.1 million, representing cash held in a financial institution and, petty cash and floats;
- Receivables of \$0.4 million representing the amount that is owed to the Commission for goods and services provided and delivered;
- Inventory of \$0.2 million representing stock on hand for fuel on remote parks;
- Prepaid expenses of \$0.1 million representing expenses that have been paid before the good or service was received or provided; and
- Property, plant and equipment of \$195 million.

LIABILITIES

The Commission's liabilities total \$4.3 million as at 30 June 2016.

The balance of liabilities consists of:

- Deposits held of \$0.6 million to recognise the liability for money held on behalf of third parties until made available for disbursement of refund, such as Traditional Owner's share of park revenue, concessionaire security deposits and gift fund accounts held on behalf of the community;
- Payables of \$0.7 million representing the amount owed to creditors for goods and services purchased and received;
- Provisions for employee entitlements of \$2.8 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; and
- Unearned revenue of \$0.2 million representing the amount received for services not yet provided.

EQUITY

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

Equity as at 30 June 2016 is \$192.5 million, a decrease in net worth of \$1.1 million from the previous year.

This result is a combination of:

- Asset revaluation increment of \$1.3 million following land revaluation;
- A transfer in of assets from another agency valued at \$1 million;
- A transfer in of \$2.5 million of completed infrastructure works;
- Capital appropriation of \$0.2 million to purchase assets;

offset by

- The operating loss for 2015-16 financial year of \$ 6.1 million.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

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

The Commission's cash balances were \$1.1 million at 30 June 2016.

The cash flows are summarised as follows:

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash In				
Operating Receipts	48 281	47 498	46 481	46 970
Financing & Investing receipts	2 166	260	338	327
	50 447	47 758	46 819	47 297
Cash Out				
Operating Payments	(44 026)	(47 664)	(46 010)	(47 792)
Financing & Investing payments	(5 063)	(242)	(279)	(173)
	(49 089)	(47 906)	(46 289)	(47 965)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held	1 358	(148)	530	(668)
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year	-	1 358	1 210	1 740
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1 358	1 210	1 740	1 072

Certification of the Financial Statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory have been prepared from 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 2016 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.



ANDREW BRIDGES
Chief Executive Officer
31 August 2016



JOANNA FRANKENFELD
Chief Financial Officer
31 August 2016

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2016

	Note	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
INCOME			
Grants and subsidies revenue			
Current		260	198
Appropriation			
Output		43 537	43 209
Sales of goods and services		1 465	1 279
Goods and services received free of charge ⁽¹⁾	4	1 894	1 812
Other income		60	185
TOTAL INCOME	3	47 216	46 683
EXPENSES			
Employee expenses		19 184	18 185
Administrative expenses			
Purchases of goods and services	5	13 160	13 097
Repairs and maintenance		5 073	5 061
Depreciation and amortisation	10,11	5 309	4 651
Other administrative expenses ⁽¹⁾		1 910	1 815
Grants and subsidies expenses			
Current		582	624
Community service obligations		7 824	7 842
Loss on revaluation of assets		-	6 452
Loss on disposal of assets	6	276	1 570
TOTAL EXPENSES	3	53 318	59 297
NET (DEFICIT)		(6 102)	(12 614)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation reserve	17	1 301	99 013
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		1 301	99 013
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		(4 801)	86 399

⁽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 2016

	Note	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and deposits	7	1 072	1 740
Receivables	8	407	427
Inventories	9	174	241
Prepayments		123	153
Total Current Assets		1 776	2 561
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	10	194 996	195 864
Heritage and cultural assets	11	-	10
Total Non-Current Assets		194 996	195 874
TOTAL ASSETS		196 772	198 435
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Deposits held	13	615	548
Payables	14	655	1 272
Provisions	15	2 776	2 887
Other liabilities	16	121	100
Total Current Liabilities		4 167	4 807
Non-Current Liabilities			
Other liabilities	16	100	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities		100	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4 267	4 807
NET ASSETS		192 505	193 628
EQUITY			
Capital		111 518	108 827
Reserves	17	107 688	105 400
Accumulated funds		(26 701)	(20 599)
TOTAL EQUITY		192 505	193 628

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 2016

		Equity at 1 July	Comprehensive Result	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	Equity at 30 June
	Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2015-16					
Accumulated Funds		(20 599)	(6 102)	-	(26 701)
Reserves					
Asset revaluation reserve	17	105 400	1 301	987	107 668
Capital – Transactions with Owners		108 827	-	-	108 827
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		-	-	260	260
Equity transfers In		-	-	2 464	2 464
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawals		-	-	(33)	(33)
Equity transfers out		-	-	-	-
		108 827	-	2 691	111 518
TOTAL EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		193 628	(4 801)	3 678	192 505
2014-15					
Accumulated Funds		(7 985)	(12 614)	-	(20 599)
Reserves					
Asset revaluation reserve	17	6 387	99 013	-	105 400
Capital – Transactions with Owners		91 178	-	-	91 178
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		-	-	260	260
Equity transfers In		-	-	17 904	17 904
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawals		-	-	(37)	(37)
Equity transfers out		-	-	(478)	(478)
		91 178	-	17 649	108 827
TOTAL EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		89 580	86 399	17 649	193 628

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2016

	Note	2016 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	2015 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating Receipts			
Grants and subsidies received			
Current		260	198
Appropriation			
Output		43 537	43 209
Receipts from sales of goods and services		3 173	3 074
Total Operating Receipts		46 970	46 481
Operating Payments			
Payments to employees		(19 758)	(18 226)
Payments for goods and services		(19 628)	(19 318)
Grants and subsidies paid			
Current		(582)	(624)
Community service obligations		(7 824)	(7 842)
Total Operating Payments		(47 792)	(46 010)
Net Cash (Used In)/From Operating Activities	18	(822)	471
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Investing Receipts			
Proceeds from asset sales		-	18
Total Investing Receipts		-	18
Investing Payments			
Purchases of assets	10, 11	(173)	(242)
Total Investing Payments		(173)	(242)
Net Cash (Used In) Investing Activities		(173)	(224)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Financing Receipts			
Deposits received		67	60
Equity injections			
Capital appropriations		260	260
Total Financing Receipts		327	320
Financing Payments			
Equity withdrawals		-	
Capital withdrawals		-	(37)
Total Financing Payments		-	(37)
Net Cash From Financing Activities		327	283
Net (Decrease)/Increase in cash held		(668)	530
Cash at beginning of financial year		1 740	1 210
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	7	1 072	1 740

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

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1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The primary objective of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory is to manage and develop the Territory's parks and reserves for the benefit of the community. It does this by providing high-quality nature-based tourism and recreational experiences and opportunities in a manner that also protects the intrinsic natural and cultural values of the parks. The Commission also administers wildlife management programs.

Additional information in relation to the Commission and its principal activities can be found in the Annual Report.

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

- Parks, Wildlife and Visitor Services
- Corporate and Governance
- Shared Services Received.

Note 3 provides summary financial information in the form of an 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 Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The Commission's financial statements are to include:

- (i) Certification of the Financial Statements;
- (ii) Comprehensive Operating Statement;
- (iii) Balance Sheet;
- (iv) Statement of Changes in Equity;
- (v) 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 Department 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 Commission's 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.

The following new and revised accounting standards and interpretations were effective for the first time in 2015-16:

AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards

This reflects amended versions of Interpretations arising in relation to amendments to AASB 9 Financial Instruments and consequential amendments arising from the issuance of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2013-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part C Financial Instruments]

Part C of this Standard amends AASB 9 Financial Instruments to add Chapter 6 Hedge accounting and makes consequential amendments to AASB 9 and numerous other Standards. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2014-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9

This Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2009) and AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2010). These amendments arise from the issuance of AASB 9 Financial Instruments in December 2014. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2015-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality

The standard completes the withdrawal of references to AASB 1031 in all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, allowing the standard to effectively be withdrawn. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2015-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Financial Reporting Requirements for Australian Groups with a Foreign Parent

Amendments are made to AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint ventures to require the ultimate Australian entity to apply the equity method in accounting for interests in associates and joint ventures, if either the entity or the group is a reporting entity, or both the entity and group are reporting entities. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (Part E - Financial Instruments)

Part E of this Standard defers the application date of AASB 9 Financial Instruments to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

The following standards and interpretations are likely to have an insignificant impact on the financial statements for future reporting periods, but the exact impact is yet to be determined:

Standard/Interpretation	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after
AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2014), AASB 2014-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014)	1 January 2018
AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, AASB 2014-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15	1 January 2018
AASB 1056 Superannuation Entities	1 July 2016
AASB 14 Regulatory Deferral Accounts	1 January 2016
AASB 1057 Application of Accounting Standards	1 January 2016
AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part D Consequential arising from AASB 14 Regulatory Deferral Accounts]	1 January 2016
AASB 2014-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations [AASB 1 and AASB 11]	1 January 2016
AASB 2014-16 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Agriculture: Bearer Plants [AASB 101, 116, 117, 123, 136, 140 and 141]	1 January 2016
AASB 2015-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Investment Entities: Applying the Consolidation Exception [AASB 10, 12 and 128]	1 January 2016
AASB 2015-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Scope and Application Paragraphs [AASB 8, 133 and 1057]	1 January 2016
AASB 2015-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128	1 January 2016
AASB 2016-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Recognition of Deferred Tax Assets for Unrealised Losses [AASB 112]	1 January 2017

The following standards and interpretations are expected to have a potential impact on the financial statements for future reporting periods:

Standard/Interpretation	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact
AASB 2015-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, 124 and 1049]	1 July 2016	New note disclosure to include remuneration of Key Management Personnel (KMP) and related party transactions.
2016-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 107	1 January 2017	New disclosure on the reconciliation of the changes in liabilities arising from financing activities
AASB 16 Leases	1 January 2019	Reclassification of operating leases greater than 12 months to finance lease reporting requirements
AASB 9 Financial Instruments	1 January 2018	Simplified requirements for classification and measurement of financial assets, a new hedging accounting model and a revised impairment loss model to recognise impairment losses earlier as opposed to only when incurred
AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers	1 January 2018	Requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer.
AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part E Financial Instruments]	1 January 2018	Amends various AAS's to reflect the deferral of the mandatory application date of AASB 9
AASB 2014-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 and AASB 138]	1 January 2016	Provides additional guidance on how the depreciation or amortisation of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets should be calculated and clarifies that the use of revenue-based methods to calculate the depreciation of an asset is not appropriate.
AASB 2014-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15	1 January 2017	Amends the measurement of trade receivables and the recognition of dividends.
AASB 2014-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9	1 January 2018	Amends various AAS's to reflect the changes as a result of AASB 9
AASB 2014-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements [AASB 1, 127 and 128]	1 January 2016	Allows an entity to account for investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates in its separate financial statement at cost or using the equity method.
AASB 2015-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-14 Cycle [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 110, 119, 121, 133, 134, 137 and 140]	1 January 2016	The amendments include AASB 5 change in methods of disposal; AASB 7 Servicing contracts and applicability of the amendments to AASB 7 to condensed interim financial statements; AASB 119 Discount rate: regional market issue and AASB 134 Disclosure of information 'elsewhere in the interim financial report.

c. Reporting Entity

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

The Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory ("the Commission") is a Northern Territory department established under the *Interpretation Act* Administrative Arrangements Order.

The principal place of business of the Commission is:

Tom Hare Building
Arid Zone Research Institute
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870

d. Department and Territory Items

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

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 Commission's financial statements. However, as the Commission 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.

e. Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2014-15 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

f. 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.

g. Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2015-16 as a result of management decisions.

h. Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgements 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 judgements 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.

Judgements and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements. Notes that include significant judgements and estimates are:

- Employee Benefits – Note 2(u) and Note 15: Provisions in respect of employee benefits are measured as the present value of estimated future cash outflows based on the appropriate Government bond rate, estimates of future salary and wage levels and employee periods of service.
- Property, Plant and Equipment – Note 2(q): The fair value of land, building, infrastructure and property, plant and equipment are determined on significant assumptions of the exit price and risks in the perspective market participant, using the best information available.
- Contingent Liabilities – Note 21: The present value of material quantifiable contingent liabilities are calculated using a discount rate based on the published 10-year Government bond rate.
- Allowance for Impairment Losses – Note 2(o), Note 8: Receivables and Note 19: Financial Instruments. The allowance represents debts that are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Debtors are grouped according to their aging profile and history of previous financial difficulties; and
- Depreciation and Amortisation – Note 2(l), Note 10: Property, Plant and Equipment and Note 11: Heritage and Cultural Assets.

i. 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.

j. Income Recognition

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 Commission 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 Special Purpose Payments (SPPs) and National Partnership (NP) payments being made by the Commonwealth Treasury to state treasuries, in a manner similar to arrangements for GST payments. These payments are received by Treasury on behalf of the Central Holding Authority and then onpassed to the relevant agencies as Commonwealth appropriation.

Revenue in respect of appropriations is recognised in the period in which the Commission 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 Commission 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 Commission; 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.

Goods and Services Received Free of Charge

Goods and services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when a fair value can be reliably determined and the resource would have been purchased if it had not been donated. Use of the resource is recognised as an expense.

Contributions of Assets

Contributions of assets and contributions to assist in the acquisition of assets, being non-reciprocal transfers, are recognised, unless otherwise determined by Government, as gains when the Commission obtains control of the asset or contribution. Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

Administered Income

The Commission collects taxes, fines and regulatory fees on behalf of the Territory. The Department does not gain control over assets arising from these collections, consequently no income is recognised in the Commission financial statements. Accordingly, these amounts are disclosed as income in Note 25: Schedule of Administered Territory Items.

k. Repairs and Maintenance Expense

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

l. 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 Treasurer's Directions provide guidance for the estimated useful lives for each class of assets as follows, and allow the Commission to make other estimates as necessary:

	2016 Years	2015 Years
Buildings	10 - 50	10 - 50
Infrastructure Assets	8 - Infinite	8 - Infinite
Plant and Equipment	1 - 20	1 - 20
Transport Equipment	10	10
Computer Hardware	3 - 6	3 - 6
Heritage and Cultural Assets	100	100
Intangibles - Computer Software	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.

m. Cash and Deposits

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. Cash at bank includes monies held in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner – refer also to Note 23.

n. Inventories

Inventories include assets held either for sale (general inventories) or for distribution at no or nominal consideration in the ordinary course of business operations.

General inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, while those held for distribution are carried at the lower of cost and current replacement cost. Cost of inventories include 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.

o. Receivables

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 Commission 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 18 Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 30 days.

p. 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.

q. Property, Plant and Equipment

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 in Note 2(l). 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 Commission 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 is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory capital works is provided directly to the Department of Infrastructure and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that Department. Once completed, capital works assets are transferred to the Commission.

r. Revaluations and Impairment

Revaluation of Assets

Subsequent to initial recognition, assets belonging to the following classes of non-current assets are re-valued 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; and
- infrastructure assets.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arms-length transaction.

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

The unique nature of some of the heritage and cultural assets may preclude reliable measurement. Such assets have not been recognised in the financial statements. Assets recognised in the financial statements are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate fair value. Where differences exist, these are not material.

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 Commission's assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis. If an indicator of impairment exists, the Commission 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 unless the asset is carried at a re-valued amount. Where the asset is measured at a re-valued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve.

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 re-valued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation reserve. Note 17 provides additional information in relation to the asset revaluation reserve.

s. Leased Assets

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

Finance Leases

Finance leases are capitalised. A leased asset and a lease liability equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments are recognised at the inception of the lease.

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

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 are to be recognised as a deduction of the lease expenses over the term of the lease.

t. Payables

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 Commission. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

u. Employee Benefits

A liability is recognised for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave and sick leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

Liabilities recognised in respect of employee benefits that are expected to be settled wholly within twelve months are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Liabilities recognised in respect of employee benefits that are not expected to be settled within twelve months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows calculated using the appropriate government bond rate and taking into consideration expected future salary and wage levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service.

All recreation leave liabilities are classified as current liabilities as the Commission does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting period.

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; and
- 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 Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in the Commission's financial statements.

v. Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- 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 Commission 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 Commission financial statements.

w. Contributions by and Distributions to Government

The Commission may receive contributions from Government where the Government is acting as owner of the Commission. Conversely, the Commission 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 Commission as adjustments to equity.

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

x. Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at Note 20.

Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured.

y. 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 assets and liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. The entity's 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 entity's investments, loans and placements, and borrowings are predominantly managed through the NTTC adopting strategies to minimise 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.

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

Loans and Receivables

For details refer to Note 2(o), but exclude statutory receivables.

Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost

Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all advances received, finance lease liabilities and borrowings. Amortised cost is calculated using the effective interest method.

Note 19 provides additional information on financial instruments.

z. Fair Value Measurement

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 agency 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 agency 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.

3. OPERATING STATEMENT BY OUTPUT

	Parks, Wildlife and Visitor Services		Corporate and Governance		Shared Services Received		Total	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
INCOME								
Grants and subsidies revenue								
Current	260	198	-	-	-	-	260	198
Appropriation								
Output	39 300	39 059	2 292	2 355	1 945	1 795	43 537	43 209
Sales of goods and services	1 154	1 005	311	274	-	-	1 465	1 279
Goods and services received free of charge ⁽¹⁾	1 777	1 686	117	126	-	-	1 894	1 812
Other income	60	184	-	1	-	-	60	185
TOTAL INCOME	42 551	42 132	2 720	2 756	1 945	1 795	47 216	46 683
EXPENSES								
Employee expenses	17 158	16 438	2 026	1 747	-	-	19 184	18 185
Administrative expenses								
Purchases of goods and services	10 516	10 641	699	661	1 945	1 795	13 160	13 097
Repairs and maintenance	4 948	4 983	125	78	-	-	5 073	5 061
Depreciation and amortisation	5 309	4 651	-	-	-	-	5 309	4 651
Other administrative expenses ⁽¹⁾	1 793	1 689	117	126	-	-	1 910	1 815
Grants and subsidies expenses								
Current	582	624	-	-	-	-	582	624
Community Service Obligation	7 824	7 842	-	-	-	-	7 824	7 842
Loss on revaluation of assets	-	6 452	-	-	-	-	-	6 452
Loss on disposal of assets	276	1 500	-	70	-	-	276	1 570
TOTAL EXPENSES	48 406	54 820	2 967	2 682	1 945	1 795	53 318	59 297
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(5 855)	(12 688)	(247)	74	-	-	(6 102)	(12 614)

⁽¹⁾ Includes DCIS service charges.

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE		
Corporate and information services	1 894	1 812
5. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES		
The net (deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
Goods and services expenses:		
Consultants ⁽¹⁾	36	49
Advertising ⁽²⁾	100	195
Marketing and promotion ⁽³⁾	91	68
Document production	30	37
Legal expenses ⁽⁴⁾	38	10
Recruitment ⁽⁵⁾	34	60
Training and study	194	178
Official duty fares	334	302
Travelling allowance	232	253
⁽¹⁾ Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.		
⁽²⁾ Does not include recruitment advertising.		
⁽³⁾ Excludes advertising for marketing and promotion and 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.		
6. LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS		
Net proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets	-	18
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	(276)	(1 588)
Loss on the disposal of non-current assets	(276)	(1 570)
7. CASH AND DEPOSITS		
Cash on hand	3	4
Cash at bank	1 069	1 736
Total Cash and Deposits	1 072	1 740
8. RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Accounts receivable	69	162
Less: Allowance for impairment losses	(17)	(2)
	52	160
GST receivables	209	181
Other receivables	146	86
Total Receivables	407	427

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
9. INVENTORIES		
General Inventories		
At cost	174	241
Total Inventories	174	241
10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Land		
At Fair Value	118 732	116 444
Buildings		
At Fair Value	84 260	84 288
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(48 369)	(46 741)
	35 891	37 547
Infrastructure		
At Fair Value	81 850	80 474
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(42 505)	(39 572)
	39 345	40 902
Plant and Equipment		
At Cost	1 553	1 301
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(902)	(818)
	651	483
Transport Equipment		
At Cost	1 337	1 342
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(960)	(854)
	377	488
Computer Hardware		
At Cost	18	18
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(18)	(18)
	-	-
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	194 996	195 864

Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations

An independent valuation of land, buildings and infrastructure assets was undertaken by Colliers International as at 30 June 2015. Refer to Note 12: Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets for additional disclosures.

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Department property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2016. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2015-16 and 2014-15 is set out below:

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant and Equipment	Transport Equipment	Computer Hardware	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2015-16							
Carrying Amount as at 1 July	116 444	37 547	40 902	483	488	-	195 864
Additions	-	-	-	173	-	-	173
Disposals	-	(223)	(45)	(8)	-	-	(276)
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	987	692	1 467	97	-	-	3 243
Revaluation Increment/(Decrement)	1 301	-	-	-	-	-	1 301
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(2 125)	(2 979)	(94)	(111)	-	(5 309)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June	118 732	35 891	39 345	651	377	-	194 996
2014-15							
Carrying Amount as at 1 July	3 353	74 717	12 979	565	460	-	92 074
Additions	-	-	-	82	160	-	242
Disposals	(1 279)	(219)	-	(68)	(22)	-	(1 588)
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	9 322	(27 418)	35 306	15	-	-	17 225
Revaluation Increment/(Decrement)	105 048	(6 372)	(6 115)	-	-	-	92 561
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(3 161)	(1 268)	(111)	(110)	-	(4 650)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June	116 444	37 547	40 902	483	488	-	195 864

11. HERITAGE AND CULTURAL ASSETS

Carrying Amount

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
At Cost	-	14
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-	(4)
Written Down Value – 30 June	-	10

Impairment of Heritage and Cultural Assets

Department heritage and cultural assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2016. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

Reconciliation of Movements

Heritage and Cultural Assets with a Finite Useful Life

Carrying Amount at 1 July	10	11
Asset Transfer	(10)	-
Depreciation and Amortisation	-	(1)
Carrying Amount as at 30 June	-	10

12. 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:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Fair Value
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2015-16				
Asset Classes				
Land (Note 10)	-	1 133	117 599	118 732
Buildings (Note 10)	-	-	35 891	35 891
Infrastructure (Note 10)	-	-	39 345	39 345
Plant and Equipment (Note 10)	-	-	651	651
Transport Equipment (Note 10)	-	-	377	377
Computer Hardware (Note 10)	-	-	-	-
Heritage and Cultural Assets (Note 11)	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1 133	193 863	194 996

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Levels 2 or 3 during 2015-16.

2014-15				
Asset Classes				
Land (Note 10)	-	1 133	115 311	116 444
Buildings (Note 10)	-	-	37 547	37 547
Infrastructure (Note 10)	-	-	40 902	40 902
Plant and Equipment (Note 10)	-	-	483	483
Transport Equipment (Note 10)	-	-	488	488
Computer Hardware (Note 10)	-	-	-	-
Heritage and Cultural Assets (Note 11)	-	-	10	10
Total	-	1 133	194 741	195 874

Land was transferred from Level 3 to Level 2 during 2014-15 as a result of the revaluation as shown in table (c) (i) below.

(b) Valuation Techniques and Inputs

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value are:

	Level 3 Techniques	Level 3 Techniques
Asset Classes		
Land	Market	-
Buildings	-	Cost
Infrastructure	-	Cost
Plant and Equipment	-	Cost
Transport Equipment	-	Cost
Computer Hardware	-	Cost
Heritage and Cultural Assets	-	Cost

There were no changes in valuation techniques from 2014-15 to 2015-16.

The Commission's land, buildings, infrastructure and heritage and cultural assets are revalued at least once every five years.

The Commission's land, building and infrastructure are stated at their revalued amounts, being the fair value at the date of revaluation, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses, including any additions or modifications. The latest revaluation of these assets was performed by the Colliers International 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 are predominantly related to land, buildings and infrastructure and 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 pricing and construction approaches, the remaining useful life of the assets, and current condition of the assets.

(c) *Additional information for Level 3 Fair Value Measurements*

(i) **Reconciliation of Recurring Level 3 Fair Value Measurements**

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant and Equipment	Transport Equipment	Computer Hardware	Heritage and Cultural Assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2015-16							
Fair value as at 1 July 2015	115 311	37 547	40 902	483	488	-	10
Additions	-	-	-	173	-	-	-
Disposals	-	(223)	(45)	(8)	-	-	-
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	987	692	1 467	97	-	-	(10)
Transfers to Level 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(2 125)	(2 979)	(94)	(111)	-	-
Gain/(losses) recognised in net deficit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gain/(losses) recognised in other comprehensive income	1 301	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fair value as at 30 June 2016	117 599	35 891	39 345	651	377	-	-
2014-15							
Fair value as at 1 July 2014	3 353	74 717	12 979	565	460	-	11
Additions	-	-	-	82	160	-	-
Disposals	(1 279)	(219)	-	(68)	(22)	-	-
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	9 322	(27 418)	35 306	15	-	-	-
Transfers to Level 2	(303)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(3 161)	(1 268)	(111)	(110)	-	(1)
Gain/(losses) recognised in net deficit	-	(337)	(6 115)	-	-	-	-
Gain/(losses) recognised in other comprehensive income	104,218	(6 035)	-	-	-	-	-
Fair value as at 30 June 2015	115 311	37 547	40 902	483	488	-	10

(ii) Sensitivity Analysis

Asset Class	Sensitivity Analysis
Land, Buildings and Infrastructure	Unobservable inputs used in computing the fair value of these assets 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.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
13. DEPOSITS HELD		
Deposits held – Gift fund accounts, Accountable Officers Trust Account and clearing accounts	615	548
Total Deposits Held	615	548
14. PAYABLES		
Accounts payable	361	282
Accrued expenses	294	990
Total Payables	655	1 272
15. PROVISIONS		
Current		
Employee benefits		
Recreation leave	2 096	2 176
Leave loading	350	318
Other employee benefits	19	23
Other Current Provisions		
Other provisions (fringe benefits, payroll tax and superannuation)	311	370
Total Provisions	2 776	2 887
Balance as at 1 July	2 887	3 063
Additional provisions recognised	1 999	1 876
Reductions arising from payments	(2 110)	(2 052)
Balance as at 30 June	2 776	2 887
The Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory employed 283 employees as at 30 June 2016 (262 employees as at 30 June 2015).		
16. OTHER LIABILITIES		
Current		
Unearned revenue	121	100
	121	100
Non-Current		
Unearned revenue	100	-
	100	-
Total Other Liabilities	221	100

17. RESERVES

Asset Revaluation

(i) Nature and purpose of the Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve 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 reserve.

(ii) Movements in the Asset Revaluation Reserve

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Balance as at 1 July	105 400	6 387
Increment - land	1 301	105 048
Decrement - buildings	-	(6 035)
Transfer in from other agencies	987	-
Balance as at 30 June	107 688	105 400

18. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Reconciliation of Cash

The total of Department Cash and Deposits of \$1.07 million recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'cash' in the Cash Flow Statement.

Reconciliation of Net (Deficit) to Net Cash From Operating Activities

Net (Deficit)	(6 102)	(12 614)
Non-Cash Items:		
Depreciation and amortisation	5 309	4 651
Loss on disposal of assets	276	1 570
Repairs & maintenance non cash	185	201
Loss on revaluation of assets	-	6 452
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease in receivables	20	143
Decrease in inventories	67	8
Decrease/(Increase) in prepayments	30	(6)
(Decrease)/Increase in payables	(617)	242
(Decrease) in employment benefits	(52)	(182)
(Decrease)/Increase in other provisions	(59)	6
Increase in other liabilities	121	-
Net Cash (Used in)/From Operating Activities	(822)	471

19. 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 Commission include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and deposits held. The Commission has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

(a) Categorisation of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of the Commission's financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below.

	Designated at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss \$'000	Financial Assets – Loans and Receivables \$'000	Total \$'000
2015-16 Categorisation of Financial Instruments			
Cash and deposits	1 072	-	1 072
Receivables ⁽¹⁾	-	90	90
Total Financial Assets	1 072	90	1 162
Deposits held	615	-	615
Payables	574	-	574
Total Financial Liabilities	1 189	-	1 189
2014-15 Categorisation of Financial Instruments			
Cash and deposits	1 740	-	1 740
Receivables ⁽¹⁾	-	172	172
Total Financial Assets	1 740	172	1 912
Deposits held	548	-	548
Payables	731	-	731
Total Financial Liabilities	1 279	-	1 279

⁽¹⁾ The amount of receivables excludes amounts recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivables).

⁽¹⁾ The amount of receivables excludes amounts recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivables).

(b) Credit Risk

The Commission has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the Commission 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 Commission's revenue is such that if the debtor was to default on the debt it would cause them to suffer a business impact through the Commission's ability to discontinue permits etc. until financial obligations are met.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Commission's 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.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Internal Receivables		
Aging of Receivables		
Not overdue	12	6
Overdue for less than 30 days	-	-
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 days	-	-
Total Gross Receivables	12	6
Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses		
Allowance for impairment losses at the beginning of the reporting period	-	-
(Decrease)/Increase in allowance recognised in profit or loss	-	-
Allowance for Impairment Losses at the End of the Reporting Period	-	-
External Receivables		
Aging of Receivables		
Not overdue	61	45
Overdue for less than 30 days	10	42
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	7	6
Overdue for more than 60 days	17	75
Total Gross Receivables	95	168
Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses		
Allowance for impairment losses at the beginning of the reporting period	2	-
Amounts written off during the reporting period	-	(1)
Increase in allowance recognised in profit or loss	15	3
Allowance for Impairment Losses at the End of the Reporting Period	17	2

(c) Liquidity Risk

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

The Commission's liquidity risk includes credit cards which are managed with tight controls and low limits. Credit card use and limits are reviewed regularly.

The following tables detail the agency's remaining contractual maturity for its financial assets and liabilities.

Maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities	Variable Interest Less than a year	Non Interest Bearing	Carrying Amount
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2015-16			
Assets			
Cash and deposits	33	1 039	1 072
Receivables	-	90	90
Total Financial Assets	33	1 129	1 162
Liabilities			
Deposits Payable	33	582	615
Payables	-	574	574
Total Financial Liabilities	33	1 156	1 189
2014-15			
Assets			
Cash and deposits	35	1 705	1 740
Receivables	-	172	172
Total Financial Assets	35	1 877	1 912
Liabilities			
Deposits Payable	35	513	548
Payables	-	731	731
Total Financial Liabilities	35	1 244	1 279

(d) Market Risk

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

i) Interest Rate Risk

The Commission has no exposure to interest rate risk as all financial assets and financial liabilities, with the exception of the Gift Fund held, are non-interest bearing. Changes to the variable rates of 100 basis points (1%) at reporting date would have had no effect on the Commission's profit or loss and equity as interest earned on the Gift Fund is accounted for as both an asset and a liability.

ii) Price Risk

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

ii) Currency Risk

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

(e) Net Fair Value

The carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements approximates to their respective net fair values. Where differences exist, these are not material.

20. COMMITMENTS

	2016 \$'000		2015 \$'000	
	Internal	External	Internal	External
(i) Other Expenditure Commitments				
Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year	-	2 020	-	2 299
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	1 895	-	1 295
	-	3 915	-	3 594
(ii) Operating Lease Commitments				
The Commission leases property under non-cancellable operating leases expiring from 1 to 5 years. Leases generally provide the Commission with a right of renewal at which time all lease terms are renegotiated. The Commission 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	-	1 659	-	1 538
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	2 887	-	2 430
	-	4 546	-	3 968

21. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

(a) Contingent liabilities

The Commission is currently involved in one claim but due to the uncertainty of any potential liability, no value can be attributed to this claim. The Commission was involved in one claim as at 30 June 2015.

(b) Contingent assets

The Commission had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2016 or 30 June 2015.

22. 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.

23. ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER'S TRUST ACCOUNT

In accordance with section 7 of the *Financial Management Act*, an Accountable Officer's Trust Account has been established for the receipt of money to be held in trust. A summary of activity is shown below:

	Opening Balance 1 July 2015	Receipts \$'000	Payments \$'000	Closing Balance 30 June 2016
Nature of Trust Money				
Bond money	9	1	(6)	4
Security deposits	109	18	(3)	124
Other Money	8	144	(142)	10
	126	163	(151)	138

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

	Department / Group		Department / Group		Territory Items		Territory Items	
	2016	No. of Trans	2015	No. of Trans	2016	No. of Trans	2015	No. of Trans
	\$'000		\$'000		\$'000		\$'000	
Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Under the Financial Management Act								
Represented by:								
<i>Amounts written off, postponed and waived by Delegates</i>								
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an Agency written off	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public property written off	84	242	75	60	-	-	-	-
Total Written Off, Postponed and Waived by Delegates	85	245	76	61	-	-	-	-
Amounts written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer								
Public property written off	184	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Written Off, Postponed and Waived by Delegates	184	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gifts Under the Financial Management Act	8	1	214	1	-	-	-	-
Gifts Under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act	-	-	1 279	2	-	-	-	-

25. SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

The following Territory items are managed by the Commission on behalf of the Government and are recorded in the Central Holding Authority (refer note 2(d)).

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
TERRITORY INCOME AND EXPENSES		
Income		
Royalties and rents	24	11
Total Income	24	11
Expenses		
Central Holding Authority income transferred	24	11
Total Expenses	24	11
Territory Income Less Expenses	-	-
TERRITORY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Assets		
Royalties and rent receivable	-	1
Total Assets	-	1
Liabilities		
Central Holding Authority income payable	-	1
Total Liabilities	-	1
Net Assets	-	-

26. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT	2015-16 Actual	2015-16 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
INCOME				
Grants and subsidies revenue				
Current	260	186	74	
Appropriation				
Output	43 537	43 004	533	1
Sales of goods and services	1 465	827	638	2
Goods and services received free of charge	1 894	1 659	235	
Other income	60	-	60	
TOTAL INCOME	47 216	45 676	1 540	
EXPENSES				
Employee expenses	19 184	18 068	1 116	3
Administrative expenses				
Purchases of goods and services	13 160	12 391	769	4
Repairs and maintenance	5 073	5 004	69	
Depreciation and amortisation	5 309	4 101	1 208	5
Other administrative expenses	1 910	1 659	251	
Grants and subsidies expenses				
Current	582	730	(148)	
Community service obligation	7 824	7 824	-	
Loss on revaluation of assets	-	-	-	
Loss on disposal of assets	276	-	276	
TOTAL EXPENSES	53 318	49 777	3 541	
NET (DEFICIT)	(6 102)	(4 101)	(2 001)	
Other Comprehensive Income				
Changes in asset revaluation reserve	1 301	-	1 301	5
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	1 301	-	1 301	
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	(4 801)	(4 101)	(700)	

Notes

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

- 1 The increase is due to a Treasurer's advance to cover costs of workers compensation and legal fees.
- 2 The increase relates to revenue from Territory Wildlife Parks for workers compensation insurance and services; and other parks revenue including permits, concessions.
- 3 The increase is due to workers compensation payments.
- 4 The increase is due to increase in utilities and park management costs.
- 5 The increase is due to the transfer in of a land lot that had nil value and has since been revalued to \$1.3 million during 2015-16.

	2015-16 Actual	2015-16 Original Budget	Variance	Note
BALANCE SHEET	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and deposits	1 072	1 095	(23)	
Receivables	407	571	(164)	
Inventories	174	249	(75)	
Prepayments	123	147	(24)	
Total Current Assets	1 776	2 062	(286)	
Non-Current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment	194 996	89 982	105 014	1
Heritage and cultural Assets	-	-	-	
Total Non-Current Assets	194 996	89 982	105 014	
TOTAL ASSETS	196 772	92 044	104 728	
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Deposits held	615	489	126	
Payables	655	1 031	(376)	
Provisions	2 776	3 063	(287)	
Other liabilities	121	100	21	
Total Current Liabilities	4 167	4 683	(516)	
Non-Current Liabilities				
Deposits held	100	-	100	
Total Non-Current Liabilities	100	-	100	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4 267	4 683	(416)	
NET ASSETS	192 505	87 361	105 144	
EQUITY				
Capital	111 518	97 393	14 125	2
Reserves	107 688	6 386	101 302	1
Accumulated funds	(26 701)	(16 418)	(10 283)	3
TOTAL EQUITY	192 505	87 361	105 144	

Notes

- The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than \$0.5 million.
- The increase in is due to the net effect of increments and decrements recorded in fair values of land, buildings and infrastructure assets as a result of the revaluation conducted by Colliers International during 2014-15.
- The increase in capital is due to completed assets transferred in.
- The variance in accumulated funds is due to the actual net deficit for 2014-15 and 2015-16 being different to the original budget.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT	2015-16 Actual \$'000	2015-16 Original Budget \$'000	Variance \$'000	Note
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Operating Receipts				
Grants and subsidies received				
Current	260	186	74	
Appropriation				
Output	43 537	43 004	533	1
Receipts from sales of goods and services	3 183	827	2 356	2
Total Operating Receipts	46 980	44 017	2 963	
Operating Payments				
Payments to employees	(19 768)	(18 068)	(1 700)	3
Payments for goods and services	(19 628)	(17 395)	(2 233)	4
Grants and subsidies paid				
Current	(582)	(730)	148	
Capital	(7 824)	(7 824)	-	
Total Operating Payments	(47 802)	(44 017)	(3 785)	
Net Cash (Used In) Operating Activities	(822)	-	(822)	
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Investing Receipts				
Proceeds from sale of assets	-	-	-	
Total Investing Receipts	-	-	-	
Investing Payments				
Purchase of assets	(173)	(260)	87	
Total Investing Payments	(173)	(260)	87	
Net Cash (Used In) Investing Activities	(173)	(260)	87	
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Financing Receipts				
Deposits received	67	-	67	
Equity injections				
Capital appropriation	260	260	-	
Total Financing Receipts	327	260	67	
Financing Payments				
Equity withdrawals				
Capital withdrawals	-	-	-	
Total Financing Payments	-	-	-	
Net Cash (Used In)/From Financing Activities	327	260	67	
Net (Decrease) in cash held	(668)	-	(668)	
Cash at beginning of financial year	1 740	1 095	645	
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	1 072	1 095	(23)	

Notes

- 1 The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than \$0.5 million.
- 2 The increase in output appropriation is due to a Treasurer's advance to cover costs of workers compensation and legal fees.
- 3 The increase is due to an increase in sales and GST receipts not included in the budget.
- 4 The increase is due to workers compensation payments.
- 5 The increase is due to an increase in expenses and GST payments not included in the budget.

27. ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

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

ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS	2015-16 Actual	2015-16 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
TERRITORY INCOME AND EXPENSES				
Income				
Royalties and rents	24	-	24	
Total Income	24	-	24	
Expenses				
Central Holding Authority income transferred	24	-	24	
Total Expenses	24	-	24	
Territory Income less Expenses	-	-	-	

Notes

Variances greater than \$0.5 million are recognised as significant and as such require explanation. There were no significant variances between actual and budget amounts in 2015-16.

Territory Wildlife Parks Financial Statement Overview

This section of the report provides an overview of the financial activities of Territory Wildlife Parks for the year ended 30 June 2016.

Territory Wildlife Parks is a Government Business Division (GBD) responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park. As a GBD, Territory Wildlife Parks are required to pay the full cost of resources used (including tax equivalents), set efficient prices based on costs, and operate under appropriate commercial accounting and management structures.

The key responsibility of both parks is to showcase the Northern Territory's unique flora and fauna in a natural environment that is inviting and interesting for the visiting public. The Parks experience enables people to understand, respect and enjoy the Territory's natural environments.

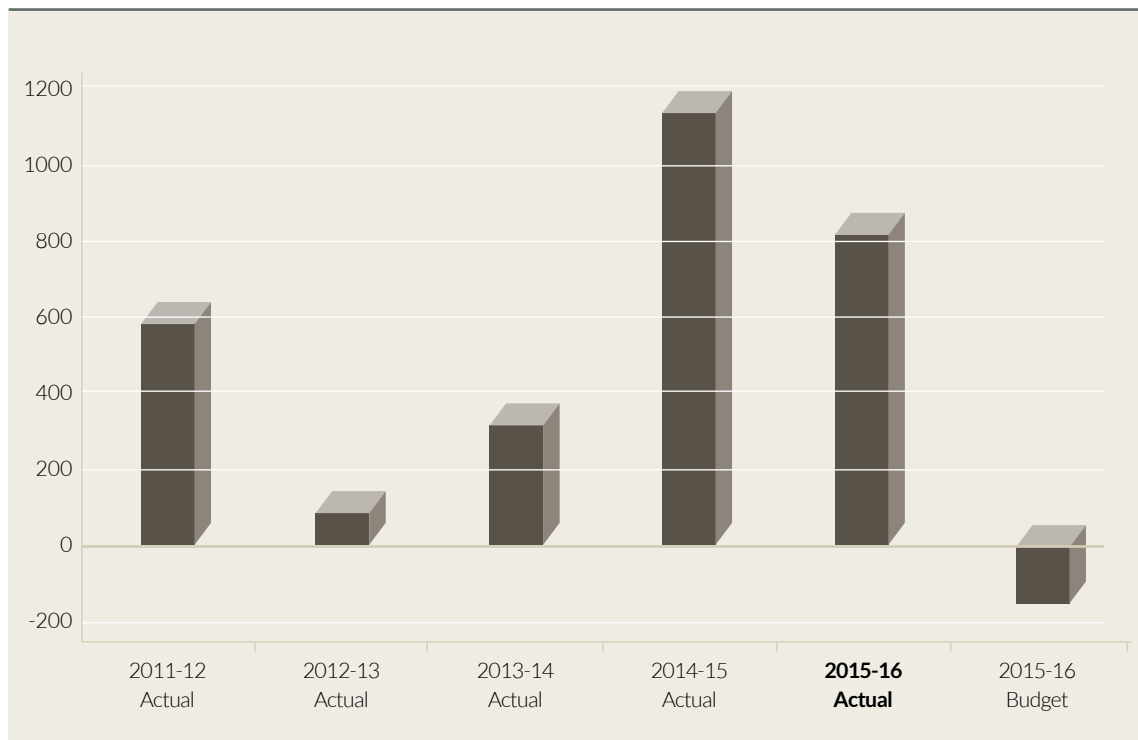
Financial Performance

In 2015-16 the Territory Wildlife Parks reported a net operating loss of \$2.8 million, or an adjusted loss of \$0.8 million prior to charging non-cash depreciation of \$2 million. This compares to a budgeted profit before depreciation of \$0.1 million.

The position is unfavourable compared to budget, however is an improvement of \$0.3 million compared to 2014-15 mainly due to additional revenue at Alice Springs Desert Park and a reduction in rates, water and marketing expenditure.

The Parks have been actively enhancing its products, experiences and infrastructure to attract new visitors and revenue, and is reviewing the current operating model to address declining returns.

Net Operating Result Summary 2015-16	TWP	ASDP	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income	5 163	5 428	10 591
Expenses	(7 320)	(6 089)	(13 409)
Net Loss	(2 157)	(661)	(2 818)
Net (Loss)/Profit before Depreciation	(991)	168	(823)



Income

The income received in 2015-16 was \$0.1 million higher than budget and prior year due to increased revenue at Alice Springs Desert Park (ASDP).

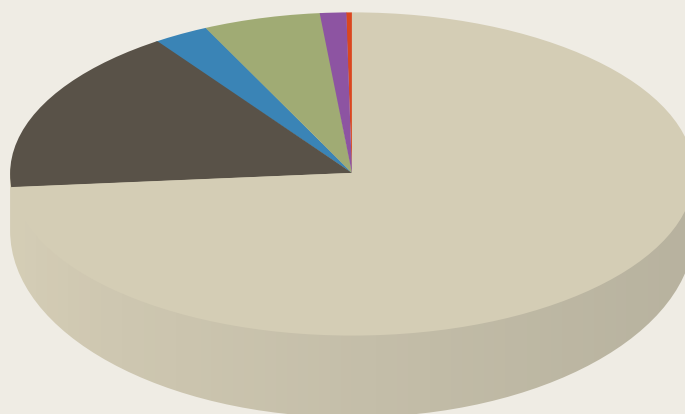
The Parks' primary source of income is from the Northern Territory Government in the form of a Community Service Obligation (CSO) payment. CSO's allow the government to achieve identifiable community or social objectives which would not be achieved if outcomes were purely commercially delivered. The non-commercial functions carried out by Territory Wildlife Parks are biodiversity conservation, education, botanical gardens management, tourism growth and development.

CSO funding of \$7.8 million was received in 2015-16 as expected.

Income from entry fees of \$1.7 million was \$80 000 higher than the previous year despite visitor numbers at both ASDP and TWP decreasing. This was mainly due to the increase in admission prices that were effective from 1 April 2016. The total visitor numbers for 2015-16 was 120 073, a decrease of 6 080 visitors in comparison to the previous year (126 153 in 2014-15).

2015-16 Income by Source \$'000

Community Service Obligation	\$7 824	Café and Gift Shop	\$593
Entry Fees	\$1 749	Other	\$125
Park Tours, Functions and Camp Fees	\$275	Interest	\$25



The following table illustrates the five year trend in income streams and the 2015-16 budget.

Income Type	Actual 2011-12	Actual 2012-13	Actual 2013-14	Actual 2014-15	Actual 2015-16	Budget 2015-16
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Community Service Obligation	9 418 ^A	7 915	7 842	7 842	7 824	7 824
Current Grants	-	-	-	15	-	-
Entry Fees	1 465	1 576	1 758	1 666 ^B	1 749	1 779
Park Tours, Functions & Camp Fees	90	78	159	231 ^B	275	204
Café & Gift Shop	401	408	527	635	593	562
Other	111	96	137	82	125	75
Interest	43	15	11	22	25	18
Income Total	11 527	10 088	10 434	10 493	10 591	10 462
Visitor Numbers	116 954	104 177	115 877	126 153	120 073	
Entry Fee Per Visitor	\$12.52	\$15.13	\$15.17	\$13.21	\$14.57	

^A One off funding received for repairs and maintenance in 2011-12

^B Ghan revenue reclassified in 2014-15 to Park Tours.

Expenses

Operating the Territory Wildlife Parks in 2015-16 cost \$13.4 million, \$1.2 million more than budget and a \$0.2 million improvement over 2014-15.

EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

Employee costs represent 50.2 percent of total expenditure. In 2015-16, employee expenses increased by 1 percent or \$0.1 million more than the prior year to \$6.7 million. This was due to pay rises under the enterprise agreement offset by a decrease in staff numbers of 2.2 full time equivalent employees.

GOODS AND SERVICES EXPENSES

The purchase of goods and services to operate the Parks represents 29.8 percent of total expenditure at a cost of \$4 million, consistent with budget and \$0.2 million lower than the prior year. The improvement was a result of rates at Alice Springs Desert Park not including a back charge for prior year rates, and a reduction in marketing expenditure at both Parks.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES

The repairs and maintenance program for the Parks of \$0.7 million was fully expended during the year consistent with budget.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is the allocation of an asset's cost over its useful life. In 2015-16 depreciation was consistent with the prior year at \$2 million, \$0.1 million more than budget.

The following table illustrates the expenditure trends by category for the last five years and the 2015-16 budget.

Expense Type	Actual 2011-12 \$'000	Actual 2012-13 \$'000	Actual 2013-14 \$'000	Actual 2014-15 \$'000	Actual 2015-16 \$'000	Budget 2015-16 \$'000
Employee Expenses	6 321	5 820	6 057	6 652	6 727	5 677
Purchase of Goods and Services	3 910	3 831	4 026	4 170	4 001	3 960
Repair and Maintenance Expenses	1 882	532	666	768	689	677
Natural Disaster Repairs and Maintenance	2	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	1 719	1 759	1 802	1 983	1 995	1 918
Other	(12)	-	11	38	(3)	11
Expenses Total	13 821	11 942	12 562	13 611	13 409	12 243

Balance Sheet

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

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

	Actual 2011-12 \$'000	Actual 2012-13 \$'000	Actual 2013-14 \$'000	Actual 2014-15 \$'000	Actual 2015-16 \$'000
Assets	26 152	24 757	36 424	35 554	34 271
Liabilities	(1 417)	(1 195)	(1 334)	(1 319)	(1 149)
Net Assets / Equity	24 735	23 562	35 090	34 235	33 122

ASSETS

The Territory Wildlife Parks maintain a significant asset base with \$34.3 million controlled assets at 30 June 2016.

The largest asset group is physical buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment with a value of \$33.7 million. A decrease in the value of the asset base of \$1.4 million over the prior year relates to:-

- \$0.6 million transferred in for completed capital works for new pathways, office and kitchenette and lighting system in Darwin and a new path in Alice offset by
- \$2 million in depreciation.

The balance of assets consists of –

- Cash balances of \$0.4 million, representing cash held in a financial institution and, petty cash and floats;
- Receivables of \$0.1 million representing the amount that is owed to the Parks for goods and services provided and delivered; and
- Inventory of \$47 000 representing stock on hand for retail and café facilities.

LIABILITIES

Territory Wildlife Parks' liabilities total \$1.1 million as at 30 June 2016.

The \$1.1 million liability balance consists of:-

- Deposits held of \$0.1 million being money held in the TWP gift fund account;
- Payables of \$0.3 million representing the amount owing to creditors for goods and services purchased and received; and
- Provisions for employee entitlements of \$0.7 million, such as recreation leave, leave loading and leave fares to reflect the cost in present day dollars of employee entitlements to be paid in the future.

NET EQUITY

Equity as at 30 June 2016 is \$33.1 million, a decrease in net worth of \$1.1 million over the previous year. This result is a combination of \$0.6 million transferred into the GBD for completed building and infrastructure works, a cash capital injection of \$1.1 million to maintain cash balances offset by the 2015-16 operating loss of \$2.8 million.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

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

The Parks received an equity cash injection during the year of \$1.1 million, and had a closing cash balance of \$0.4 million at 30 June 2016.

The cash flows five year trend are summarised below.

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash In					
Operating Receipts	9 656	10 493	10 855	10 868	11 114
Equity Injections/Deposits	3 208	6	5	1 000	1 118
	12 864	10 499	10 860	11 868	12 232
Cash Out					
Operating Payments	(12 851)	(10 840)	(11 054)	(11 960)	(12 016)
Purchase of Fixed Assets	-	-	(11)	-	-
Payments of Deposits Held	-	-	-	(4)	-
	(12 851)	(10 840)	(11 065)	(11 964)	(12 016)
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash Held	13	(341)	(205)	(96)	216
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year	800	813	472	267	171
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	813	472	267	171	387



Auditor-General
Independent Auditor's Report
to the Minister for Tourism and Culture
Territory Wildlife Parks

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Territory Wildlife Parks which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2016, the comprehensive operating statement, the statement of changes in equity and the cash flow statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification of the financial statements by the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chief Executive Officer's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Tourism and Culture is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and for such internal control as the Chief Executive Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Chief Executive Officer, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Territory Wildlife Parks as at 30 June 2016, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Julie Crisp
Auditor-General for the Northern Territory
Darwin, Northern Territory

Certification of the Financial Statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for Territory Wildlife Parks have been prepared from 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 2016 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.



Andrew Bridges
Chief Executive Officer
31 August 2016



Joanna Frankenfeld
Chief Financial Officer
31 August 2016

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

For the year ended 30 June 2016

	Note	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
INCOME			
Grants and Subsidies Revenue			
Current Grants		-	15
Community Service Obligations		7 824	7 842
Sale of Goods and Services		2 709	2 612
Interest Revenue		25	22
Other Income		33	2
TOTAL INCOME	3	10 591	10 493
EXPENSES			
Employee Expenses		6 727	6 652
Administrative Expenses			
Purchases of Goods and Services	4	4 001	4 170
Repairs and Maintenance		689	768
Depreciation and Amortisation	9	1 995	1 983
Other Administration Expenses		(3)	(1)
Loss on Disposal of Assets	5	-	39
TOTAL EXPENSES		13 409	13 611
LOSS BEFORE TAX		(2 818)	(3 118)
Income Tax Expense		-	-
LOSS FOR THE YEAR		(2 818)	(3 118)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME, NET OF INCOME TAX			
Changes in Asset Revaluation Reserve		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(2 818)	(3 118)

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

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2016

	Note	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and Deposits	6	387	171
Receivables	7	145	245
Inventories	8	47	45
Prepayments		32	43
Total Current Assets		611	504
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	9	33 660	35 050
Total Non-Current Assets		33 660	35 050
TOTAL ASSETS		34 271	35 554
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Deposits Held	11	81	63
Payables	12	316	460
Provisions	13	752	796
Total Current Liabilities		1 149	1 319
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1 149	1 319
NET ASSETS		33 122	34 235
EQUITY			
Capital		25 719	24 014
Reserves	14	31 529	31 529
Accumulated Funds		(24 126)	(21 308)
TOTAL EQUITY		33 122	34 235

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 2016

	Note	Equity at 1 July \$'000	Comprehensive Result \$'000	Transactions with owners in capacity as owners \$'000	Equity at 30 June \$'000
2015-16					
Accumulated Funds		(21 308)	(2 818)	-	(24 126)
Reserves					
Asset Revaluation Reserve	14	31 529	-	-	31 529
Capital - Transactions with owners		24 014	-	-	24 014
Equity Injections					
Equity Transfers In		-	-	605	605
Other Equity Injections		-	-	1 100	1 100
		24 014	-	1 705	25 719
TOTAL EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		34 235	(2 818)	1 705	33 122
2014-15					
Accumulated Funds		(18 190)	(3 118)	-	(21 308)
Reserves					
Asset Revaluation Reserve	14	31 529	-	-	31 529
Capital - Transactions with owners		21 751	-	-	21 751
Equity Injections					
Equity Transfers In		-	-	1 263	1 263
Other Equity Injections		-	-	1 000	1 000
		21 751	-	2 263	24 014
TOTAL EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		35 090	(3 118)	2 263	34 235

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 2016

	NOTE	2016 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows	2015 \$'000 (Outflows) / Inflows
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Operating Receipts			
Grants and Subsidies Received			
Current Grants		-	15
Community Service Obligations		7 824	7 842
Receipts From Sales of Goods And Services		3 265	2 989
Interest Received		25	22
Total Operating Receipts		11 114	10 868
Operating Payments			
Payments to Employees		(6 885)	(6 588)
Payments for Goods and Services		(5 131)	(5 372)
Total Operating Payments		(12 016)	(11 960)
Net Cash (Used In) Operating Activities	15	(902)	(1 092)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Financing Receipts			
Deposits Received		18	-
Equity Injections			
Other Equity Injections		1 100	1 000
Total Financing Receipts		1 118	1 000
Financing Payments			
Payments of Deposits Held		-	(4)
Total Financing Payments		-	(4)
Net Cash from Financing Activities		1 118	996
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		216	(96)
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year		171	267
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	6	387	171

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

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1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

Territory Wildlife Parks (“the Entity”) is a Government Business Division responsible for managing the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs and the Alice Springs Desert Park. A key responsibility of both Parks is to showcase the Northern Territory’s unique flora and fauna in a natural environment that is interactive and interesting for the visiting public, provides recreational opportunities and promotes biodiversity conservation principles. The Parks experience enables people to understand, respect and enjoy the Territory’s natural environments.

Territory Wildlife Parks, established under the *Financial Management Act* (1995), is subject to the direction of the Minister for Parks and Wildlife. Territory Wildlife Parks is partially funded by the Northern Territory Government in recognition that it carries out activities on a non-commercial basis. Such partial funding is termed a ‘Community Service Obligation’ and this funding is reflected in the Comprehensive Operating Statement (also refer to Note 18).

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis in the expectation that such funding will continue.

Territory Wildlife Parks is finalising an alternative operating model which is partly to address liquidity issues and it continues to meet all debts as they fall due.

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 Territory Wildlife Parks to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of the entity’s financial statements is to include:

- (i) Certification of the Financial Statements;
- (ii) Comprehensive Operating Statement;
- (iii) Balance Sheet;
- (iv) Statement of Changes in Equity;
- (v) 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.

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

The financial statements are 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.

The following new and revised accounting standards and interpretations were effective for the first time in 2015-16:

AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards

This reflects amended versions of Interpretations arising in relation to amendments to AASB 9 Financial Instruments and consequential amendments arising from the issuance of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2013-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part C Financial Instruments]

Part C of this Standard amends AASB 9 Financial Instruments to add Chapter 6 Hedge accounting and makes consequential amendments to AASB 9 and numerous other Standards. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2014-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9

This Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2009) and AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2010). These amendments arise from the issuance of AASB 9 Financial Instruments in December 2014. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2015-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality

The standard completes the withdrawal of references to AASB 1031 in all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, allowing the standard to effectively be withdrawn. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2015-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Financial Reporting Requirements for Australian Groups with a Foreign Parent

Amendments are made to AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint ventures to require the ultimate Australian entity to apply the equity method in accounting for interests in associates and joint ventures, if either the entity or the group is a reporting entity, or both the entity and group are reporting entities. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (Part E - Financial Instruments)

Part E of this Standard defers the application date of AASB 9 Financial Instruments to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018. The standard does not impact the financial statements.

The following standards and interpretations are likely to have an insignificant impact on the financial statements for future reporting periods, but the exact impact is yet to be determined.

Standard/Interpretation	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after
AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2014), AASB 2014-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014)	1 January 2018
AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, AASB 2014-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15	1 January 2018
AASB 1056 Superannuation Entities	1 July 2016
AASB 14 Regulatory Deferral Accounts	1 January 2016
AASB 1057 Application of Accounting Standards	1 January 2016
AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part D Consequential arising from AASB 14 Regulatory Deferral Accounts]	1 January 2016
AASB 2014-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations [AASB 1 and AASB 11]	1 January 2016
AASB 2014-16 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Agriculture: Bearer Plants [AASB 101, 116, 117, 123, 136, 140 and 141]	1 January 2016
AASB 2015-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Investment Entities: Applying the Consolidation Exception [AASB 10, 12 and 128]	1 January 2016
AASB 2015-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Scope and Application Paragraphs [AASB 8, 133 and 1057]	1 January 2016
AASB 2015-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128	1 January 2016
AASB 2016-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Recognition of Deferred Tax Assets for Unrealised Losses [AASB 112]	1 January 2017

The following standards and interpretations are expected to have a potential impact on the financial statements for future reporting periods.

Standard/Interpretation	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact
AASB 2015-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, 124 and 1049]	1 July 2016	New note disclosure to include remuneration of Key Management Personnel (KMP) and related party transactions.
2016-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 107	1 January 2017	New disclosure on the reconciliation of the changes in liabilities arising from financing activities
AASB 16 Leases	1 January 2019	Reclassification of operating leases greater than 12 months to finance lease reporting requirements
AASB 9 Financial Instruments	1 January 2018	Simplified requirements for classification and measurement of financial assets, a new hedging accounting model and a revised impairment loss model to recognise impairment losses earlier as opposed to only when incurred
AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers	1 January 2018	Requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer.
AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part E Financial Instruments]	1 January 2018	Amends various AAS's to reflect the deferral of the mandatory application date of AASB 9
AASB 2014-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 and AASB 138]	1 January 2016	Provides additional guidance on how the depreciation or amortisation of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets should be calculated and clarifies that the use of revenue-based methods to calculate the depreciation of an asset is not appropriate.
AASB 2014-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15	1 January 2017	Amends the measurement of trade receivables and the recognition of dividends.
AASB 2014-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9	1 January 2018	Amends various AAS's to reflect the changes as a result of AASB 9.
AASB 2014-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements [AASB 1, 127 and 128]	1 January 2016	Allows an entity to account for investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates in its separate financial statement at cost or using the equity method.
AASB 2015-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-14 Cycle [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 110, 119, 121, 133, 134, 137 and 140]	1 January 2016	The amendments include AASB 5 change in methods of disposal; AASB 7 Servicing contracts and applicability of the amendments to AASB 7 to condensed interim financial statements; AASB 119 Discount rate: regional market issue and AASB 134 Disclosure of information 'elsewhere in the interim financial report.

c. Reporting Entity

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

Territory Wildlife Parks ("the Entity") is a Government Business Division established under the *Financial Management Act* (1995).

The principal places of business of the entity are:

Territory Wildlife Park	Alice Springs Desert Park
Cox Peninsula Road	871 Larapinta Drive
BERRY SPRINGS NT 0838	ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

d. Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2014-15 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

e. 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 less than \$500 being rounded down to zero. Figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate due to rounding.

f. Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2015-16 as a result of management decisions.

g. Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgements 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 judgements 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.

Judgements and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements. Notes that include significant judgements and estimates are:

- Employee Benefits – Note 2(v) and Note 13: Provisions in respect of employee benefits are measured as the present value of estimated future cash outflows based on the appropriate Government bond rate, estimates of future salary and wage levels and employee periods of service.
- Property, Plant and Equipment – Note 2(r): The fair value of building, infrastructure and property, plant and equipment are determined on significant assumptions of the exit price and risks in the perspective market participant, using the best information available.

- Contingent Liabilities – Note 19: The present value of material quantifiable contingent liabilities are calculated using a discount rate based on the published 10-year Government bond rate.
- Allowance for Impairment Losses – Note 2(p), Note 7: Receivables and Note 16: Financial Instruments. The allowance represents debts that are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Debtors are grouped according to their aging profile and history of previous financial difficulties.
- Depreciation and Amortisation – Note 2(l), Note 9: Property, Plant and Equipment.

h. 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.

i. Taxation

The entity is required to pay income tax on its accounting profit, excluding extraordinary items, at the company rate of 30 per cent in accordance with the requirements of the Treasurer's Directions and the NT Tax Equivalent Regime. The entity does not have a present income tax liability as it has incurred a loss for income tax purposes and has not taken to account any future income tax benefits arising from this loss as the potential future income tax benefit is not probable.

The future income tax benefits will only be realised if:

- the entity derives future assessable income of a nature and amount sufficient to enable the benefit to be realised;
- the entity continues to comply with the conditions for deductibility imposed by the Treasurer's Directions; and
- there are no changes to the NT Tax Equivalent Regime that adversely affect the entity.

j. Income Recognition

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 income when the entity 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.

Community Service Obligations

Community Service Obligation funding is received from the Northern Territory Government when an entity is required to carry out activities on a non-commercial basis. Income in respect of this funding is recognised in the period in which it accrues. Refer also to Note 18.

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 entity 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 entity; 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.

Interest Revenue

Interest Revenue is recognised as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the financial asset.

Disposal of Assets

A gain or loss on disposal of assets is included as a gain or loss on the date control of the asset passes to the buyer, usually when an unconditional contract of sale is signed. The gain or loss on disposal is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the net proceeds on disposal. Refer also to Note 5.

Contributions of Assets

Contributions of assets and contributions to assist in the acquisition of assets, being non-reciprocal transfers, are recognised, unless otherwise determined by Government, as gains when Territory Wildlife Parks obtains control of the asset or contribution. Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

k. Repairs and Maintenance Expenses

Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on the entity's assets are expensed as incurred.

I. Depreciation and Amortisation

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.

The Treasurer's Directions provide guidance for the estimated useful lives for each class of assets as follows, and allow Territory Wildlife Parks to make other estimates as necessary:

	2016 Years	2015 Years
Buildings	10 - 50	10 - 50
Infrastructure Assets	10 - 40	10 - 40
Plant and Equipment	1 - 20	1 - 20
Computer Hardware	3 - 6	3 - 6
Transport Equipment	10	10

Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use. Assets may be constructed internally, acquired assets may have modifications and accessories installed, and equipment may be calibrated and tested, affecting the date the asset is held ready for use. Refer also to Note 9.

m. Interest Expenses

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

n. Cash and Deposits

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. Cash at bank includes monies held in Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA) that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner. Refer also to Note 21.

o. Inventories

General inventories are all inventories other than those held for distribution and are carried at the lower of cost and net realisable value. 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.

Inventories held for distribution are those inventories distributed at no or nominal consideration, and are carried at the lower of cost and current replacement cost. Refer also to Note 8.

p. Receivables

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 GBD estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analysis of the age of the receivables, which are past due as at the reporting date, are disclosed in an aging schedule under credit risk in Note 16 Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 30 days.

q. 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.

r. Property, Plant and Equipment

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 in Note 2(l). 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 Territory Wildlife Parks 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 is responsible for managing general Government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for most of Territory Wildlife Parks' capital works is provided directly to the Department of Infrastructure and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that Department. Once completed, capital works assets are transferred to the entity.

s. Revaluations and Impairment

Revaluation of Assets

The entity obtains an independent valuation of its property every three years with the latest revaluation performed by Herron Todd White for the financial year ended 30 June 2014 recognised in 2013-14. The following classes of non-current assets are re-valued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of these assets does not differ materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- Buildings; and
- Infrastructure Assets.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arms-length transaction.

Other classes of non-current assets are not subject to revaluation and are measured at cost.

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 entity assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis. If an indicator of impairment exists, the entity 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 entity's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement unless the asset is carried at a re-valued amount. Where the asset is measured at a re-valued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the Asset Revaluation Reserve for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

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 re-valued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the Asset Revaluation Reserve. Note 14 provides additional information in relation to Asset Revaluation Reserve.

t. Leased Assets

Leases under which Territory Wildlife Parks assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases. The entity does not have any assets under a finance lease.

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.

u. Payables

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 Territory Wildlife Parks. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

v. Employee Benefits

A liability is recognised for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave and sick leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

Liabilities recognised in respect of employee benefits that are expected to be settled wholly within twelve months are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Liabilities recognised in respect of employee benefits that are not expected to be settled within twelve months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows calculated using the appropriate government bond rate and taking into consideration expected future salary and wage levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service.

All recreation leave liabilities are classified as current liabilities as Territory Wildlife Parks does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting period.

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; and
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the *Financial Management Framework*, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of Government Business Divisions including Territory Wildlife Parks, and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in the entity's financial statements.

w. Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- 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 entity 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 the entity's financial statements.

x. Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at Note 17.

Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured.

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

Exposure to interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, credit risk, price risk and liquidity risk arise in the normal course of activities. The entity's investments, loans and placements, and borrowings are predominantly managed through the NTTC adopting strategies to minimise the risk.

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.

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

Loans and Receivables

For details refer to Note 2 (p), but exclude statutory receivables.

Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost

Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all advances received, finance lease liabilities and borrowings.

Amortised cost is calculated using the effective interest method.

z. Fair Value Measurement

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 entity 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 entity 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.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
3. INCOME		
Sale of Goods and Services	2 709	2 612
Other Income:		
Current Grant Revenue	-	15
Community Service Obligations – Note 18	7 824	7 842
NT Treasury Interest	25	22
Miscellaneous Revenue	33	2
	7 882	7 881
Total Income	10 591	10 493
4. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES		
The net deficit has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:		
Goods and Services Expenses:		
Consultants ⁽¹⁾	27	-
Advertising ⁽²⁾	42	87
Marketing and Promotion ⁽³⁾	39	55
Document Production	15	16
Recruitment ⁽⁴⁾	1	7
Training and Study	36	20
Official Duty Fares	11	13
Travelling Allowance	11	9
Audit and Other Services	21	21
Corporate Support by External Agencies	784	791
Operating Lease Rental	20	26
Property Management	1 057	1 121
Motor Vehicles	450	435
Information Technology	269	304
5. LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS		
Net Proceeds from the Disposal of Non-Current Assets	-	-
Less: Carrying Value of Non-Current Assets Disposed	-	(39)
Loss on the Disposal of Non-Current Assets	-	(39)

⁽¹⁾ Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

⁽²⁾ Includes marketing and promotion advertising but does not include recruitment advertising.

⁽³⁾ Excludes advertising for marketing and promotion which is incorporated under Advertising and excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which re incorporated in the consultants' category.

⁽⁴⁾ Includes recruitment-related advertising costs.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
6. CASH AND DEPOSITS		
Cash on Hand	8	21
Cash at Bank	379	150
Total Cash and Deposits	387	171
7. RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Accounts Receivable	54	43
Less: Allowance for Impairment Losses	(1)	(4)
	53	39
Interest Receivables	1	1
GST Receivables	38	46
Other Receivables	53	159
Total Receivables	145	245
8. INVENTORIES		
General Inventories		
At cost	47	45
Total Inventories	47	45
9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Buildings		
At Fair Value	39 506	39 308
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(18 356)	(17 176)
	21 150	22 132
Infrastructure		
At Fair Value	26 467	26 060
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(13 969)	(13 157)
	12 498	12 903
Plant and Equipment		
At Cost	452	452
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(449)	(447)
	3	5
Computer Hardware		
At Cost	33	33
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(33)	(33)
	-	-
Transport Equipment		
At Cost	17	17
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(8)	(7)
	9	10
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	33 660	35 050

Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations

An independent valuation of buildings and infrastructure assets was undertaken by Herron Todd White as at 30 June 2014. Refer to Note 10: Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets for additional disclosures.

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Territory Wildlife Parks' property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2016. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2015-16 and 2014-15 is set out below:

	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Plant & Equipment \$'000	Computer Hardware \$'000	Transport Equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
2015-16						
Carrying Amount as at 1 July	22 132	12 903	5	-	10	35 050
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	(1 180)	(812)	(2)	-	(1)	(1 995)
Additions from Asset Transfers	198	407	-	-	-	605
Carrying Amount as at 30 June	21 150	12 498	3	-	9	33 660
2014-15						
Carrying Amount as at 1 July	22 471	13 354	61	-	11	35 897
Disposals	-	-	(39)	-	-	(39)
Depreciation	(1 160)	(805)	(17)	-	(1)	(1 983)
Additions from Asset Transfers	821	354	-	-	-	1 175
Carrying Amount as at 30 June	22 132	12 903	5	-	10	35 050

10. 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:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Fair Value
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2015-16				
Asset Classes				
Buildings (Note 9)	-	-	21 150	21 150
Infrastructure (Note 9)	-	-	12 498	12 498
Plant and Equipment (Note 9)	-	-	3	3
Computer Hardware (Note 9)	-	-	-	-
Transport Equipment (Note 9)	-	-	9	9
Total	-	-	33 660	33 660

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Levels 2 or 3 during the period.

2014-15

Asset Classes				
Buildings (Note 9)	-	-	22 132	22 132
Infrastructure (Note 9)	-	-	12 903	12 903
Plant and Equipment (Note 9)	-	-	5	5
Computer Hardware (Note 9)	-	-	-	-
Transport Equipment (Note 9)	-	-	10	10
Total	-	-	35 050	35 050

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Levels 2 or 3 during the period.

(b) Valuation Techniques and Inputs

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value are:

Asset Classes

Buildings	Cost
Infrastructure	Cost
Plant and Equipment	Cost
Computer Hardware	Cost
Transport Equipment	Cost

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

Territory Wildlife Park's building and infrastructure assets are stated at their revalued amounts, being the fair value at the date of revaluation, less any subsequent depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses, including any additions or modifications. The latest revaluation of these assets was performed by Herron Todd White as at 30 June 2014.

Level 3 fair values predominantly relate to buildings and infrastructure and were determined by computing their depreciated replacement costs because an active market does not exist for such facilities 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 pricing and construction approaches, the remaining useful life of the assets, and current condition of the assets.

(c) Additional Information for Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

(i) Reconciliation of Recurring Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Computer Hardware \$'000	Transport Equipment \$'000
Fair value as at 1 July 2015	22 132	12 903	5	-	10
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	(1 180)	(812)	(2)	-	(1)
Additions from asset transfers	198	407	-	-	-
Gains/losses recognised in other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-
Fair value as at 30 June 2016	21 150	12 498	3	-	9
Fair value as at 1 July 2014	22 471	13 354	61	-	11
Disposals	-	-	(39)	-	-
Depreciation	(1 160)	(805)	(17)	-	(1)
Additions from asset transfers	821	354	-	-	-
Gains/losses recognised in other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-
Fair value as at 30 June 2015	22 132	12 903	5	-	10

(ii) Sensitivity analysis

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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
11. DEPOSITS HELD		
Current		
Deposits Held in Gift Fund Account	73	58
Accountable Officer's Trust Account	8	5
Total Deposits Held	81	63
12. PAYABLES		
Accounts Payable	167	99
Accrued Expenses	149	361
Total Payables	316	460
13. PROVISIONS		
Current		
Employee Benefits		
Recreation Leave	526	539
Leave Loading	118	125
Recreation Leave Fares	-	3
Other Current Provisions		
Other Provisions (Fringe Benefits, Payroll Tax and Superannuation)	108	129
Total Provisions	752	796
Reconciliations of Provisions		
Balance as at 1 July	796	796
Additional Provisions Recognised	582	584
Reductions Arising from Payments	(626)	(584)
Balance as at 30 June	752	796

Territory Wildlife Parks employed 119 employees as at 30 June 2016 (123 employees as at 30 June 2015).

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
14. RESERVES		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		
<i>(i) Nature and Purpose of the Asset Revaluation Reserve</i>		
The asset revaluation reserve 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 Reserve.		
<i>(ii) Movements in the Asset Revaluation Reserve</i>		
Balance as at 1 July	31 529	31 529
Increments – Buildings	-	-
Increments – Infrastructure	-	-
Balance as at 30 June	31 529	31 529
15. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT		
Reconciliation of Cash		
The total of Territory Wildlife Parks' cash and deposits of \$387 000 recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'cash' in the Cash Flow Statement.		
Reconciliation of Net Loss After Tax to Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Loss for the Year	(2 818)	(3 118)
Non-Cash Items:		
Depreciation and Amortisation	1 995	1 983
Loss on Disposal of Assets	-	39
Repairs and Maintenance (Non Cash)	-	88
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	100	(53)
(Increase) in Inventories	(2)	(2)
Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments	11	(18)
(Decrease) in Payables	(144)	(11)
(Decrease)/Increase in Employee Benefits	(23)	1
(Decrease) in Other Provisions	(21)	(1)
Net Cash (Used In) Operating Activities	(902)	(1 092)

16. 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 Territory Wildlife Parks include cash and deposits, receivables, payables and deposits held. Territory Wildlife Parks has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

(a) Categorisation of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of Territory Wildlife Parks financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below.

	Designated at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss \$'000	Financial Assets – Loans and Receivables \$'000	Total \$'000
2015-16 Categorisation of Financial Instruments			
Cash and Deposits	387	-	387
Receivables ⁽¹⁾	-	106	106
Total Financial Assets	387	106	493

Deposits Held	81	-	81
Payables	242	-	242
Total Financial Liabilities	323	-	323

⁽¹⁾ The amount of loans and receivables excludes amounts recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivables)

2014-15 Categorisation of Financial Instruments

Cash and Deposits	171	-	171
Receivables ⁽¹⁾	-	199	199
Total Financial Assets	171	199	370

Deposits Held	63	-	63
Payables	274	-	274
Total Financial Liabilities	337	-	337

⁽¹⁾ The amount of loans and receivables excludes amounts recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivables)

(b) Credit Risk

Territory Wildlife Parks has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the entity 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.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the entity's 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.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Internal Receivables		
Aging of Receivables		
Not Overdue	-	116
Overdue for less than 30 Days	-	-
Overdue for 30 to 60 Days	-	-
Overdue for more than 60 Days	-	-
Total Gross Receivables	-	116
Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses		
Allowance for Impairment Losses at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	-	-
Decrease in Allowance Recognised in Profit or Loss	-	-
Allowance for Impairment Losses at the End of the Reporting Period	-	-
External Receivables		
Aging of Receivables		
Not Overdue	98	81
Overdue for less than 30 Days	3	-
Overdue for 30 to 60 Days	5	2
Overdue for more than 60 Days	1	4
Total Gross Receivables	107	87
Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses		
Allowance for Impairment Losses at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	4	9
Amounts written off during the reporting period	-	(4)
Decrease in Allowance Recognised in Profit or Loss	(3)	(1)
Allowance for Impairment Losses at the End of the Reporting Period	1	4

(c) Liquidity Risk

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

Territory Wildlife Parks experiences seasonal fluctuations of its business and it receives a Community Service Obligation payment (refer to Note 18). Territory Wildlife Parks liquidity risk includes credit cards which are managed with tight controls and low limits. Credit card use and limits are reviewed regularly. The Balance Sheet indicates that Territory Wildlife Parks has a liquidity risk and is reliant on Government guarantee. Territory Wildlife Parks is currently finalising an alternative operating model which is partly to address liquidity issues.

The following tables detail the entity's remaining contractual maturity for its financial assets and liabilities.

Maturity Analysis for Financial Assets and Liabilities	Variable Interest Rate Less than a year	Non-Interest Bearing	Carrying Amount
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2015-16			
Assets			
Cash and Deposits	383	4	387
Receivables	-	106	106
Total Financial Assets	383	110	493
Liabilities			
Deposits Held	73	8	81
Payables	-	242	242
Total Financial Liabilities	73	250	323
2014-15			
Assets			
Cash and Deposits	167	4	171
Receivables	-	199	199
Total Financial Assets	167	203	370
Liabilities			
Deposits Held	58	5	63
Payables	-	274	274
Total Financial Liabilities	58	279	337

(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 Territory Wildlife Parks is exposed to is interest rate risk.

i) Interest Rate Risk

The entity has limited exposure to interest rate risk as all financial assets and financial liabilities, with the exception of the cash at bank and the Gift Fund held are non-interest bearing. Interest earned on the Gift Fund is accounted for as both an asset and a liability,

therefore changes to the variable rates of 100 basis points (1%) at reporting date would have had no effect on the entity's profit or loss and equity. The exposure to interest rate risk on the remaining financial assets and financial liabilities is set out in the following table.

	Profit or Loss and Equity	
	100 Basis Points Increase	100 Basis Points Decrease
	\$'000	\$'000
30 June 2016		
Financial Assets – cash and deposits	3	(3)
Net Sensitivity	3	(3)
30 June 2015		
Financial Assets – cash and deposits	1	(1)
Net Sensitivity	1	(1)

ii) Price Risk

Territory Wildlife Parks is not exposed to price risk as it does not hold units in unit trusts.

iii) Currency Risk

Territory Wildlife Parks is not exposed to currency risk as the entity does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.

(e) Net Fair Value

The carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements approximates their respective net fair values. Where differences exist, these are not material.

17. COMMITMENTS

	2016		2015	
	Internal	External	Internal	External
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
(i) Other Expenditure Commitments				
Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year	-	430	-	942
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	597	-	1 190
	-	1 027	-	2 132
(ii) Operating Lease Commitments				
Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:				
Within one year	-	340	-	60
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	469	-	49
	-	809	-	109

18. COMMUNITY SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000
Community Service Obligation Received ⁽¹⁾	7 824	7 842

⁽¹⁾ The Community Service Obligation covers non commercial activities.

19. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

a) Contingent Liabilities

The entity had no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2016 or 30 June 2015.

b) Contingent Assets

The entity had no contingent assets as at 30 June 2016 or 30 June 2015.

20. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE 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.

21. ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER'S TRUST ACCOUNT

In accordance with section 7 of the Financial Management Act, an Accountable Officer's Trust Account has been established for the receipt of money to be held in trust. A summary of activity is shown below:

	Opening Balance			Closing Balance
	1 July 2015	Receipts	Payments	30 June 2016
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Nature of Trust Money				
Other Money	5	4	(1)	8
	5	4	(1)	8

22. SEGMENT INFORMATION

The entity operates two major parks, which are its reportable segments. Information related to each reportable segment is set out below:

Business Segments	Territory Wildlife Park		Alice Springs Desert Park		Entity	
	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue	5 163	5 202	5 428	5 291	10 591	10 493
(Loss) from Ordinary Activities	(2 157)	(1 997)	(661)	(1 121)	(2 818)	(3 118)
Assets	16 295	17 035	17 365	18 015	33 660	35 050
Unallocated Assets	-	-	-	-	611	504
Unallocated Liabilities	-	-	-	-	(1 149)	(1 319)

Property, plant and equipment is allocated to reportable segments. All other assets and liabilities are not reported by segment.

23. WRITE OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS, WAIVERS, GIFTS AND EX GRATIA PAYMENTS

	2016	No. of Trans.	2015	No. of Trans.
	\$'000		\$'000	
Write offs, postponements and waivers under the Financial Management Act				
Represented by:				
<i>Amounts written off, postponed and waived by Delegates</i>				
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the entity written off	-	-	4	16
Public property written off	-	-	39	3
Total Written Off, Postponed and Waived by Delegates	-	-	43	19

24. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT	2015-16 Actual	2015-16 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
INCOME				
Grants and Subsidies Revenue				
Current Grants	-	-	-	
Community Service Obligations	7 824	7 824	-	
Sale of Goods and Services	2 709	2 320	389	
Interest Revenue	25	18	7	
Other Income	33	-	33	
TOTAL INCOME	10 591	10 162	429	
EXPENSES				
Employee Expenses	6 727	5 577	1 150	1
Administrative Expenses				
Purchases of Goods and Services	4 001	3 760	241	
Repairs and Maintenance	689	677	12	
Depreciation and Amortisation	1 995	1 918	77	
Other Administration Expenses	(3)	11	(14)	
Loss on Disposal of Assets	-	-	-	
TOTAL EXPENSES	13 409	11 943	1 466	
LOSS BEFORE TAX	(2 818)	(1 781)	(1 037)	
Income Tax Expense	-	-	-	
LOSS FOR THE YEAR	(2 818)	(1 781)	(1 037)	
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME, NET OF INCOME TAX				
Changes in Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(2 818)	(1 781)	(1 037)	

Notes

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

- 1 The increase in employee expenses is due to the effect of EBA increases which are not funded offset by a decrease in staff.

BALANCE SHEET	2015-16 Actual	2015-16 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and Deposits	387	342	45	
Receivables	145	192	(47)	
Inventories	47	24	23	
Prepayments	32	43	(11)	
Total Current Assets	611	601	10	
Non-Current Assets				
Property, Plant and Equipment	33 660	33 028	632	1
Total Non-Current Assets	33 660	33 028	632	
TOTAL ASSETS	34 271	33 629	642	
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Deposits Held	81	67	14	
Payables	316	469	(153)	
Provisions	752	797	(45)	
Total Current Liabilities	1 149	1 333	(184)	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1 149	1 333	(184)	
NET ASSETS	33 122	32 296	826	
EQUITY				
Capital	25 719	22 519	3 200	2
Reserves	31 529	31 529	-	
Accumulated Funds	(24 126)	(21 752)	(2 374)	3
TOTAL EQUITY	33 122	32 296	826	

Notes

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

- 1 The increase in property, plant and equipment is due to the transfer in of completed assets from the Department of Infrastructure.
- 2 The increase in capital is due to equity injections in 2014-15 and 2015-16 totalling \$2.1 million and completed assets transferred in totalling \$1.1 million which were not included in the budget.
- 3 The variance in accumulated funds is due to a greater than budgeted net deficit.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT	2015-16 Actual	2015-16 Original Budget	Variance	Note
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Operating Receipts				
Grants and Subsidies Received				
Current Grants	-	-	-	
Community Service Obligations	7 824	7 824	-	
Receipts From Sales of Goods And Services	3 265	2 309	956	1
Interest Received	25	18	7	
Total Operating Receipts	11 114	10 151	963	
Operating Payments				
Payments to Employees	(6 885)	(5 577)	(1 308)	2
Payments for Goods and Services	(5 131)	(4 437)	(694)	3
Total Operating Payments	(12 016)	(10 014)	(2 002)	
Net Cash (Used In)/From Operating Activities	(902)	137	(1 039)	
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Investing Payments				
Purchases of Assets	-	(99)	99	
Total Investing Payments	-	(99)	99	
Net Cash (Used In) Investing Activities	-	(99)	99	
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Financing Receipts				
Deposits Received	18	-	18	
Equity Injections				
Other Equity Injections	1 100	-	1 100	4
Total Financing Receipts	1 118	-	1 118	
Financing Payments				
Payments of Deposits Held	-	-	-	
Total Financing Payments	-	-	-	
Net Cash From Financing Activities	1 118	-	1 118	
Net Increase in Cash Held	216	38	178	
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year	171	304	(133)	
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	387	342	45	

Notes

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

- 1 The variance reflects the increase in Sales of Goods And Services revenue and GST Output revenue and GST refunds not being included in the budget.
- 2 The increase in employee expenses is due to additional staff recruited during the year and the effect of EBA increases which are not funded.
- 3 The increase reflects the increase in Goods and Services expense and GST Input Tax not being included in the budget.
- 4 The increase in other equity injections is due to an equity injection received which was not included in the budget.

GLOSSARY

AEELERT	Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement Network
AFANT	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory
AHO	Accredited Hunting Organisation
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services
CALM	Conservation and Land Management
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLF	Capability and Leadership Framework
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DLRM	Department of Land Resource Management
EAP	Employee Assistance Program
EBA	Enterprise Bargaining Agreement
EOI	Expression of Interest
FEP	Flexible Employment Program
FOI	Freedom of Information
FTE	Full time equivalent (staff)
HR	Human Resource
ICS	Integrated Conservation Strategy
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JM	Joint Management
IES	Indigenous Employment Strategy
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NT	Northern Territory
NTFGA	Northern Territory Field and Game Association
NTPS	Northern Territory Public Sector
OCPE	Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment
PSEMA	<i>Public Sector Employment and Management Act</i>
PCBU	Person conducting a business or undertaking
PES	Personnel Evaluation System
PINS	Penalty Infringement Notice System
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TERN	Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network
TWPS	Territory Wildlife Parks (includes the Territory Wildlife Park and the Alice Springs Desert Park)
VET	Vocational Education and Training
WAN	Wide Area Network
WHS	Work Health and Safety
USA	United States of America

Contact information:

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Tennant Creek Region

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08 8951 8788
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asdp@nt.gov.au
www.alicespringsdesertpark.com.au
Opening hours:
Office: 8am-4pm (Mon-Fri)
Park: 7.30am-6pm (7 days)

Territory Wildlife Park

Cox Peninsula Road
Berry Springs
PO Box 771 Palmerston NT 0831
08 8988 7200
08 8988 7201 (fax)
twp@nt.gov.au
www.territorywildlifepark.com.au
Opening hours:
Office: 8am-4.21pm (Mon-Fri)
Park: 8.30am-6pm (7 days)

George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens

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