

Department of Environment and Conservation 2009 – 10 Annual Report



Department of
Environment and Conservation



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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Recommended reference

The recommended reference for this publication is:

Department of Environment and Conservation
2009–2010 Annual Report, Department of Environment and Conservation, 2010

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ISSN 1835-1131 (Print)
ISSN 1835-114X (Online)

17 September 2010



Hon Donna Faragher MLC

Minister for Environment

In accordance with section 63 of the Financial Management Act 2006, I have pleasure in submitting for presentation to Parliament the Annual Report of the Department of Environment and Conservation for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

This report has been prepared in accordance with provisions of the Financial Management Act 2006.

Handwritten signature of Keiran McNamara in black ink.

Keiran McNamara

Director General



The Department of Environment and Conservation is built on the skill and energy of staff who are dedicated to protecting and conserving WA's natural environment. For the most part, they do this with little fanfare but in the firm knowledge that they are delivering services that aim to meet the exacting standards demanded of us by the community and the Government.

This year saw significant progress on a number of fronts, from consultation on a strategy for conserving the Great Western Woodlands, through to the establishment of the State's 98th national park at Dirk Hartog Island and improved turnaround times for development approvals. Building work continued on the new WA Herbarium, while the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy continued to evolve with the Premier and Minister for Environment jointly announcing that a marine park will be created at Camden Sound.

We also went through a period of structural change with close to 100 DEC staff being transferred to the newly created Office of the Environmental Protection Authority. I am confident that the professional links between DEC and the Office of the EPA will continue to grow as we work on the shared goal of a healthy WA environment.

Commencement of the nation's largest resources project on Barrow Island ushered in a new era of frontline conservation work alongside major industrial activities. The Gorgon project has given DEC the opportunity to lead the WA public sector by deploying fly-in fly-out staff to manage the island nature reserve's outstanding wildlife conservation values.

The challenges of building a major resources project in an ecologically important setting have also allowed DEC to strengthen its relationships with the resources sector and our partner Government agencies. I am proud that our conservation scientists and technical officers have shown how DEC can provide the type of operational leadership and foresight, which is required to implement long-term environmental benefits from a project that will contribute to the State's economic prosperity.

It was also a sombre year as the State Coroner handed down his report into the tragic deaths of truck drivers Trevor Murley, Lewis Bedford and Robert Taylor during a bushfire that began in Boorabbin National Park in late 2007. I again extend my apologies and sincere condolences to their families and friends.

The overwhelming power of bushfires in Victoria on Black Saturday also gave us pause to consider our own bushfire planning here in Western Australia, and what we could do to help our interstate colleagues. Indeed, we are fortunate that within the department we have an internationally-recognised, scientific standing in fire ecology, prescribed burning and bushfire suppression which allowed us to make a significant expert witness contribution to the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

The contribution that DEC makes to the quality of life in WA goes beyond our conservation and pollution minimisation work. It also encompasses the extraordinary efforts of predominantly regionally-based staff who are 'on call' for a variety of emergency situations. I thank them for their vigilance and continued service to the department and the community.

I would also like to formally record my great appreciation and respect for Dr Neil Burrows, who after 14 years is stepping aside from the role of DEC's Director of Science to concentrate on his research work.

Keiran McNamara

Director General

NOTE



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NOTE

DEC's 2009–10 Annual Report is different in detail and scope to previous years. Certain data included in the past do not appear here, in keeping with instructions in the Public Sector Commission's Annual Reporting Framework to be as concise as possible while emphasising the agency's compliance with legislative and Government policy requirements.

A full account of DEC's considerable sweep of activity across Western Australia is being documented instead in the inaugural *DEC Yearbook 2009–10*, to be published later in 2010.

For further information about the *DEC Yearbook 2009–10* please contact the department's Corporate Communications Branch on 9389 4000, or email info@dec.wa.gov.au.



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OVERVIEW OF AGENCY





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2009–10 was a year of new challenges, landmark decisions, exciting flora and fauna discoveries and notable achievements for the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). These provided opportunities to showcase the important work being done by DEC throughout the State in protecting and conserving the environment.

Protecting our biodiversity

The protection of WA's biodiversity from threats such as introduced animals and environmental weeds was again a key priority for DEC in 2009–10.

A total of \$4.75 million was allocated to 44 priority nature conservation projects across a range of programs including *Phytophthora* dieback management and the State Cane Toad Initiative.

The advance of cane toads continued during the Kimberley wet season with the invasive species recorded 35 kilometres west of the WA–NT border. The department continued to support control and scientific research efforts with a view to minimising cane toad impacts in keeping with the newly completed *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2009–2019*.

The focus remained on the Kimberley as the initial public consultation phase for the development of a new Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy was completed.

The Gorgon Gas Project on Barrow Island got under way with the appointment of six staff to manage the island nature reserve and to ensure that native wildlife is protected. This is the first time a State Government agency has employed dedicated fly-in fly-out staff. DEC also commenced the implementation of two offset programs funded by the Gorgon Joint Venture: a fauna translocation and relocation program and marine monitoring associated with the dredging program.

The science community welcomed significant flora discoveries made by DEC staff during the year which included the identification of two new species of acacia in the Wheatbelt and 100 new plant species in the Kimberley.

The protection of threatened flora species was given another boost with the announcement of a major funding injection of \$2.9 million, part of which will be used to eradicate a dieback outbreak in Fitzgerald River National Park under the State Natural Resource Management Program.

Many key conservation projects commenced to assist with the preservation of Carnaby's black cockatoos, western ground parrots, Gilbert's potoroos, mala and banded hare-wallabies and western swamp tortoises.

The spotlight remained on the plight of endangered Carnaby's black cockatoos in March 2010 when DEC officers coordinated efforts to save dozens of wild cockatoos injured in a severe Perth storm, with assistance from volunteer groups.

The tremendous conservation work being undertaken by community groups and individuals across WA was also recognised when the first grants under the Minister for Environment's Environmental Community Grants Program were distributed. A total of \$1.53 million was made available to 140 community groups and individuals. In addition, the Government announced \$1.53 million for the second round of the program.

Managing our parks and reserves

During the year, the area of lands and waters managed by DEC increased by 170,894 hectares to 27,542,776 hectares. This equates to 10.25 per cent of the State's land area.

There were also more than 14.61 million visits recorded to DEC-managed lands and waters, an increase of 430,000 from the previous year.



Among the many highlights in 2009–10 was the creation of Dirk Hartog Island National Park within the Shark Bay World Heritage Area to protect the island's environmental, cultural and historical assets. Plans for a new marine park in humpback whale calving waters at Camden Sound off the Kimberley coast were also announced by the Minister for Environment as the first step in a broader science and conservation strategy for the Kimberley.

More than \$11 million was invested in capital works projects and tourist road improvements in national and conservation parks, State forests and other reserves across WA, such as the Bibbulmun Track.

Three DEC-managed landmarks were recognised as important tourism assets to the State. The Munda Biddi Trail was listed in *National Geographic's* world's top 10 cycle routes, while the Pinnacles Desert Discovery Centre won a gold medal in the WA Tourism Awards. The State and Commonwealth governments also agreed to support the World Heritage nomination of the Ningaloo Coast.

The *Naturebank* program was launched to identify sites on DEC-managed lands for sustainable tourism accommodation development. Expressions of interest were also called for the first *Naturebank* site at Kurrajong in Purnululu National Park.

During the year 3,038 volunteers contributed 451,040 hours to assist the department with the management of environmental projects on DEC-managed lands as well as supporting the WA Herbarium, caring for wildlife and assisting with surveys.

DEC led the development of a conservation strategy for the Great Western Woodlands to ensure that the economic, social and cultural activities and values of the area are recognised and conserved. To assist with this, a stakeholder reference group met several times to provide input into the draft strategy, which continued to be a key priority for the State Government.

An Indigenous land use agreement was endorsed with Yawuru native title holders to allow the creation of jointly managed terrestrial and marine conservation reserves in and around Broome.

Management plans for the Walpole Wilderness and adjacent parks and reserves, Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park and Woodman Point Regional Park were approved, bringing the total number of current management plans prepared under the Conservation and Land Management Act to 58.

Ensuring the future of our forests

DEC progressed the implementation of the Forest Management Plan 2004–13 which provides for increased protection of forest values and better management in the State's south-west. This also included the evaluation and monitoring of up to 10,000 hectares within State forest and timber reserves.

DEC completed the guidelines for the management of informal reserves and selection of fauna habitat zones and finalised the Timber Harvest Plan 2010–12.

Environmental regulation and assessment

During the year, air quality continued to be a key environmental concern for the community and as the State's environmental regulator, DEC operated 11 metropolitan and seven regional air quality monitoring stations¹ to assess the presence of pollutants and to report on ambient air quality.

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale continued to be the subject of further odour complaints and independent consultants were engaged to conduct a review of the operations and develop an improvement plan. DEC also completed a review

¹ The air quality monitoring network includes eight permanent metropolitan sites and five permanent regional sites. The remaining sites were temporary campaign monitoring sites in operation during 2009–10.



of the composting facility's licence and imposed additional conditions to ensure appropriate odour management.

The licence for Cockburn Cement Limited's Munster plant, which is the largest cement and lime plant in WA, was reviewed, and a draft amended licence was released for public comment with more than 50 submissions received.

DEC's contaminated sites branch classified 432 sites during the year, bringing the total number of sites classified under the Contaminated Sites Act to more than 1,380.

Work commenced on the former waste control site in Bellevue and, in an Australian first, a permeable reactive barrier groundwater treatment system was installed to prevent contaminated groundwater entering the nearby Helena River.

DEC made significant progress in reducing timeframes for processing native vegetation clearing licence applications. At the beginning of 2009 the timeframe to make a decision on clearing permit applications was reduced from 90 days to 80 per cent of decisions within 60 calendar days and the remainder within 90 days. In 2009–10 the department achieved 78 per cent of decisions within 60 days and a further 15 per cent of remaining decisions within 90 days. The department's industry regulation area also issued 100 per cent of works approvals for major resource projects within the 60-working-day target timeframe.

On the prosecution front, Western Australia's biggest penalty for pollution was handed down to the Esperance port, with the Magistrates Court fining the port \$525,000 plus court costs, after convicting it on five charges relating to lead contamination in Esperance and one charge of emitting a nickel odour.

During the year, the strength of DEC's enforcement capability received a boost with the appointment of six regional investigations leaders and two senior investigators. This was part of the department's ongoing commitment to improve environmental monitoring and compliance programs across WA.

In November 2009, the department's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) service unit, which included the environmental impact assessment division, was transferred to the newly created Office of the EPA.

Sustainability

This was a significant year for the department in facilitating, promoting and implementing new approaches to reduce waste in our society. The State Government amended the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act), WARR Levy Act and WARR Levy Regulations to increase the levy on waste disposed to landfill with the objectives of providing a greater economic incentive to reduce disposal of waste to landfill, and encourage the re-use or recycling of waste. The government also broadened the application of the increased revenue to a broader range of environmental and conservation activities undertaken by the department.

During 2009–10, two rounds of the Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme and Community Grants Scheme were offered and a total of 36 grants were awarded.

The third round of the Low Emissions Energy Development fund commenced to help develop sustainable, low-emission technologies to reduce WA's greenhouse gas emissions, with up to \$10 million available for suitable projects.

A partnership project with the Conservation Council of WA was also completed to build community capacity in climate change policy and increase the level of community engagement.



Fire management

DEC staff attended and monitored 603 bushfires during the 2009–10 fire season which covered an area of about 2.6 million hectares. About 27 per cent of these fires were caused by lightning while 36 per cent were deliberately lit.

In the south-west forest regions, DEC staff attended 403 fires of which 90 per cent were contained to less than 20 hectares due to early detection and rapid fire suppression response by the department.

The extremely dry summer conditions that have prevailed since 2006 continued to affect most of the State, and resulted in numerous large bushfires. Bushfires near Harvey and Walpole, which burnt an estimated 20,000 hectares, kept DEC fire teams busy for several days with smoke from the fires affecting Perth and parts of the south-west. Fire crews remained on-hand when lightning strikes sparked a big bushfire near Moore River National Park threatening nearby properties. More than 50 DEC staff attended and there were no property losses.

DEC's ability to manage the bushfires was in part due to a prescribed burning program and, for the first time in five years, the department exceeded its annual target of 200,000 hectares for the three south-west forest regions due to concerted effort and favourable weather conditions.

In achieving this milestone prescribed burns were undertaken across a total of 1.27 million hectares throughout Western Australia including 417,096 hectares in the South Coast Region, 1.68 million hectares in the Kimberley and more than 456,000 hectares in the Midwest, Pilbara, Wheatbelt and Goldfields.

Departmental pre-formed incident management teams were engaged at two fires during the year. These teams consist of departmental personnel who train together and are ready during the bushfire season to respond to big incidents.

Also in 2009–10, the department completed the installation of a resource tracking system that provides managers with immediate access to information on the locations and activities of fire management resources such as aircraft, tankers, machinery and transport vehicles at incidents throughout WA.

WA broke new ground in August when six forest fire experts, five from DEC and one from the Forest Products Commission, were sent to Canada for the first time to help fight a series of bushfires that had stretched British Columbia's resources to the limit. The WA team was part of a 30-strong Australia–New Zealand contingent that spent five weeks assisting the Canadians.

October 2009 marked the commencement of the Coronial inquest into the 2007 Boorabbin National Park bushfire that resulted in the tragic loss of three lives. The State Coroner presided over the inquest for three weeks in what was a challenging time for the families and friends of the deceased men, as well as for all DEC staff involved. The Coroner released his findings and recommendations which included that there be an independent review of DEC's ability to manage major bushfires.



OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

Enabling legislation

On 1 July 2006 the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) was formed from the amalgamation of the former Department of Conservation and Land Management and the former Department of Environment under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

Responsible Minister

DEC's responsibility during the whole of the reporting period was to the Minister for Environment, the Hon Donna Faragher MLC, who exercised authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and other DEC-administered legislation.

The role of the department

DEC is in the portfolio of the Minister for Environment and has the lead responsibility for protecting and conserving the State's environment on behalf of the people of WA. This includes managing the State's national parks, State forests and timber reserves, regional parks, nature reserves, marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas. The department has a broad role in conserving biodiversity and protecting, managing, regulating and assessing many aspects of the use of the State's natural resources as well as carrying out regulatory functions to achieve improved environmental outcomes. It is also responsible for the management of contaminated sites and responding to pollution incidents around the State, and for ensuring fire preparedness and weed control on 89 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves.

The department supports or assists the following portfolio authorities and boards to carry out their functions:

- Cockburn Sound Management Council
- Conservation Commission of Western Australia
- Contaminated Sites Committee
- Keep Australia Beautiful Council
- Marine Parks and Reserves Authority
- Swan River Trust
- Waste Authority.

Legislation administered by DEC as at 30 June 2010

Acts

- *Carbon Rights Act 2003*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Environmental Protection (Landfill) Levy Act 1998*
- *National Environment Protection Council (Western Australia) Act 1996*
- *Reserves (National Parks and Conservation Parks) Act 2004*
- *Reserves (National Parks, Conservation Parks and Other Reserves) Act 2004*
- *Reserves (National Parks, Conservation Parks, Nature Reserves and Other Reserves) Act 2004*
- *Sandalwood Act 1929*
- *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*



Regulations

- Clean Air (Determination of Air Impurities in Gases discharged into the Atmosphere) Regulations 1983
- Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002
- Contaminated Sites Regulations 2006
- Environmental Protection Regulations 1987
- Environmental Protection (Abattoirs) Regulations 2001
- Environmental Protection (Abrasive Blasting) Regulations 1998
- Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004
- Environmental Protection (Concrete Batching and Cement Product Manufacturing) Regulations 1998
- Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004
- Environmental Protection (Diesel and Petrol) Regulations 1999
- Environmental Protection (Domestic Solid Fuel Burning Appliances and Firewood Supply) Regulations 1998
- Environmental Protection (Fibre Reinforced Plastics) Regulations 1998
- Environmental Protection (Goldfields Residential Areas) (Sulphur Dioxide) Regulations 2003
- Environmental Protection (Kwinana) (Atmospheric Wastes) Regulations 1992
- Environmental Protection (Metal Coating) Regulations 2001
- Environmental Protection (NEPM-NPI) Regulations 1998
- Environmental Protection (NEPM-UPM) Regulations 2007
- Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997
- Environmental Protection (Recovery of Vapours from the Transfer of Organic Liquids) Regulations 1995
- Environmental Protection (Rural Landfill) Regulations 2002
- Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004
- Forest Management Regulations 1993
- Noise Abatement (Noise Labelling of Equipment) Regulations (No 2) 1985
- Sandalwood Regulations 1993
- Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970
- Wildlife Conservation (Reptiles and Amphibians) Regulations 2002

Environmental protection policies

- Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992
- Environmental Protection (Gnangara Mound Crown Land) Policy 1992
- Environmental Protection (Peel Inlet - Harvey Estuary) Policy 1992
- Environmental Protection (Kwinana) (Atmospheric Wastes) Policy 1999
- Environmental Protection (Goldfields Residential Areas) (Sulphur Dioxide) Policy 2003
- Environmental Protection (South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands) Policy 1998
- Environmental Protection (Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat) Policy 2002 [[Appendix 1](#) to the Environmental Protection (Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat) Policy Approval Order 2002]



Other written laws on which DEC officers assist

- *Litter Act 1979*
- Litter Regulations 1981
- *Swan and Canning Rivers (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2006*
- Swan and Canning Rivers (Transitional) Regulations (No. 2) 2007
- Swan and Canning Rivers (Transitional) Regulations 2007
- *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*
- Swan and Canning Rivers Foundation Rules 2009
- Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*
- Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Act 2007*
- Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008

Changes made in 2009–10 to legislation administered

The following changes to legislation occurred during the reporting period:

On 21 July 2009, the Environmental Protection (Recovery of Vapours from the Transfer of Organic Liquids) Amendment Regulations 2009 amended the Environmental Protection (Recovery of Vapours from the Transfer of Organic Liquids) Regulations 1995 replacing the meaning of 'metropolitan region' in regulation 2 with the meaning given in the *Planning and Development Act 2005* section 4(1).

The approval of the Environmental Protection (Ozone Protection) Policy 2000 given under section 31(d) of the Act was revoked on 1 September 2009 by the Environmental Protection (Ozone Protection) Policy Revocation Order 2009.

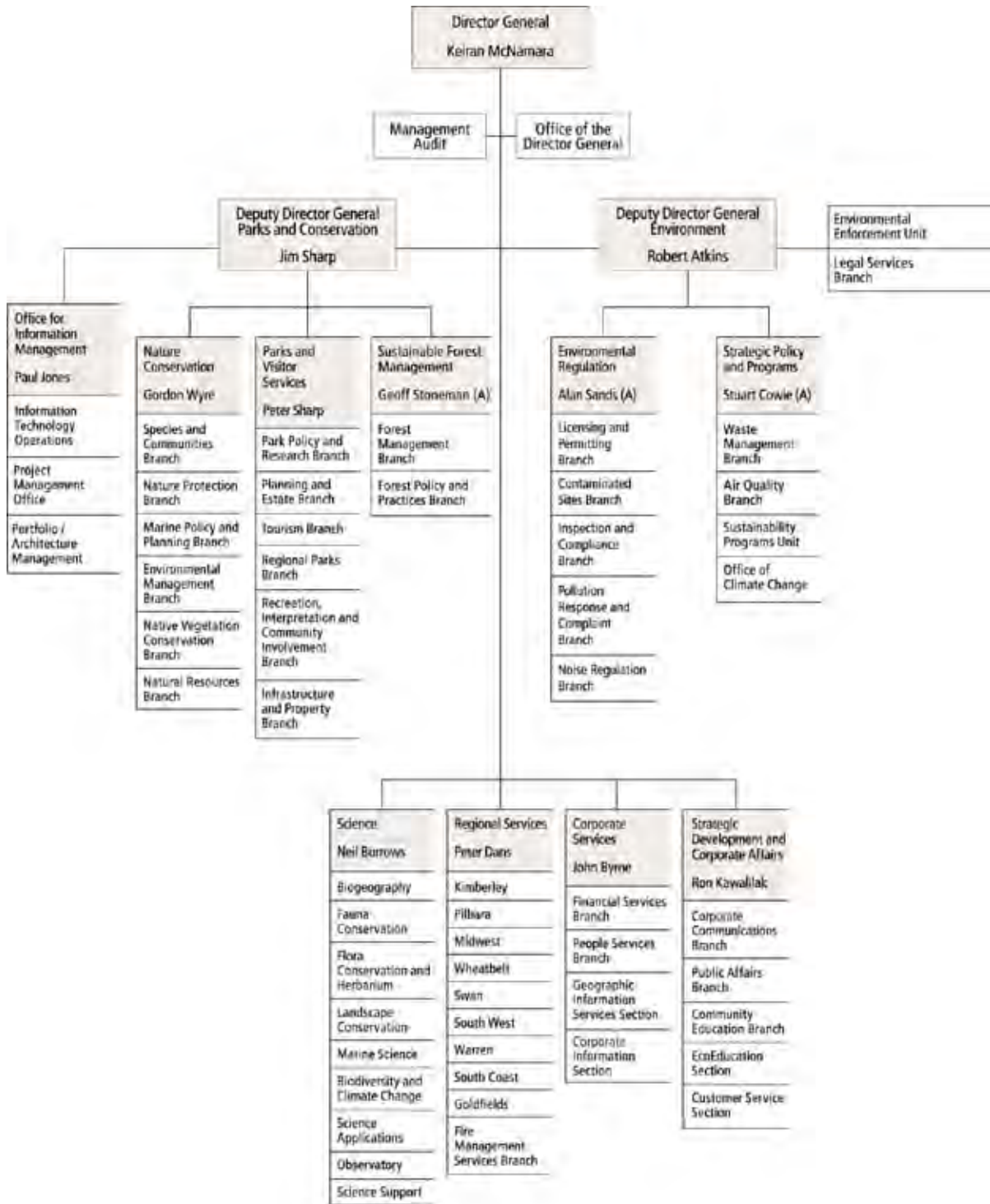
On 1 September 2009, the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations 2009 increased entrance fees to CALM Act land and Monkey Mia Conservation Park.

By gazettal on 27 November 2009, delegations 85 to 93 enabled the General Manager of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) to perform specified duties as a delegate of the CEO of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

On 11 December 2009, the Swan and Canning Rivers Foundation Rules 2009 came into effect.

On 15 December 2009, the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Exemption Order 2009 came into effect and declared that section 51D(3)(a) of the Act does not apply in respect of clearing, in the drain corridor, for the purposes of constructing and maintaining a drain that is: (a) not more than 12 metres wide; and (b) not more than 2 hectares in area; and (c) not more than 0.6 metres deep (on average).

On 1 January 2010, the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment Act 2009*, other than sections 1, 2, 3, 9 and Part 3, came into operation and broadened the purposes for which the levy imposed under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Act 2007* can be applied. Similarly, regulation 12 of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008 was amended by the publication of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Amendment Regulations 2009.



Current as at 30 June 2010



Publication in the *Government Gazette* on 9 March 2010 indicated that as part of its review of the Environmental Protection (Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat) Policy 2002, the EPA prepared a new draft Environmental Protection (Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat) Policy 2010, establishing the actions that might degrade the critically endangered western swamp tortoise habitat.

The *Conservation and Land Management (Revocation of State Forest) Order (No. 1) 2010*, gazetted on 23 April 2010, declared that the portion of land situated about two kilometres north-east of Margaret River Townsite and comprising Lot 5448 (3.0899 hectares) and Lot 5536 (0.6149 hectares) on Deposited Plan 27468 and Lot 5449 (19.8525 hectares) on Deposited Plan 28056 is revoked from State Forest No. 56.

The *Conservation and Land Management (Revocation of Timber Reserve) Order (No. 1) 2010*, gazetted on 23 April 2010, declared that the portion of land situated approximately two kilometres north-east of Margaret River Townsite and comprising Lots 5450 (7.6638 hectares) and 5451 (2.2330 hectares) as shown on Deposited Plan 28056 is excised from Timber Reserve No. 60/25.

Copies of the legislation administered by the department are available on the State Law Publisher's website at <http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/agency.nsf/dec_menu.htmlx>.

Performance management framework

DEC supports government goals with more specific desired outcomes, achieved via services delivered across six areas.

The following table illustrates the relationship between our agency-level desired outcomes and the most appropriate government goal.

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services
Social and environmental responsibility:	Conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity.	1. Nature Conservation 2. Sustainable Forest Management
Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State.	Community enjoyment of park facilities and services, wildlife and the natural environment displayed in parks.	3. Parks and Visitor Services
	Emissions and discharges meet acceptable criteria.	4. Environmental Regulation
	Adoption of environmentally sustainable practices to protect, manage and restore the State's natural resources	5. Environmental Sustainability 6. Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority* 7. Coordinate the Response to Climate Change

*until 27 November 2009.

Changes from the 2008–09 reporting year

There are no changes to the performance management framework other than noting that responsibility and resources for Service 6: Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority were transferred from 27 November 2009 to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority.



Shared responsibilities with other agencies

During the year, DEC contributed to whole-of-government reform initiatives including improvement of environmental assessment and planning processes, corporate services reform, implementation of efficiency and other targeted savings, and participation in Economic Audit Committee planning and review processes. The department also contributed to the following key cross-agency initiatives.

Table: Key cross-agency initiatives

Initiative	Contributing agencies	Result for 2009–10
Responding to Climate Change	DEC (lead agency), Office of Energy, Department of Treasury and Finance, Department of Planning, Department of Transport, Department of the Premier and Cabinet.	Whole-of-government integrated response to climate change
Salinity	Department of Agriculture and Food (lead agency), DEC	

AGENCY PERFORMANCE





REPORT ON OPERATIONS

Service 1: Nature Conservation

This service develops and implements programs for the conservation of biodiversity, including:

- management of threatened species and ecological communities
- sustainable use of commercially exploited species
- the acquisition, conservation and protection of representative ecosystems for the national reserve system and network of marine protected areas
- promotion of public awareness, understanding and support for nature conservation.

The service is delivered through six key strategic directions:

1. Building biodiversity knowledge

The department develops and maintains a biological inventory of the State, through strategic regional and area-based biological surveys, ecological research, taxonomic studies, and the maintenance of biological data management systems, including the maintenance of the State's flora collection.

2. Establishing a terrestrial and marine conservation reserve system

DEC provides expert advice and recommendations to the Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority in developing and maintaining a conservation reserve system comprising national parks, nature reserves, conservation parks, miscellaneous conservation reserves, marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

3. Effective management of the conservation reserve system

In consultation with stakeholders including the Western Australian public, the department develops, implements and reviews management plans for conservation reserves, including such operational programs as weed control, introduced animal control, and fire management for biodiversity.

4. Recovery of threatened species and ecological communities; and management of other significant species and ecosystems

DEC makes recommendations for changes to the lists of threatened flora and fauna under the *State Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, maintains a State list of threatened ecological communities, and develops and implements recovery plans for threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities. The department coordinates responses to whale and dolphin strandings and other incidents of injury or harm to marine fauna, and manages and regulates commercial activities, including the issuing of flora and fauna licenses and wildlife interaction licenses, and enforces compliance under the *Wildlife Conservation Act*. DEC also takes a lead role for the State in conserving Western Australian wetlands, including through the international *Convention on Wetlands (the Ramsar Convention)*.



5. Conserving landscapes and seascapes: integrating off- and on-reserve conservation and managing threatening processes

The department maintains the State's biodiversity through a range of strategies including:

- providing advice on State legislation and policy
- participating in national working groups developing national policies and procedures
- developing five-year nature conservation plans for guiding biodiversity management in each DEC region
- taking the lead in establishing and promoting a scientifically robust regional marine planning framework
- managing the system-wide threat of salinity through the management of natural diversity recovery catchments
- implementing strategies to manage feral animals and environmental weeds
- working in partnership with stakeholders to research and implement management measures to contain and counteract the effects of *Phytophthora* disease
- carrying out targeted fire preparedness and pest and weed control on unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves
- undertaking regional conservation planning activities in the Kimberley and Great Western Woodlands
- implementing provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* through the processing of applications to clear native vegetation, and providing advice on major development projects including approving associated management plans.

6. Encouraging public understanding and support of biodiversity conservation and other DEC programs and activities

The department promotes public understanding and support through a number of functions, including:

- providing support for the Minister for Environment's Environmental Community Grants program, which distributes grant money to community groups and individuals engaged in projects or activities that promote environmental responsibility
- supporting private landholders on the Swan coastal plain by providing technical and financial assistance to manage wetlands of high conservation value through the *Healthy Wetland Habitats* program
- via the Roadside Conservation Committee, facilitating best-practice management of remnant vegetation in transport corridors through awareness-raising, liaison and cooperation with stakeholders
- providing technical advice and support to stakeholders and land managers through the *Urban Nature* program
- providing private land biodiversity conservation support and advice through a range of programs including *Land for Wildlife* and the *Nature Conservation Covenant* program.



Performance summary

	2009–10 Target \$'000	2009–10 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	103,071	119,706	16,635
KPI	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variance
Average cost per hectare of managing wildlife habitat	\$3.68	\$4.35	\$0.67

Performance highlights

- Strategic terrestrial biological surveys were undertaken or continued in the Pilbara, Kimberley islands, banded iron formations of the Yilgarn Craton, Ravensthorpe Range, and the Great Victoria and Western deserts.
- Benchmark studies into the biodiversity of the marine environment continued with studies in the Marmion, Shoalwater Islands, and the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets marine parks, and studies on corals and reef fish populations.
- Sixteen parcels of land of high conservation value covering a combined total area of about 8,195 hectares, were purchased during the year for future addition to the publicly owned conservation reserve system.
- The initial public consultation phase of the development of a new Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy was completed and a report prepared. An indicative management plan to support the establishment of the proposed Camden Sound Marine Park in the Kimberley Region was in preparation for consideration by the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and the Minister for Environment.
- A stakeholder reference group met three times as part of formulating a Biodiversity and Cultural Conservation Strategy to better manage and protect the Great Western Woodlands.
- A total of \$4.75 million was allocated to 44 priority nature conservation projects across a range of programs including invasive animal and environmental weed control, *Phytophthora* dieback management, threatened species and ecological communities recovery, biological survey and research, rangelands management and the State Cane Toad Initiative.
- The *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2009–2019* was finalised to assist in the coordination of the effort to manage the impact of this invasive species.
- Extensive surveys of freshwater and saltwater crocodile habitat in the east Kimberley were conducted to provide enhanced data on populations ahead of predicted impacts from cane toads on these two species.
- More than 3.9 million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest were baited to control foxes and feral cats and promote native species recovery, using nearly 1.1 million poison baits, under the *Western Shield* program.
- The department, in partnership with South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc and the Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management at Murdoch University, has commenced a State NRM project that includes attempts to eradicate *Phytophthora cinnamomi* infestations within the Fitzgerald River and Cape Arid national parks.
- DEC provided advice to proponents and decision-making authorities, including the Environmental Protection Authority, on a range of development proposals affecting critical



biodiversity assets, DEC-managed lands, wetlands recognised for biodiversity values, and on the assessment and ongoing management of a large number of development projects.

- The department had significant involvement in the assessment and implementation of the revised Gorgon Gas Project proposal for Barrow Island. This included the review of more than 18 management plans and other environmental documentation; the establishment of six staff to monitor the implementation of strict quarantine requirements, manage important flora and fauna values, and educate the workforce on the importance of Barrow Island Nature Reserve; and the commencement of two offset programs: a fauna translocation and reintroduction program, and a monitoring program to assess the potential biodiversity effects of the dredging operations.
- DEC continued to reduce the backlog in processing applications to clear native vegetation, and during the year achieved the timeframe target for processing clearing applications.
- The Natural Diversity Recovery Catchments program continued at Lake Bryde and Toolibin Lake, Muir-Unicup, Drummond, Buntine-Marchagee and Lake Warden to slow degradation and recover high-value biodiversity assets at risk from altered hydrology.
- Six species of flora were added to the list of declared rare flora and four species were deleted from the list as they were no longer considered to be threatened. At 30 June 2010, there were 393 declared rare flora, 13 flora presumed to be extinct and 2,702 taxa listed as priority flora.
- The number of Priority Flora listed in the Kimberley Region more than doubled this financial year due to a Commonwealth-funded project at the WA Herbarium.
- New and enhanced translocated populations of 26 threatened plant taxa were established, including 13 initiated with State Natural Resources Management funding.
- The number of specimens held at the WA Herbarium increased by 2.1 per cent (15,109 specimens). WA's vascular flora (flowering plants, ferns, cycadas and conifers) now comprise 13,381 species, subspecies and varieties (12,172 native and 1,209 alien).
- One hundred and eighty-one new seed collections were added to the Threatened Flora Seed Centre; 128 of these were from declared rare flora and 23 from priority flora.
- Four hundred and seventy-three new taxa were added to the Western Australian Plant Census; 199 of these were new unpublished (phrase) names and 274 new published names.
- Flora conservation projects undertaken with funding from the State Natural Resource Management program include weed control, fencing, fire management and seed collections.
- Four new fauna recovery plans (covering 11 species) were approved to guide efforts to conserve: south coast birds (six species); mala; Shark Bay marsupials (three species) and western trout minnow. Nine interim flora recovery plans were also approved.
- The Woylie Conservation Research Project continued. Findings provide mounting evidence that the population decline since 2001 has been due to the combination of predation (principally feral cat and some fox predation), and disease, which is making animals more susceptible to predation.
- The mesopredator research program was completed and the findings on impact of feral cat predation on native fauna and the effectiveness of current fox control baiting regimes will be incorporated into the Western Shield fauna recovery program.
- A number of key fauna conservation projects commenced with funding from the State Natural Resources Management program. They included projects for the conservation of Carnaby's black cockatoos, western ground parrots, Gilbert's potoroos, western swamp tortoises, mala and banded hare-wallabies; and, translocations of threatened and priority



fauna species such as tammar wallabies, woylies, red-tail phascogales, Gilbert's potoroos and bilbies to new sites in the south-west of the State.

- DEC completed ecological character descriptions and Ramsar information sheets for five wetland systems listed under the International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and one candidate site.
- The first grants under the Minister for Environment's Environmental Community Grants Program were distributed in 2009–10, with a total of \$1.53 million being made available to 140 community groups and individuals. The second round of \$1.53 million was also announced.
- Eighty-nine new properties were registered under the *Land for Wildlife* scheme bringing the total area of registered sites to 309,622 hectares.
- The voluntary Nature Conservation Covenant Program entered into covenants in perpetuity on 14 titles, which protected 1,493 hectares of native vegetation.

Clearing permits

DEC's clearing permit system database records details of all clearing permit applications and decisions made during the year for both DEC and the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP), and forms the basis of the published records available on DEC's website.

DEC received 463 applications to clear native vegetation in 2009–10, and made 471 decisions.

Under delegation from DEC, DMP received 226 applications and made 223 decisions.

A total of 14,416 hectares was approved to be cleared in 2009–10.

Timeframes

The reduction of the target timeframes in the beginning of 2009 to 80 per cent of decisions made in 60 calendar days and 100 per cent of decisions in 90 calendar days reflects the department's ongoing improved performance in dealing with applications. The timeframes specifically recognise a risk-based approach to assessments that is based on sensitivity of the environment, magnitude of impact/s and urgency of the clearing. DEC publishes quarterly reports of its performance in achieving timeframes for all native vegetation clearing decisions.

In 2009–10, DEC finalised 78 per cent of applications within 60 days, and 93 per cent within 90 days, with seven per cent of applications taking longer than 90 days to finalise.

Flora and fauna licences

In 2009–10 DEC issued a total of 8,228 licences under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* to take, collect, keep and breed, deal in, trap or export native fauna and a total of 1,868 licences to collect native flora. A further 649 licences were issued to scare, destroy, or trap and relocate nuisance wildlife.



Service 2: Sustainable Forest Management

This service provides economic, social and cultural benefits from State forest and timber reserves while conserving biodiversity, maintaining soil and water values and sustaining health, vitality and productive capacity of the forest for current and future generations.

Functions through which the department delivers this service include:

1. Implementing approved forest management plans and government policies and programs, including:

- implementing actions outlined in the Forest Management Plan 2004–2013
- carrying out the community forest inspection program.

2. Inventory, assessment and modelling of natural resources, including:

- acquiring and analysing timber inventory data to assist the Forest Products Commission, DEC and the Conservation Commission to plan, manage and monitor timber production in State forest and timber reserves
- mapping vegetation to inform silvicultural decisions, old-growth forest assessments, disease impact predictions and the protection of poorly represented vegetation complexes
- carrying out field measurement programs to monitor the yields and silvicultural standards realised in timber harvest options
- providing specialist services, including aerial photography, photo-interpretation, photogrammetry, vegetation and disease-mapping surveys and database design and development, to other DEC divisions, the Forest Products Commission and other government agencies, natural resource management groups and external clients.

3. Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and other values of forests, including:

- providing planning support to guide the selection and management of public firewood and flora harvesting areas; monitoring areas burnt by bushfires and prescribed fires to support fire planning and reporting; and assisting to evaluate biodiversity assets at risk from effects of infrastructure construction
- delivering information about and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback and evaluating disease hygiene standards to minimise spread through operations
- establishing and implementing an approvals, monitoring and compliance management system and setting standards for the management of a range of forest values
- undertaking research to enhance management of biodiversity, ecosystem health and vitality, and soil and water values, and managing an approvals process for access to harvest areas
- implementing fauna habitat zones
- monitoring timber harvesting operations
- assessing eight *ForestCheck* monitoring grids in the Perth Hills District and trapping and surveying fauna populations to gauge their response to timber harvesting
- carrying out forest audits.



4. Providing for harvesting, regeneration and growth of forest products in accordance with approved management plans and guided by the principles of ecologically sustainable forest management, including:

- reviewing and monitoring silviculture guidelines and preparing reference material and conducting training for silvicultural practices
- monitoring areas subject to timber harvesting and associated treatments
- reviewing regional harvest plans submitted.

5. Partnerships, including with:

- the community and stakeholders (including volunteer projects on vegetation condition and multi-resource inventory)
- other State agencies and authorities
- Commonwealth agencies.

Performance summary

	2009–10 Target \$'000	2009–10 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	44,149	46,360	2,211
KPI	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variance
Average cost per hectare of managing State forest and timber reserves	\$34.03	\$35.73	\$1.70

Performance highlights

- The Forest Management Plan 2004–2013 continued to be implemented.
- Further information was provided to the Minister for Environment, Environmental Protection Authority and Conservation Commission regarding the mid-term audit of the Forest Management Plan.
- A guideline was completed for the management of informal reserves and fauna habitat zones, as were several protocols for key performance indicators of the Forest Management Plan, a planning checklist for disturbance activities, and a guideline for selection of fauna habitat zones was released for public comment.
- A guideline was completed, as well as two manuals, a field guide and a technical report that support the management of soil and water values.
- Evaluation and monitoring of more than 100 disturbance operations totalling 8,000–10,000 hectares within State forest and timber reserves were undertaken to ensure compliance with the environmental outcomes sought in the Forest Management Plan.
- Effective fire management was implemented for the protection of values on State forest and timber reserves within the south-west.
- Preliminary work was undertaken on the design of 33 indicative fauna habitat zones, and the final locations of 23 fauna habitat zones were designed and established.
- The three-year rolling Timber Harvest Plan 2010–12 was finalised.
- Results from the first five years of *ForestCheck* monitoring were prepared and communicated.



- The detection and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback disease on DEC-managed lands were undertaken to inform the planning and management of disturbance operations and the prioritisation of disease treatments.
- Work was initiated to improve modelling of the rate of spread of *Phytophthora* disease in south-west landscapes.

Service 3: Parks and Visitor Services

This service manages lands and waters, dealing with public involvement, visitation and appreciation of the natural environment on lands and waters managed by the department, including:

- preparing and implementing management and recreation site development plans
- providing, managing and maintaining appropriate access, recreation opportunities and visitor facilities
- protecting natural areas, visitors and facilities from bushfire
- training departmental staff and volunteers
- working with local tourist bureaus and commercial tour operators
- involving Indigenous people in park management and the provision of visitor facilities and services
- providing visitor information and designing and initiating educational and interpretive activity programs that enrich visitor experience and help develop greater community awareness and support for parks, natural areas, astronomy, nature-based tourism and recreation services and policies
- undertaking scientific, visitor and social research, in cooperation with other research institutions
- providing services to, and performing statutory functions by, the Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.

Functions through which the department delivers this service include:

1. Planning for management

At 30 June 2010 there were:

- 58 final statutory management plans
- 13 final management plans in preparation
- 14 draft management plans in preparation
- one indicative marine park management plan in preparation.

2. Acquiring and administrating protected areas, through:

- reserve creation and land acquisition
- leasing arrangements for activities such as recreation, tourism accommodation, utilities and sawmills
- apiary site management involving 3,280 current permits of which 1,594 occur on DEC-managed lands.



3. Park presentation and resource protection, including:

- improving and maintaining recreation and tourism assets on DEC-managed lands through capital works
- managing DEC's 38,000-kilometre road network
- recreation planning and design.

4. Visitor communication and management, through:

- interpretive planning and design
- community liaison, consultation and advisory services
- guided interpretive programs.

5. Aboriginal liaison, consultation and heritage, including:

- developing and implementing joint management agreements and initiatives
- providing for customary activities
- providing for heritage and culture protection
- relationship building, education and training

6. Business management, including:

- developing and disseminating communication and promotion material and establishing and maintaining relationships with reference groups and industry bodies
- selling and distributing park passes and processing requests for fee waivers
- licensing commercial operations and communicating conditions to licence holders.

7. Legislation and policy for parks and visitor services, including:

- developing and amending legislation and regulations, and drafting and administering policies for visitor activities on DEC-managed lands.

8. Recreation activities and trails, including:

- managing outdoor recreation activities
- coordinating the management of the Bibbulmun Track and the Munda Biddi Trail
- working with associations and clubs such as the Western Australian 4WD Association and Outdoors WA
- planning for better management of off-road vehicle use
- developing and implementing recreation plans.

9. Community involvement, including:

- enlisting community support by providing access to meaningful and interesting opportunities and ongoing projects and programs as well as engaging with community groups
- providing support and training to volunteers
- engaging in cross-promotional opportunities with other government bodies and other organisations for DEC's *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* and promoting the initiative through presentations and activities



- managing Western Australia's regional parks through planning and estate management, conservation works, on-ground park improvements and community liaison and participation.

10. Social and visitor research

- monitoring visitor use in national parks, State forest and other reserves
- conducting a visitor survey program to assess visitor needs and expectations and gauge visitor satisfaction with recreation and tourism facilities and services.

11 Astronomy, including:

- facilitating public participation through visitor activities
- carrying out research activities.

12. Support to the Conservation Commission, through:

- staffing of the Conservation Commission Service Unit
- providing advice and information relating to the statutory functions of the Conservation Commission.

(As an independent statutory authority, the Conservation Commission reports on its activities in a separate annual report.)

13. Other initiatives, including:

- formalising partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding
- progressing world and national heritage nominations.

14. Carrying out parks and visitor services through the nine DEC regions

Performance summary

	2009–10 Target \$'000	2009–10 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	\$74,352	\$78,952	\$4,600
KPI	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variance
Cost per visit	5.57	5.40	(0.17)

Performance highlights

- \$11.2 million was spent on capital works projects and tourist road improvements in national parks, conservation parks, State forests and other reserves across Western Australia to improve visitor access and facilities in the State's world-class parks.
- Facilities were maintained in a safe and workable condition with a focus on site works that provide for the protection of environmental and cultural values and/or visitor safety.



- Construction continued on the Munda Biddi Trail between Nannup and Albany and on campsites south of Nannup using funding of \$3 million over three years from Royalties for Regions.
- Maintenance and improvements continued along the Bibbulmun Track as part of the capital works program including completing major trail refurbishments in Albany, Collie, Donnelly, Denmark and Kalamunda.
- Dirk Hartog Island National Park was created on 30 October 2009 to protect the island's biodiversity, which includes more than 250 native plant species, three endemic threatened bird species and a number of threatened reptiles, and its rich European history.
- Visitor sites were upgraded in the Shark Bay and Purnululu World Heritage areas as part of a Commonwealth Jobs Fund program worth \$593,000 and \$765,000 respectively.
- A joint \$40 million Commonwealth–State Government-funded improvement project was started at Fitzgerald River National Park with visitor master planning and site development planning, as well as construction of the first section of the new roadworks from Ranger Station to East Mt Barren car park by Main Roads Western Australia.
- Transitional management arrangements commenced for Araluen Botanic Park, to be managed by DEC on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission.
- On 25 February 2010, an Indigenous land-use agreement was endorsed with Yawuru native title holders which will enable the creation of terrestrial and marine conservation reserves to be jointly managed by the Yawuru people, DEC and, within the Broome townsite, the Shire of Broome.
- Land holdings were consolidated in Benger Swamp Nature Reserve (more than 160 blocks) and Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park (more than 60 separate parcels of land).
- The State and Commonwealth governments agreed to support the world heritage nomination of the Ningaloo Coast.
- Interpretation designs were prepared for 389 projects comprising 7,526 sign products with the majority now installed in parks and reserves throughout the State. Interpretive projects of particular note were Purnululu World Heritage Area trailside interpretive signs for the camping areas including the tour operator visitor accommodation lease areas; Penguin Island boardwalk trailside signs; Perth Observatory visitor centre display; the Lake Ballard shelter display; and the Tuart Forest National Park shelter panels.
- The *Naturebank* program was launched to facilitate the identification and preparation of sites on DEC-managed lands for appropriate low-key, sustainable tourism accommodation development. In December 2009, expressions of interest were called for the first *Naturebank* site at Kurrajong in Purnululu National Park.
- The Pinnacles Desert Discovery Centre was awarded a gold medal in the West Australian Tourism Awards for the category of 'Best New Tourism Development'.
- The number of DEC-registered volunteers increased to 3,038 people who contributed 451,040 hours to projects across Western Australia. Volunteers took part in a range of activities, including the clean-up of Lake Mason station, seagrass monitoring at Broome, foreshore rehabilitation on the Swan and Canning rivers and flora and fauna translocations, as well as supporting the WA Herbarium and assisting with wildlife care.
- Aboriginal educational programs were delivered to 48 schools, community and special interest groups and engaged 4,270 participants, and five cultural protocol workshops were held for 71 staff and 23 volunteer Campground Hosts.



- DEC entered into 206 formal lease agreements, including new leases for an ecotourism resort on Dirk Hartog Island, for use of Gloucester Lodge in Yanchep National Park and to repair and operate a hydro-power station in Wellington National Park.
- A total of \$850,000 was invested in capital improvements at Lesmurdie Falls in Mundy Regional Park, including upgrades to the car park, pedestrian access, picnic facilities, toilets, interpretation, and viewing platforms.
- A total of \$105,000 was allocated to volunteer groups to undertake works in regional parks including rehabilitation and weed control works and enhancement of Carnaby's black cockatoo habitat as part of the Minister for Environment's \$1.53 million Environmental Community Grants Program.
- New staff accommodation was installed at Thomas River, Cape Arid National Park, and at Lucky Bay, Cape Le Grand National Park to replace facilities destroyed by a bushfire and storm respectively.
- The total number of visits to DEC-managed lands and waters increased to 14.61 million from 14.18 million last year (see Figure 1).
- The 2009–10 index, averaged from visitor responses to the survey at the selected parks, reserves and forest areas around the State, was 87.2 per cent. This outcome, with results from previous years of the survey program, is illustrated in Figure 2.

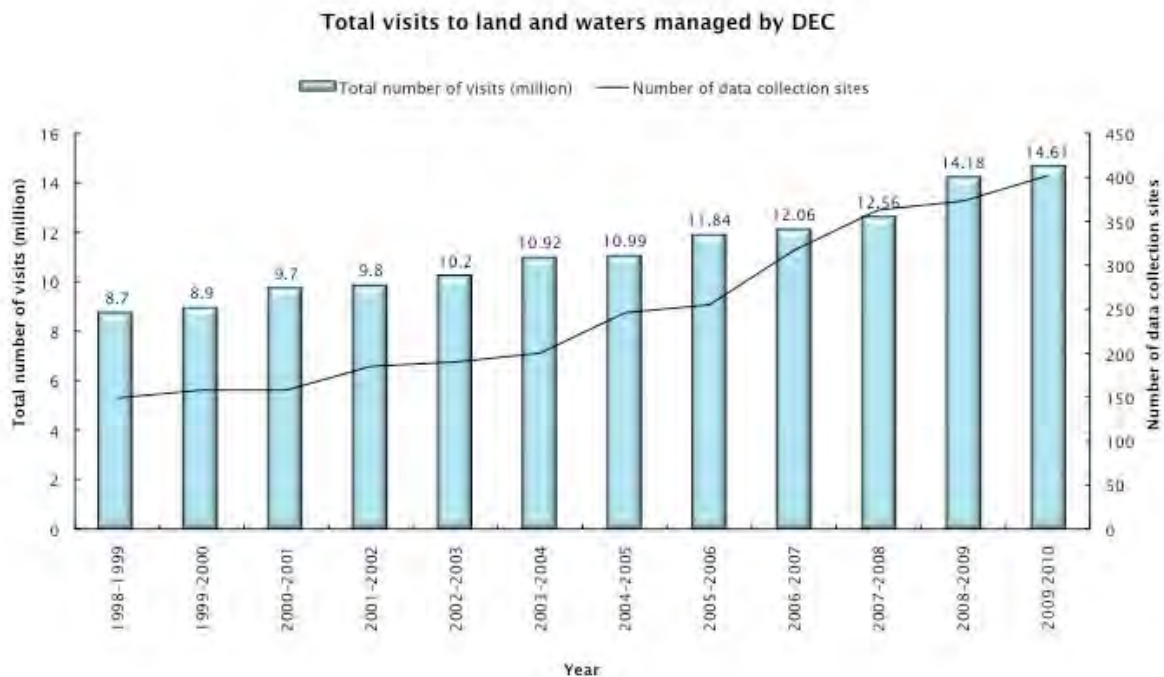


Figure 1: Total visits to land and waters managed by DEC



Figure 2: A comparison of annual visitor satisfaction levels within the DEC-managed estate

Service 4: Environmental Regulation

This service protects the environment, and community, by ensuring that emissions and discharges meet acceptable criteria, that pollution incidents are responded to effectively and that contaminated sites are appropriately managed. The service also oversees the monitoring of ambient air quality, the provision of technical and strategic advice, and the implementation of air quality management programs, which contribute to achieving these goals.

The functions through which the department delivers this service include:

1. Industry regulation

DEC has responsibility under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* for the licensing and registration of prescribed premises, licensing of controlled waste transporters, and administration of a range of regulations. The department also monitors and audits compliance with works approvals, license conditions and regulations, takes enforcement actions as appropriate, and develops and implements departmental licensing and industry regulation policy. Key features and projects in this reporting period include:

- **regulation of prescribed premises:** overseeing works approvals and licensing of prescribed premises
- **industry regulation compliance strategy:** a State-wide initiative aligning inspection and compliance activities to meet performance targets
- **regulatory operations in Indian Ocean territories:** providing environmental regulatory services for Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands as part of a formal arrangement with the Australian Government
- **noise regulation:** providing noise technical advice to the Environmental Protection Authority and to planning and local government authorities as well as policy, technical, enforcement and training support for DEC, police and local government officers



- **pollution and complaint response:** addressing pollution events through emergency management, environmental health training, and the Airborne Environmental Risk Observation project identifying sites where intervention is required to abate unauthorised discharges of pollutants to the environment
- **regulation of contaminated sites:** implementing the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*, by receiving reports of known or suspected contaminated sites, investigating and classifying contaminated sites, maintaining public information on contaminated sites, and, where indicated, ordering and monitoring remediation.

2. Controlled waste

The department enforces the Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004 by licensing carriers, vehicles and drivers transporting controlled waste, providing driver training, and tracking controlled waste.

3. Implementing approvals reforms

DEC has been progressively implementing reform of project approvals processes, and continues to steadily improve processing times for both large and small development project proposals.

4. National Pollutant Inventory

The department works with Western Australian industry to coordinate the provision of data to the National Pollutant Inventory, a publicly accessible internet database, designed to provide the community, industry and government with information on the emissions of 93 selected substances from industry, transport, and commercial premises to air, land and water.

5. Air Quality Management

DEC investigates and addresses vehicle emissions, haze from domestic wood heaters, and ambient air quality in regional areas including Port Hedland, the Goldfields, Wagerup and Midland. It also conducts air quality monitoring at 11 metropolitan and seven regional stations² to assess the presence of pollutants including carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide and particles as PM₁₀. It reports on ambient air quality through the annual Western Australia Air Monitoring Report, in periodic *State of the Environment* reports and in updates on the DEC website.

Performance summary

	2009–10 Target \$'000	2009–10 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	40,745	39,660	(1,085)
KPI	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variance
Average cost per air monitoring station	383,167	418,500	35,333
Average cost per industry licence	16,208	23,638	7,430
Average cost per contaminated site assessment	14,574	6,011	(8,563)
Average cost of remediating State sites	795,417	626,000	(169,417)

² The air quality monitoring network includes eight permanent metropolitan sites and five permanent regional sites. The remaining sites were temporary campaign monitoring sites in operation during 2009–10.



Performance highlights in 2009–10

- The State-wide Industry Regulation Compliance Strategy and supporting Compliance Program 2009–10 were implemented. This resulted in a range of issues being addressed by educative industry sector reports, and through the local environmental enforcement group process, a consistent response being assured in accordance with the department's Enforcement and Prosecution Policy.
- A permeable reactive barrier groundwater treatment system was installed at Bellevue, to protect the Helena River from two migrating chlorinated hydrocarbon plumes.
- In late 2009 opportunities were identified to improve industry regulation work systems which resulted in the Re-Engineering for Industry Regulation and Environment project being established to deliver consistent, efficient and legally sound regulatory systems.
- All State Development portfolio project approvals were processed within the target timeframe of 60 days.

Service 5: Environmental Sustainability

This service develops and implements policies and strategies that promote environmentally sustainable practices in industry, government and the community.

Functions through which the department delivers this service include:

1. Office of the Waste Authority

Based on recommendations of the 2009 Parliamentary Inquiry into Municipal Waste Management in Western Australia, an Office of the Waste Authority was established to support the operations of the Waste Authority.

2. Delivery of programs on behalf of the Waste Authority

The department's Waste Management Branch provides program delivery support to the Waste Authority, in accordance with a service level agreement established in 2009, including a Regional Funding Program for local government, administration of various funding programs for Strategic Waste Management Plan initiatives, and policy advice to government and other stakeholders on waste and recycling issues.

The branch assists the implementation of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act); *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Act 2007*; and the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2007*. Under this legislation landfills in the Perth metropolitan area, and landfills anywhere in the State which receive waste from the metropolitan area, are obliged to pay a landfill levy on the waste received. DEC administers receipt of landfill levy funds and compliance with the legislation and regulations, and deals with applications from local governments for the development of local laws.

3. Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme and Community Grants Scheme

These two grant funding programs overseen by the Waste Authority are funded from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account and administered by DEC. Administration involves advertising of funding rounds, assessment of applications, development of recommendations for grant funding, and administration of funding contracts and payments.



4. Support for participation in Environment Protection and Heritage Council

DEC participates in inter-jurisdictional working groups to implement national projects and provides policy advice to the Minister for Environment on Environment Protection and Heritage Council issues.

As part of the implementation of the National Packaging Covenant, the department administers a funding program. The National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure is implemented in WA through enforcement of the *Environment Protection (NEPM-UPM) Regulations 2007*.

5. Sustainability programs

The Sustainability Programs Unit provides advice and support to government, State agencies, local government, non-government organisations and other groups on the development, promotion and implementation of sustainability policy, initiatives and reporting.

Performance summary

	2009–10 Target \$'000	2009–10 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	23,431	23,115	(316)

KPI	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variance
Cost of administering Waste Management and Recycling Account as a percentage of total funds	5.0%	6.1%	1.1%*

**The cost of administration as a percentage of total funds was higher than estimated due to higher than expected training and software licence costs.*

Performance highlights

- Amendments were made to the WARR Act, the WARR Levy Act and WARR Levy Regulations to increase the levy on waste disposed to landfill.
- The Office of the Waste Authority was established.
- Two rounds of both the Strategic Waste Initiatives Scheme (SWIS) and Community Grants Scheme (CGS) were completed. In total, 15 grants were awarded under SWIS and 21 grants under CGS.
- WA was supported to participate in the national Environment Protection and Heritage Council, including implementation of the National Packaging Covenant and the *National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure*.
- Applications from 13 local governments were addressed for the development of local laws under the WARR Act in 2009–10, and DEC collaborated with the Western Australian Local Government Association on the development of a standard model for local laws that can be readily adopted by local governments.



Service 6: Environmental impact assessment and policies for the EPA

This service manages the environmental impact assessment process and coordinates the development of policy for the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to enable sound environmental advice to be provided to the State Government, developers and the public in accordance with statutory functions.

On 27 November 2009, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) was established to provide the services of environmental impact assessment and policies to the EPA.

Prior to that date, DEC managed the environmental impact assessment process and policy formulation for the EPA through the EPA Service Unit which sat administratively within the department but which, for EPA matters, was under the direction of the EPA.

Detail covering the whole year can be found in the OEPA's Annual Report.

EPA reports produced prior to 27 November 2009

Report No.	Title	Release date
1333	Town of Port Hedland Town Planning Scheme No. 5 Amendment No. 20 – Pretty Pool Stage 3: Town of Port Hedland	20 July 2009
1334	Spotted Quoll Open Pit Nickel Mine: Western Areas NL	27 July 2009
1335	Wheelarra Hill Mine Modification: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd	10 August 2009
1336	Chichester Rail Deviation: BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd	31 August 2009
1337	Nelson Point Dredging, RGP6 Port Development, Port Hedland: BHP Billiton Iron Ore	7 September 2009
1338	Cundaline and Callawa Mining Operations: BHP Billiton Iron Ore	28 September 2009
1339	Port Rockingham Marina: Rosewood Grove Pty Ltd	29 September 2009
1340	Balmoral South Iron Ore Project, Cape Preston, WA: Mineralogy Pty Ltd	5 October 2009
1341	Oakajee Deepwater Port, Oakajee Shire of Chapman Valley Change to Conditions: Department of State Development	19 October 2009
1342	Roy Hill 1 Iron Ore Mining Project Stage: Roy Hill Iron Ore Pty Ltd	2 November 2009
1343	Iron Ore Mine, Downstream Processing (Direct - Reduced Hot Briquetted Iron) and Port Construction, Cape Preston, Pilbara: Mineralogy Pty Ltd	2 November 2009
1344	Shire of Harvey Town Planning Scheme No. 1 Amendment No. 63 - Lots 195, 304 and Part Lot 9003 Lakes Parade, Binningup: Shire of Harvey	9 November 2009



Service 7: Coordinate the response to Climate Change

This service provides leadership in the development and implementation of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation initiatives to reduce the impact of climate change for Western Australia.

As the lead agency for climate change policy coordination in the State Government, DEC advises on the impact of climate change and develops mitigation and adaptation strategies for WA.

DEC is achieving this through the ongoing development of a Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for WA. This will assess the likely impacts and risks of climate change and make recommendations for mitigation and adaptation actions, covering each major sector of Western Australian industry as well as urban planning agencies and State water and energy utilities.

Other functions through which DEC delivers this service include:

1. Low Emissions Energy Development Fund (LEED)

This fund is a State Government initiative to invest in the development of low emission technologies to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector and is administered via an annual grants program.

2. Indian Ocean Climate Initiative (Stage 3)

This initiative is a \$4 million investment by the State Government in partnership with CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology to provide basic climate research in WA. Stage 3 is building on the work already completed by IOCI to provide better understanding of the current and future climate and the impact of changes particularly in north-west WA. This investment will enable the development of better projections of regional weather to enable individuals and businesses, as well as State Government agencies, to plan and adapt to a changing climate.

3. Electric vehicles trial

The department has signed a memorandum of understanding to participate in a trial of electric vehicles managed by The University of Western Australia and CO2Smart Pty Ltd. This trial has the aim of testing the feasibility of converting standard internal combustion vehicles to run on electricity.

4. System for accounting and reporting of government emissions

DEC administers the System for Accounting and Reporting of Government Emissions program, assisting government agencies to account for and report their greenhouse gas emissions and reductions.

Enabling local government adaptation

DEC helps local government organisations to identify climate change risks and vulnerabilities and to build council capacity to address them.



Performance summary

	2009–10 Target \$'000	2009–10 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	11,483	5,009	(6,474)

KPI	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variance
Cost of administering Low Emissions Energy Development Fund as a percentage of total funds	0.41%	0.49%	0.08%

Performance highlights

- Development of the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy (CCAMS) for Western Australia continued.
- The third round of the Low Emissions Energy Development Fund was commenced, with up to \$10 million available for suitable projects.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed to participate in a trial of electric vehicles managed by the University of Western Australia and CO2Smart Pty Ltd.
- The 2008–2009 System for Accounting and Reporting of Government Emissions (SARGE) program was successfully administered.
- A partnership project with the Conservation Council of WA to build community capacity in climate change policy and increase the level of community engagement was completed.
- Two regional councils were assisted to access Local Adaptation Pathways Program funding from Commonwealth to undertake risk and vulnerability assessments and to build council capacity.
- The joint management of the Indian Ocean Climate Initiative stage 3 with CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology continued.
- The Mid-West Regional Organisation of Councils and the Batavia Regional Organisation of Councils were assisted to access Local Adaptation Pathways Program funding from the Commonwealth to undertake risk and vulnerability assessments and to build capacity to develop adaptation plans.



SUPPORTING OUR DEPARTMENT

Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs

The Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division (SDCA) provides corporate leadership in communications and organisational development for the department. The division works with other areas of DEC to provide services and products that support the department in achieving its mission and maintaining community trust. Responsibilities include internal and external communications, education programs, media relations, publications, online services, public participation planning, events coordination, advertising, and a variety of corporate programs. SDCA also coordinates the preparation of the department's annual report and corporate plan.

The division provided communications support and media relations through the Media Unit on a range of major issues and programs in 2009–10 including the Coronial Inquest into the Boorabbin National Park fire of December 2007. Unit staff were also involved in the implementation of the new national community advice and emergency warning system for the 2009–10 bushfire season.

The 2009 annual WA Environment Awards received more than 100 entries in 11 categories. The awards recognised business, government and community groups and individuals that are setting new benchmarks in environmental care.

DEC published a number of new and revised titles during the year including *Kalbarri* and *Leaf and Branch: trees and tall shrubs of Perth*. In addition, the department produced four issues of *LANDSCOPE* magazine and 24 issues of *Environment and Conservation News* – DEC's online newsletter – as well as a range of high-quality publications to support major departmental initiatives.

SDCA maintained and improved the department's website governance and accountability, which included compliance with the State Government's Website Governance Framework.

Through its frontline services, SDCA provided access to a range of internal and external library resources and answered thousands of phone and visitor inquiries. About 290 inquiries per month were received and either answered by Atrium Information Centre staff or forwarded to the appropriate area of the department. About 18,000 public inquiries were handled by Kensington front counter staff during the year.

The *LANDSCOPE* Expeditions program was wound up in 2009. Five trips were run from 1 July in 2009, including the art and botany trip *A brush with Nature*; the *Astronomical Odyssey* to coincide with the International Year of Astronomy and biological surveys of the Canning Stock Route, Montebello Islands and Dundas Nature Reserve.

EcoEducation celebrated its 250,000th learner during the year, signifying almost one million learner hours in the natural environment. During the year about 15,000 students and teachers took part in the school programs and professional development days at the major centres at Perth Hills, North Beach, Wellington and Margaret River. *EcoEducation* programs were also offered at the Dryandra Woodlands Ecology Centre and the Valley of the Giants.

At 30 June 2010, 1,500 cadets and 143 instructors were taking part in the Bush Rangers WA program, part of the Cadets WA Program, in 45 Bush Ranger Cadet Units around the State. Updated program resources were introduced through professional development days to most Bush Ranger instructors during the year.

This year saw the Community Education Branch move to SDCA from Environmental Sustainability. The integration of all the department's education programs in one division is aimed at delivering improved community behaviour change outcomes that will benefit the environment.



These programs include:

- The *Airwatch Schools* program and the *Weatherwatch* project in schools
- The *Ribbons of Blue* program, helping students develop values related to environmental responsibility and their understanding of catchments and people's impacts on waterways
- The *TravelSmart* workplace program, supporting development of workplace travel plans
- The *Waste Wise Schools* program carrying out school incursions, teacher networking workshops and a grant program to encourage schools to reduce, reuse and recycle.

DEC's Public Participation Planning Unit planned and facilitated internal strategic planning workshops for the Native Vegetation Conservation Branch and the Roadside Conservation Committee and a cross-divisional workshop into the research and management of forest fauna in south-west WA as well as other outreach projects for the department.

Environmental Enforcement Unit

Enforcement support

The Environmental Enforcement Unit (EEU) contributes to the protection of the environment by providing investigative and enforcement support to the department's environment stream. It is responsible for providing enforcement legal quality assurance, coordination and management of all environmental prosecutions mounted by the department and takes the lead role in investigations into major environmental incidents. During the year, the unit successfully coordinated and concluded departmental investigations into a broad range of environmental events throughout the State in partnership with regional environmental staff, which resulted in prosecutions and other sanctions.

The unit also continued to deliver the Authorised Officers Training Course (AOTC) in consultation with the department's Regulatory Training Section. This course is offered as part of the unit's ongoing commitment to improve environmental enforcement outcomes through training and mentoring and providing investigative support through working partnerships with regional and branch incident owners.

Improved capacity to conduct environmental investigations State-wide

Additional government funding to bolster DEC's investigative, monitoring and compliance capacity resulted in two additional Senior Investigator positions in the EEU and six Regional Investigations Leader positions in the Regional Services directorate being created in 2009–10. The Regional Investigations Leaders coordinate, manage and conduct investigations at regional level, and are part of the department's ongoing commitment for improved regional capacity to deliver environmental compliance and enforcement following the 2006–07 lead contamination of the Esperance town site.

Finalised environmental prosecutions for 2009–10

Fifteen environmental prosecutions were subject to final court determination during 2009–10, including 11 cases relating to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, two cases relating to the *Litter Act 1979*, one relating to the *Environmental Protection Act Controlled Waste Regulations 2004* and one relating to the *Unauthorised Discharge Regulations 1987*.

Of particular note was the record finding against the Esperance port. This case related to charges laid following an extensive investigation into the contamination of the Esperance town site with lead. The port pleaded guilty, was convicted and fined \$525,000 and ordered to pay \$4,771 costs.



Modified penalty fines

Modified penalties fines are administered under Section 99A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* which empowers the department to issue a fine where statutory conditions are met. These conditions include minimising and remedying the impacts of the incident and amending procedures to ensure a similar incident does not reoccur. The amount of the fine is determined by legislation which directs that the first and second offences will be at 10 and 20 per cent respectively of the maximum penalty available. If the fine is not paid within the specified time, the department will commence prosecution action. DEC issued two Modified Penalty Notices in 2009–10.

Modified Penalty Notice 1/2009 – DEC issued a \$12,500 modified penalty fine to the Fremantle Port Authority for allegedly contravening a licence condition. The penalty was issued after an investigation identified that on 19 and 20 August 2007, the authority contravened a condition of their licence by failing to collect bulk cargo that had spilt onto a jetty as soon as possible and in a manner that prevented its access into the waters of Cockburn Sound.

Modified Penalty Notice 2/2009 – DEC issued a \$12,500 modified penalty fine to the Fremantle Port Authority for allegedly contravening a licence condition. The penalty was issued after an investigation identified that on 19 and 20 August 2007, the authority contravened a condition of their licence by failing to ensure that deflector plates were in place when loading or unloading vessels using a grab loader.

Environmental prosecutions currently before the courts

At 30 June 2010 there were seven environmental prosecutions before the courts involving a range of charges including breach of environmental licence, unauthorised clearing of native vegetation and causing serious environmental harm with criminal negligence.

There were an additional 19 cases that, subject to the evidentiary standard being met, were likely to result in prosecution or high level sanction.

Legal Services Branch

The Legal Services Branch provides general legal advice to DEC in relation to legal issues of significance to the department, including issues relating to the legislation administered by the department and legislative reform.

Litigation

The department received one writ for damages for personal injury during 2009–10. This writ is related to an incident on 14 April 2008 where the plaintiff was injured during a prescribed burning operation.

Freedom of Information

The Legal Services Branch manages the processes for the department under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The department's Information Statement 2010–11 (available on DEC's website) describes the functions of the department and its related agencies, the nature of the information held by the department and its related agencies, and the type of information which is made available to the public.



DEC received 259 applications for access to information, 13 of which were subsequently withdrawn. The average time taken to process each application was 21 days.

The department received six applications requesting an internal review of the department's decision. Of those applications, three applicants requested an external review.

Fire Management Services Branch

DEC is involved in both the suppression of bushfires and the use of fire to achieve land management objectives in all the varied environments of the state. DEC's Fire Management Services Branch has developed comprehensive fire management systems and maintains state-of-the-art fire management equipment and technologies.

DEC has numerous well-trained professional fire managers and undertakes internationally recognised scientific studies into fire-related topics to constantly increase the knowledge available to fire practitioners.

Fire season 2009–10

DEC staff attended and monitored 603 bushfires which burnt about 2.6 million hectares in 2009–10 including:

- 116,969 hectares in the Pilbara Region
- 230,491 hectares in the Goldfields Region
- 1.68 million hectares in the Kimberley Region
- 417,096 hectares in the South Coast Region
- 106,564 hectares in the Midwest Region
- 2,222 hectares in the Wheatbelt Region
- 47,380 hectares in the three forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren regions).

The causes of these fires were:

- lightning – 27 per cent (above the 10-year average of about 23 per cent)
- deliberately lit or arson-caused fires – 36 per cent (below the 10-year average of about 44 per cent)
- accidental fires – 11 per cent
- escapes from private burns – six per cent.

The cause of 18 per cent of fires that DEC attended is unknown and two per cent were the result of 11 escapes from DEC prescribed burns.

The most serious bushfires attended by the department occurred in the Midwest and Swan regions. Significant assistance was provided to local government authorities and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) at fires burning on private lands in the vicinity of Badgingara, Arrowsmith and Mary Springs and to fires in the vicinity of Moore River and Toodyay. Other fires of interest occurred at Cornwall Block near Harvey and the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park near Prevelly Park. Large fires also occurred in the South Coast Region where assistance was provided to local government and FESA at fires in the Sand Patch area near Albany and two fire complexes east of Lake King and south east of Balladonia.

DEC pre-formed incident management teams were engaged twice during the 2009–10 fire season.



Prescribed burning

The occurrence of regular rainfall events during the spring months restricted the prescribed burning days in the southern forests. The summer months and the autumn burning period were again abnormally dry. Prescribed burning in autumn commenced after Easter in early April resulting in a successful prescribed burning achievement in the south-west forests.

The target for 2009–10 prescribed burning in the south-west was set at 200,000 hectares. DEC achieved this target for the first time since 2004–05, achieving a total burn area of about 212,017 hectares, including about 8,299 hectares that were burnt for pine plantation protection and about 82 per cent that had not been previously burnt since 2000.

The department also completed about 1.06 million hectares of prescribed burning on DEC-managed lands in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast regions as well as on and unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves.

The combined total area of prescribed burning undertaken throughout the state in 2009–10 was 1.27 million hectares.

Fire preparedness on unallocated Crown lands

DEC is responsible for the coordination and on-ground management of fire risk prevention and fire preparedness works on 89 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves. During the year DEC continued to make ground in block burning in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Goldfields regions thanks to increased fire management funding in DEC's remote regions, and the use of planned fire for developing landscape-scale mosaics for mitigating large damaging summer bushfires, protecting biodiversity values and achieving designated nature conservation outcomes. Some of these achievements included engagement with Indigenous communities.

Fire Management Services Branch also carried out activities in the following areas:

Aerial fire suppression operations

DEC contracted eight fixed-wing water bomber aircraft during the peak summer months of 2009–10: two Dromadery aircraft based at Manjimup, two Air Tractor 602 aircraft based at Albany, and two Air Tractor 802 aircraft based at both Bunbury and Perth. These aircraft provided rapid aerial suppression capability in the South Coast, Midwest, Wheatbelt and south-west forest regions, and in the Perth outer metropolitan area, and provided an aerial rapid-attack capability to assist ground crews in the initial attack on bushfires.

These aircraft were used successfully on several bushfires that threatened residential areas in the outer metropolitan area of Perth and numerous bushfires across the South Coast, Midwest, Wheatbelt and south-west forest regions. Fixed-wing water bomber aircraft attended 122 fires from Kalbarri to Esperance. These aircraft dropped 1,121 loads, flew 711 operational hours and dropped 3.8 million litres of product. This compares with 992 loads and 575 hours in 2008–09.

Fire detection

DEC provided an effective fire-detection system in the high fire risk zones of the south-west regions using nine fixed-lookout towers and nine single-engine aircraft, which flew 4,128 hours for aerial surveillance within pre-determined circuits in the south-west forest regions at schedules that varied according to the fire danger levels and the fire activity. The aircraft also flew 293 hours in support of aerial suppression operations. The aircraft were flown by two permanent senior pilots and 12 seasonal casual pilots.



Fire training and development

Fire Management Services Branch development and education staff conducted 36 formal fire training courses involving 224 participants. In addition, district and regional staff delivered 26 formal fire training programs to 215 participants. These courses included:

- Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) Awareness
- Prescribed Burning
- Fire line Construction Using Machines
- Basic Wildfire Awareness
- Fire Fighting Level 1 and Level 2
- Wildfire Suppression 3
- Structural Fire Fighting
- Basic Fire Fighter
- WAERN Radio training.

Advanced Incident Leadership programs were also delivered in Western Australia and Victoria to senior incident management personnel from fire and land management agencies from across Australia.

Aviation Section personnel provided training for 125 aerial operations personnel including Fire Detection Pilots, Air Attack Supervisors, Air Observers, Helitorch Operators, Incendiary Operations Supervisors and Incendiary Machine Operators. In addition, 21 courses were provided for 252 participants to support Aerial Water Bombing Operations. The majority of these participants were from volunteer Bush Fire Brigades and local State Emergency Service Units throughout the south-west.

Course participants were predominantly from DEC, including Campground Host volunteers and Bush Ranger cadets, but included personnel from the Forest Products Commission, FESA and local government authorities. A small number of Aboriginal Rangers and Ranger Coordinators from the Kimberley Land Council were trained for involvement in incendiary operations and provided with opportunities for operational experience.

The development and promotion of common fire training programs and course materials continued between DEC and FESA, and with other agencies within Australia and New Zealand. Of particular note was the development of a course in Major Incident Management jointly between DEC, FESA and WA Police.

Fire ecology education programs

The Fire Management Services Branch continued to work in partnership with SDCA to deliver DEC's fire education program. A total of 10,913 students, teachers and parents took part in fire-related *EcoEducation* programs at Perth Hills National Park Centre, Henderson Centre, Wellington Discovery Forest and Margaret River Eco-Discovery Centre. *EcoEducation* also produced fire resources for use in the classroom and made updates to the *Fire – A Force of Life* program in order to meet with the curriculum requirements of the new geography course.

The department also conducted a DEC Bush Rangers Fire Awareness Course at Dwellingup which included theoretical fire course work and field exercises involving the conduct of a small prescribed burn in nearby forest.



Radio communications and fire information technology services

DEC owns an extensive radio communications network that includes about 1,300 mobile and portable radios, 125 office radios, and more than 75 repeaters and towers, and 12 portable broadband satellite terminals. A number of projects were carried out in 2009–10:

- The department continued to commission new radio infrastructure such as towers and repeaters across all regions of WA as part of its role in the Western Australian Emergency Radio Network (WAERN).
- Three additional radio repeater sites were established in the Kimberley Region at Silent Grove, Kununurra and Broome to complement the existing seven repeater facilities recently installed in the Kimberley Region.
- DEC's Radio Communications Section worked closely with the WA Police on new infrastructure upgrades across the State and testing of new digital radio technology.
- Work was undertaken to re-engineer DEC's corporate information management and decision support system for fire management to improve data access, management and interchange between the department and its stakeholders and facilitate greater functionality of the Master Burn Planning, Wildfire Threat Analysis and Resource Management systems.
- A resource tracking system was installed to provide immediate access to information on the locations and activity of 21 aircraft, three boats, 107 fire trucks and 27 heavy earth-moving machines. One hundred portable tracking units are available to be fitted to other vehicles such as contract machines, WA Police or FESA vehicles. Fifty additional devices will be installed into selected light fleet across the State.
- The department partnered with Landgate's Satellite Remote Sensing Services to improve automatic detection and mapping in a digital format of fire occurrence using satellite remote sensing technology. This arrangement will provide fire history information across the State that complements DEC's existing decades of fire history data for the south-west of WA.
- DEC worked closely with the Department of Commerce and other government agencies and non-government organisations to acquire Federal Government funding to improve telecommunications and associated support facilities for emergency management throughout rural and remote areas of Western Australia. This funding has assisted DEC to establish and enhance its state-wide radio communications and decision support systems such as radio over internet protocol; mobile/portable radio, satellite and IT; and remote sensor and resource tracking systems. Further work has been done to improve the communications and IT infrastructure in the Incident Communications Vehicle and communication buses.
- Fire Management Services Branch investigated technologies to deliver and monitor prescribed burning programs and carried out a workshop with an interstate expert to explore the potential of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). DEC also investigated the potential for airborne scanners and initiated a project to acquire airborne multispectral and infra-red scanning technology to be mounted on one of the department's American Scout aircraft to acquire and process remote sensing data on the majority of prescribed burns and provide a fine-scale definition of the burnt/unburnt mosaic.



MANAGING OUR DEPARTMENT

Geographic Information Services

The Geographic Information Services (GIS) section provided maintenance and support for the corporate spatial databases that support major departmental business systems and provided training and support in desktop GIS and customised GIS software. It also distributed corporate GIS datasets to branch and regional GIS users and carried out annual updates of imagery and derived products at a regional and local scale. Specifically, the section also:

- worked to finalise the department's contribution to the Great Southern Coastal Emergency Services Directory
- provided digital spatial data depicting the DEC-managed estate, aerial photography and geo-referenced versions of the department's operations maps to other divisions of the department
- provided GIS support for the establishment of the national reserve system, in particular the analysis of pre-European vegetation data against a number of GIS datasets
- carried out mapping for the Roadside Conservation Committee and mapping of banded iron formations over the Mount Manning area
- took part in Landgate's Shared Land Information Platform (SLIP) and worked with Landgate to develop a collaborative approach to topographic data maintenance.

GIS section also supported the establishment of mapping and monitoring techniques using remote-sensed technologies for targeted projects including those related to vegetation cover within recovery catchments, the duration and severity of wandoo decline, and the audit and compliance of vegetation clearing. In addition, it worked on the Marine Science Program's marine and coastal mapping/monitoring program.

Office for Information Management

The move towards a more corporate approach to information management was advanced during the year with the establishment of revised strategic and tactical governance bodies to provide improved direction and control of information management activities.

The strategic governance body initiated a review of operations delivery and this has led to introduction of a competency framework, a redefinition of the operations charter and the service relationship to business. The implementation of the review outcomes will continue to the end of 2010.

The skeleton of a Program Management Office (PMO) was developed and the strategic governance body approved a number of projects that will be used to establish the workings of the PMO.

Information Communications Technology Service Centre

The Information Communications Technology Service Centre manages the department's centralised information infrastructure and provides varying levels of support for problems with desktops and applications.

On top of dealing with the structural and role changes instigated by the review of operations, the project to bring all DEC sites into the one domain was completed, a number of new offices set up and the Office of the EPA set up to operate as a separate organisation following the Government decision to split it from DEC.



The program of virtualisation of servers in the data centre continued. This program has realised benefits in the performance stability and capacity of the servers with the added benefit of significant savings in power.

Corporate Information Services Section

Corporate Information Services Section completed its migration of the former Department of Environment document dataset and connected business application systems to DEC's corporate information system, InfoBase, in April 2010. The migration progresses the establishment of a single departmental Electronic Document and Records Management System.

As part of this migration, the Corporate Information Services Section developed reference material and undertook training for 350 officers around the State as part of an ongoing training and support program.

Financial Services Branch

The department's central Financial Services Branch coordinates the processing of revenue and expenditure and the recording of assets. The branch also manages the department's fleet of light and heavy vehicles and produces statutory and management reports. During 2009–10 the branch continued to provide these services to the department and other client agencies and also established systems for a new client, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority

People Services Branch

DEC's People Services Branch provides client-focused human resource services including employee relations, workforce services, policy delivery, learning and development programs and initiatives, strategic planning, data analysis and reporting, and risk management of the safety, health and well-being of our employees.

Workforce services

A number of initiatives were introduced to assist in the recruitment of a skilled workforce. These include the introduction of an online candidate management system to improve management access to job applications, selection templates, forms and reports, and regular participation in career expositions.

The department's Human Resources Information Management System was upgraded, resulting in improved navigation, increased functionality, faster processing and improved accessibility. A process was established to enable the movement of employees requiring placement into vacant departmental positions, and 53 voluntary severances were implemented.

Workforce planning and performance

During 2009–10, People Services Branch concentrated on a number of key strategic workforce planning initiatives. During the year the employee induction system was reviewed, and a succession management program was piloted. Training programs were also introduced across the department in accountable and ethical decision-making, employee performance and development planning and managing sub-standard performance.

Staff development

During 2009–10, staff participated in more than 10,000 hours of training and professional development. Key programs delivered included Ethics and Accountability, Performance Development and Performance Management, with 56 per cent of the workforce participating



across 20 locations throughout the state. In addition to this employees were offered a wide range of internal and external learning and development opportunities, in areas such as field operations, safety and health, nature conservation, fire management, marine qualifications, cultural development, licensing and regulation, and corporate training.

DEC is a registered training organisation operating within the vocational education and training system, and is able to offer nationally recognised training to staff to help them safely, effectively and efficiently carry out their duties and deliver high-quality training, development and assessment initiatives. These include the Mentored Aboriginal Traineeship and Employment Scheme (MATES), the National Indigenous Cadetship Project, the Pathways Program and the Graduate Development Program.

As at 30 June 2010, DEC had 22 MATES trainees, with five graduating from certificates III or IV in Conservation and Land Management. Since the inception of the program 24 trainees have graduated, 13 of whom are still employed with DEC. In 2010 DEC has been supporting six National Indigenous Cadets.

The Graduate Development Program recruited 23 new recruits in 2009, who will be assessed for permanency in January 2011. One conservation employee completed their Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management through recognition of prior learning with DEC and 50 employees worked on their certificates II, III or IV in Conservation and Land Management. A further 18 employees undertook a Certificate IV in Frontline Management and are expected to finish in October 2010. In addition to this, 18 employees were awarded scholarships for 2010, for leadership, the advancement of women, career and study assistance, and science.

Risk management

The department is committed to preventing work-related injury and illness, as well as creating a working environment that maximises the effectiveness of each employee. People Services Branch staff develop and implement risk management policies and procedures in regard to occupational safety and health, corporate health and fitness, workers compensation, injury management, general liability and the corporate insurance portfolio.

In 2009–10, the Risk Management Section has been instrumental in developing a safety management plan (SMP) that will be applied across all work centres. The SMP serves as a consultative process to ensure that safety is embedded in work processes, practices and procedures so that adverse risks or hazards are identified, controlled or mitigated in a strategic and consistent manner across the department. Five key elements are integral to the SMP: management commitment, planning, consultation, hazard management and training.

Employee Relations

People Services Branch provides strategic advice, manages employee relations issues and represents the department in industrial relations tribunals. A key task in 2009–10 has been to develop terms and conditions for fly-in fly-out arrangements for departmental staff working on Barrow Island and to finalise new enterprise agreements for wages employees. The number of disciplinary issues managed by the section remained constant and the participation of the employee relations practitioners in educational and training programs was a key focus.



DEC-managed lands and waters

Total public lands and waters managed by DEC

At 30 June 2010, the total area under DEC's care was 27,542,776 hectares, representing a net increase of 170,894 hectares during 2009–10.

The terrestrial area managed (i.e. not including marine reserves) is approximately 10.25 per cent of the land area of Western Australia.

The table below provides a summary of all tenure classifications.

Managed lands and waters (ha) by region as at 30 June 2010

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total
National park	153,161	829,689	568,943	2,432,131	861,395	141,800	117,195	562,459	1,292	5,668,065
Conservation park	182,817	459,942	14,967	149,348	677	13,560	24,366	76	1,559	847,312
Nature reserve	6,304,227	809,586	738,891	251,019	1,566,324	12,981	53,024	86,882	1,052,786	10,875,720
Marine park	-	87,807	868,860	288,108	-	-	16,391	1,446	-	1,262,612
Marine nature reserve	-	-	132,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,000
Marine management area	-	-	-	143,385	-	-	-	-	-	143,385
State forest	781	-	-	-	4,055	542,605	466,522	262,656	28,066	1,304,685
Timber reserve	28,509	-	26,338	-	5,231	26,474	28,501	8,216	-	123,269
Sections 5(1)(g) & 5(1)(h) reserve	81,566	234,973	2,099	7,810	408	31,134	27,505	1,513	1,432	388,440
Miscellaneous reserve	<1	568,006	510	1,779	3,767	124	5,944	244	15	580,389
Freehold (CALM exec body)	-	<1	1,550	<1	-	20,838	85	4,658	<1	27,131
Leasehold (CALM exec body)	-	-	173,618	-	-	-	-	-	-	173,618
Former leasehold	1,846,091	80,748	3,121,440	786,503	-	-	-	-	-	5,834,782
Section 33(2) managed land	28,514	-	90,118	-	-	-	-	-	-	118,632
Sections 16 & 16a managed land	-	37,941	-	-	-	121	7,903	40	-	46,005
Freehold land acquired for conservation	-	-	4,812	-	3,116	1,885	2,894	922	3,102	16,731
TOTALS	8,625,666	3,108,692	5,744,146	4,060,083	2,444,973	791,522	750,330	929,112	1,088,252	27,542,776

Source: Geographic Information Services Section



National parks

The area of the 98 national parks at 30 June 2010 was 5,668,065 hectares, a net increase of 30,583 hectares. The major addition was the creation of Dirk Hartog Island National Park with an area of 62,928 hectares. The major decrease affected Fitzgerald River National Park due to the discovery during the year of an historical area discrepancy of 32,671 hectares (i.e. there has been no amendment to the boundaries of the national park).

National parks vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia as at 30 June 2010

Name	Area (ha)	Name	Area (ha)	Name	Area (ha)
Alexander Morrison	8,500	<i>Greater Kingston</i>	21,092	Neerabup	943
Avon Valley	4,366	<i>Greater Preston</i>	12,665	Peak Charles	39,959
Badjingarra	13,108	Greenmount	202	Porongurup	2,621
Beelu	4,617	<i>Gull Rock</i>	2,104	Purnululu	239,723
<i>Blackwood River</i>	20,477	Hassell	1,265	Scott	3,273
Boorabbin	28,153	<i>Helena</i>	12,255	Serpentine	4,387
<i>Boorara Gardner</i>	11,008	Hilliger	16,962	Shannon	52,598
<i>Boyndaminup</i>	5,439	<i>Jane</i>	6,863	Sir James Mitchell	247
<i>Bramley</i>	3,892	John Forrest	2,678	Stirling Range	115,920
Brockman	52	Kalamunda	375	Stokes	9,726
Cape Arid	279,446	Kalbarri	183,005	Tathra	4,322
Cape Le Grand	31,801	Karjini	627,442	Torndirrup	3,936
Cape Range	47,655	Karlamilyi	1,283,706	Tuart Forest	2,049
Collier Range	235,162	Kennedy Range	141,660	<i>Tunnel Creek</i>	91
D'Entrecasteaux	118,779	Korung	6,344	<i>Un-named</i>	1,571
<i>Dalgarup</i>	2,377	<i>Lake Muir</i>	9,625	<i>Un-named</i>	79
<i>Dirk Hartog Island</i>	62,928	<i>Lawley River</i>	17,572	Walpole-Nornalup	19,448
Drovers Cave	2,681	Leeuwin-Naturaliste	19,092	<i>Walyunga</i>	1,814
Drysdale River	448,264	Lesmurdie Falls	56	<i>Wandoo</i>	46,493
<i>Easter</i>	2,985	Lesueur	27,235	Warren	2,981
<i>Eucla</i>	3,560	Midgegooroo	2,492	Watheroo	44,481
Fitzgerald River	297,211	Millstream-Chichester	238,167	<i>Waychinicup</i>	3,982
<i>Forest Grove</i>	1,379	<i>Milyeannup</i>	18,692	Wellington	17,420
Francois Peron	52,587	<i>Mirima</i>	2,068	West Cape Howe	3,605
Frank Hann	67,550	<i>Mitchell River</i>	115,325	<i>Whicher</i>	6,343
Geikie Gorge	3,136	Moore River	17,254	William Bay	1,734
Gloucester	878	Mount Augustus	9,168	Wiltshire-Butler	11,645
<i>Goldfields Woodlands</i>	64,612	Mount Frankland	37,359	Windjana Gorge	2,050
Goongarrie	60,397	<i>Mount Frankland North</i>	22,053	Wolfe Creek Crater	1,460
Gooseberry Hill	33	<i>Mount Frankland South</i>	42,283	Yalgorup	13,141
<i>Greater Beedelup</i>	19,379	<i>Mount Lindesay</i>	39,541	Yanchep	2,876
<i>Greater Dordagup</i>	6,408	<i>Mount Roe</i>	127,726	<i>Yelverton</i>	729
<i>Greater Hawke</i>	14,004	Nambung	19,268	TOTAL	5,668,065

Names shown in italics are unofficial



Conservation parks

The area of conservation parks at 30 June 2010 was 847,312 hectares, a net decrease of 274 hectares.

Nature reserves

The area of nature reserves at 30 June 2010 was 10,875,720 hectares, representing a net increase of 3,613 hectares for the year. The major addition was to Thevenard Island Nature Reserve with an area increase of 1,350 hectares due to the area being redefined to low water mark.

State forest

The area of State forest at 30 June 2010 was 1,304,685 hectares, a net decrease for the year of 24 hectares.

Timber reserves

The area of timber reserves at 30 June 2010 was 123,269 hectares, a net decrease of 10 hectares.

Marine parks and reserves

The area of marine parks at 30 June 2010 was approximately 1,262,612 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

The area of marine nature reserves at 30 June 2010 was approximately 132,000 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

The area of marine management areas at 30 June 2010 was approximately 143,385 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

Marine parks and reserves vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority as at 30 June 2010 (all figures are approximate to account for the quality of mapping of watermark boundaries)

Name	Area (ha)
Barrow Island Marine Park	4,169
Barrow Island Marine Management Area	116,616
Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve	132,000
Jurien Bay Marine Park	82,376
Marmion Marine Park	9,500
Montebello Islands Marine Park	58,375
Muiron Islands Marine Management Area	26,769
Ningaloo Marine Park	263,313
Rowley Shoals Marine Park	87,807
Shark Bay Marine Park	748,735
Shoalwater Islands Marine Park	6,545
Swan Estuary Marine Park	346
Walpole & Nornalup Inlets Marine Park	1,446
TOTAL	1,537,997

'Area figures are approximate only and are based on the best available data at the time of analysis. Errors in calculations can arise due to inaccurate mapping of watermark boundaries of reserves. For further information refer to DEC Marine Policy and Planning Branch.'



Section 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves

The area of *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) sections 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves as at 30 June 2010 was 388,440 hectares. This represents a net increase of 154,506 hectares. The major addition was from the creation of seven reserves in the Kimberley Region totalling 154,349 hectares for the purpose of 'Conservation and Traditional Aboriginal Uses', which have been placed jointly under the care, control and management of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia and the Yawooroong Miriuwung, Gajerrong, Yirrggeb, Noong, Dawang Aboriginal Corporation.

Miscellaneous reserves

The area of miscellaneous reserves at 30 June 2010 was 580,389 hectares. This represents a net decrease of 7,240 hectares. The major reduction was from the Ord River Regeneration Reserve with a decrease of 7,239 hectares due to the resurvey and recalculation of the area of the reserve.

Other land

The area of freehold land held by the Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Executive Body at 30 June 2010 was 27,131 hectares. This represents a net increase of 1,549 hectares. Softwood forests occupy the major portion of freehold land.

The area of leasehold land held by the CALM Executive Body at 30 June 2010 was 173,618 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

The area of former pastoral lease land being held under an interim management arrangement prior to formal reservation is 5,834,782 hectares, representing a net decrease of 61,641 hectares. The major reduction was due to the conversion of the former Dirk Hartog Island pastoral lease to national park.

Crown land placed under the management of the department under section 33(2) of the CALM Act as at 30 June 2010 totalled 118,632 hectares. There were no changes during the year. Of this, 385 hectares comprise unmanaged Crown reserves. The remainder is land proposed for addition to the conservation estate, which is managed accordingly under an interim arrangement.

Areas currently managed under section 16A of the CALM Act by agreement between the lessees and the department amount to 46,005 hectares representing a net increase of 33,101 hectares. The increase is due to an agreement being established over part of Carlton Hill pastoral lease during the year.

The area of freehold land managed by the department under section 16 of the CALM Act at 30 June 2010 was 8,064 hectares.

There were no changes during the year. Most of this land falls within regional parks and is managed by agreement between the Western Australian Planning Commission and the department.

The area of freehold land acquired for addition to the conservation reserve system at 30 June 2010 was 16,731 hectares. Reservation of these areas requires the completion of administrative processes.



Conservation land acquisitions

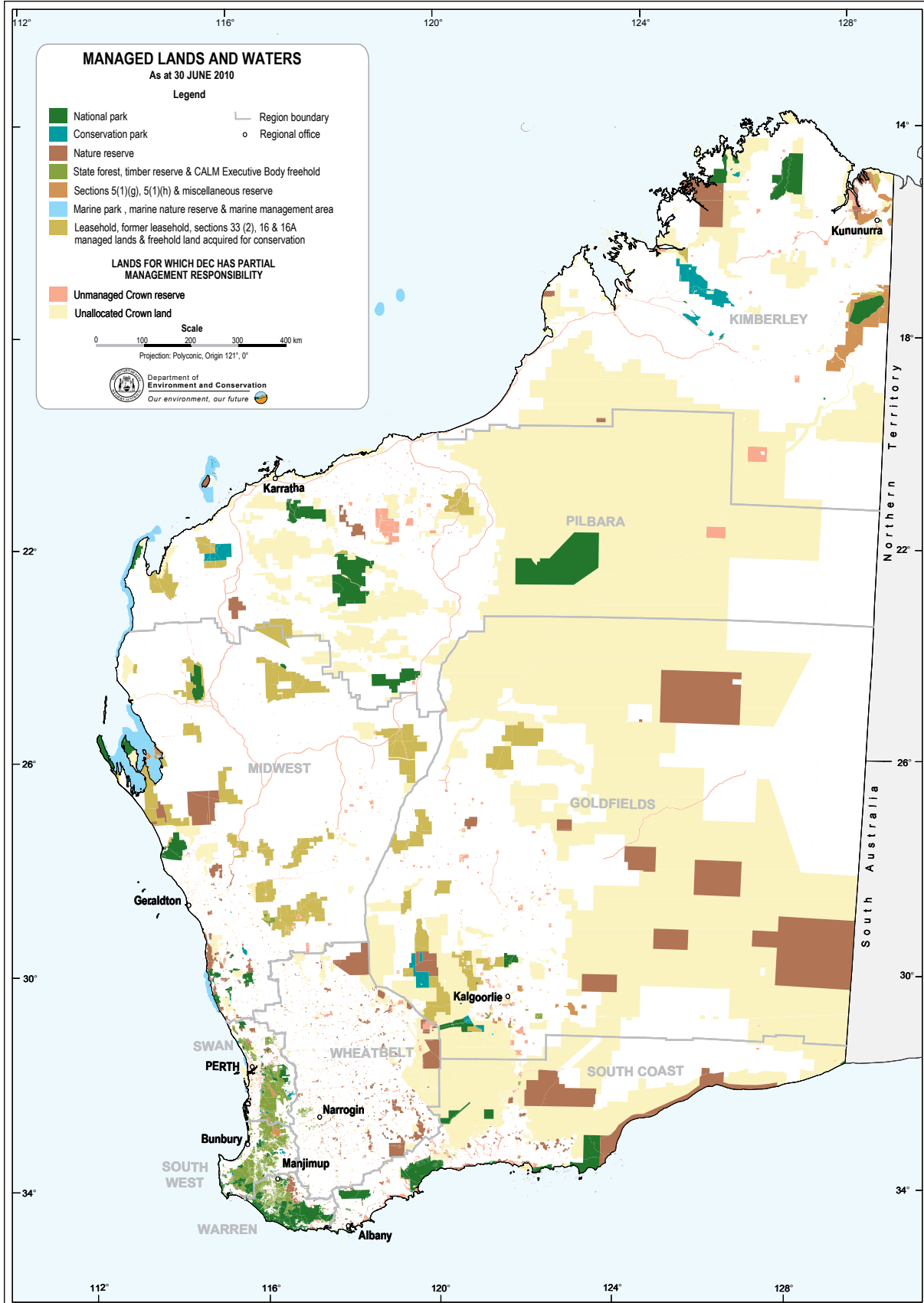
During the year DEC purchased 16 parcels of land of high-conservation value covering a combined total area of about 8,195 hectares for future addition to the formal conservation reserve system.

The purchases were funded from a number of sources: DEC's annual capital allocation for acquiring conservation land; proceeds of asset sales; environmental offset funds (provided from a variety of sources including Western Power and developers as a result of approved development projects and land clearing); and the National Reserve System component of the Australian Government's *Caring for Our Country* initiative. The total expenditure from all funding sources for the financial year was more than \$5.1 million.

Purchases finalised during the year were:

- a 1,549 hectare property adjacent to Boothendarra Nature Reserve, south-east of Badgingarra in the Shire of Badgingarra
- a 1,096 hectare property west of Coorow in the Shire of Coorow
- a 1,071 hectare property east of Badgingarra in the Shire of Dandaragan
- a 1,069 hectare property south of Quindanning in the Shire of Williams
- an 859 hectare property east of Mukinbudin in the Shire of Nungarin
- a 758 hectare property north-east of Regans Ford in the Shire of Dandaragan adjoining Bundarra Nature Reserve
- a 725 hectare property north of Gingin in the Shire of Gingin
- a 459 hectare property north of Gingin in the Shire of Gingin
- a 211 hectare property east of Cranbrook in the Shire of Cranbrook adjoining Salt Lake Nature Reserve
- a 149 hectare property south-east of Wickepin in the Shire of Wickepin
- an 85 hectare property south-east of Pingelly in the Shire of Cuballing
- two freehold blocks of land totalling 57 hectares on Dirk Hartog Island in the Shire of Shark Bay which have been incorporated in Dirk Hartog Island National Park
- a 45 hectare property south-east of Ledge Point in the Shire of Gingin, along the west bank of the Moore River
- a 33 hectare property south-west of Harvey in the Shire of Harvey adjoining adjoins Byrd Swamp Nature Reserve
- a 28 hectare property in Beermullah in the Shire of Gingin
- a 0.8 hectare portion of a farm north-east of Esperance in the Shire of Esperance.

DEC acknowledges the contribution made by the Australian Government through the National Reserve System component of the *Caring for Our Country* initiative to conservation land purchases. This year the contribution was \$100,000, with a further \$723,296 received towards the purchase of the Lakeside and Barnong pastoral leases in the Midwest Region and land acquired for addition to Pikaring Nature Reserve in the Shire of Bruce Rock which were purchased in previous financial years. The support of the Australian Government continued to assist progress towards the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of terrestrial conservation reserves in WA.



SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

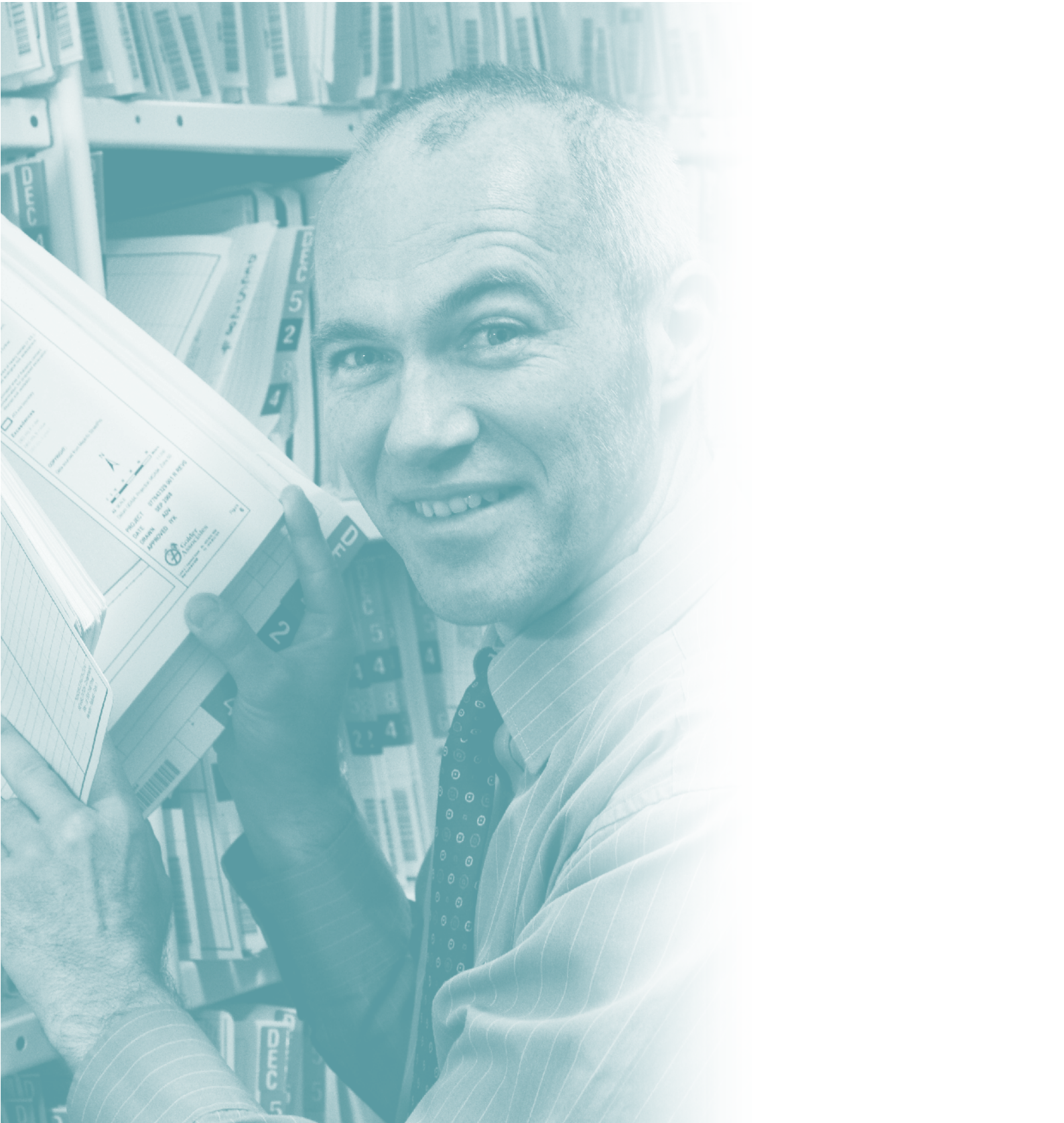




SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

- Western Australia has a rich and diverse natural environment that faces constant threats and complex challenges including pest animals, weeds, dieback, salinity, altered fire regimes, habitat loss and climate change. Action to address these threats will continue, with a particular focus on the conservation of threatened plants, animals and ecological communities.
- The creation of a new marine park in Camden Sound and improving conservation outcomes in the internationally significant Kimberley Region and the Great Western Woodlands will also be priorities. At the same time as protecting the outstanding natural values of these areas, it is intended that they will be managed for multiple values.
- DEC will strengthen and expand its partnership approach to managing terrestrial and marine parks, recognising the community's desire to be involved. Parks will continue to be a cornerstone of nature protection as well as being highly significant for recreation and tourism. The department will continue to work with volunteers, private conservation organisations, Indigenous communities and the private sector to protect natural environments and to promote people's enjoyment and safety in parks.
- The State's forests will continue to be managed to conserve the plants and animals they contain, to protect water catchments, for recreation, for a sustainable timber industry, for mining and for other uses. This will be done under the framework of the Forest Management Plan 2004–2013. Further research and monitoring will also be conducted and management practices will be adapted as appropriate.
- DEC will continue to undertake an active fire management program with an emphasis on maximising the achievement of its annual target for prescribed burning and maintaining adequate numbers of well-trained and equipped fire management personnel to enable control of multiple large fires in the south-west of the State.
- Industrial and land development activity is expected to continue to increase with economic growth. Increased demands on the department for regulation and development approvals are expected, and the emerging skills shortage will present a challenge in retaining a skilled workforce to respond to those demands. DEC is implementing regulatory reforms and improved processes to manage these trends.
- The development of national and international responses to climate change continues. The department is developing a Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Western Australia.
- The amount of waste deposited in landfill is expected to reduce as a result of the increase in the landfill levy. However, this is likely to be offset to some extent by an increase in waste due to economic growth.

DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE





**Certification of Financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2010**

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Environment and Conservation have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ended 30 June 2010 and the financial position as at 30 June 2010.

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

John Byrne
Chief Finance Officer
Date: 24 August 2010

Keiran McNamara
Accountable Authority
Date: 24 August 2010



AUDITOR GENERAL'S OPINION



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

I have audited the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2010, and the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service, Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service, and Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Notes.

The key performance indicators consist of key indicators of effectiveness and efficiency.

Director General's Responsibility for the Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

The Director General is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions, and the key performance indicators. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances; and complying with the Financial Management Act 2006 and other relevant written law.

Summary of my Role

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators based on my audit. This was done by testing selected samples of the audit evidence. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. Further information on my audit approach is provided in my audit practice statement. This document is available on the OAG website under "How We Audit".

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements and key performance indicators is error free. The term "reasonable assurance" recognises that an audit does not examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the financial statements and key performance indicators.



AUDITOR GENERAL'S OPINION

**Department of Environment and Conservation
Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators for the year ended 30 June 2010**

Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of the Department of Environment and Conservation at 30 June 2010 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Department provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (iii) the key performance indicators of the Department are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Department's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2010.

Handwritten signature of Colin Murphy.

COLIN MURPHY
AUDITOR GENERAL
31 August 2010



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	4	165,630	168,071
Supplies and services	5	82,825	88,551
Depreciation and amortisation expense	6	20,227	18,625
Accommodation expenses	7	6,954	6,254
Grants and subsidies	8	19,127	8,814
Other expenses	9	23,649	25,638
Total cost of services		318,412	315,953
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	10	71,579	59,905
Commonwealth grants and contributions	11	6,856	8,217
Other grants and contributions	12	30,117	18,942
Interest revenue		3,006	3,736
Other revenue	14	9,767	8,845
Total revenue		121,325	99,645
<i>Gains</i>			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	13	918	675
Total Gains		918	675
Total income other than income from State Government		122,243	100,320
NET COST OF SERVICES		196,169	215,633
Income from State Government	15		
Service appropriation		210,798	215,641
Assets assumed (transferred)		0	0
Resources received free of charge		1,584	2,175
Total income from State Government		212,382	217,816
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD		16,213	2,183
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(44,815)	617,195
Gains recognised directly in equity		-	-
Total other comprehensive income		(44,815)	617,195
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(28,602)	619,378

Refer to the 'Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service'.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	27	9,906	9,445
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	16	64,015	58,328
Inventories	17	1,372	1,181
Receivables	18	24,967	19,694
Amounts receivable for services	19	12,871	14,169
Other current assets	20	742	741
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	21	0	0
Total Current Assets		113,873	103,558
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	16	2,721	2,118
Amounts receivable for services	19	71,759	65,636
Property, plant and equipment	22	4,606,725	4,635,340
Total Non-Current Assets		4,681,205	4,703,094
TOTAL ASSETS		4,795,078	4,806,652
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	24	14,638	15,196
Provisions	25	26,767	27,101
Total Current liabilities		41,405	42,297
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	25	14,039	13,725
Total Non-Current liabilities		14,039	13,725
TOTAL LIABILITIES		55,444	56,022
NET ASSETS		4,739,634	4,750,630
Equity			
Contributed Equity	26	2,839,810	2,822,376
Reserves		1,856,511	1,901,326
Accumulated surplus		43,313	26,928
TOTAL EQUITY		4,739,634	4,750,630

Refer to the 'Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service'.

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Contributed equity	Reserves	Accumulated surplus / (deficit)	Total equity
Balance as at 1 July 2008	2,791,647	1,284,131	33,157	4,108,935
Changes in accounting policy or correction of prior period errors.	0	0	(8,412)	(8,412)
Restated balance at 1 July 2008	2,791,647	1,284,131	24,745	4,100,523
Total comprehensive income for the year		617,195	2,183	619,378
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:				
Capital appropriations	16,597	0	0	16,597
Other contributions by owners	15,672	0	0	15,672
Distributions to owners	(1,540)	0	0	(1,540)
Total	30,729	0	0	30,729
Balance as at 30 June 2009	2,822,376	1,901,326	26,928	4,750,630
Balance as at 1 July 2009	2,822,376	1,901,326	26,928	4,750,630
Changes in accounting policy or correction of prior period errors.	0	0	172	172
Restated balance at 1 July 2009	2,822,376	1,901,326	27,100	4,750,802
Total comprehensive income for the year		(44,815)	16,213	(28,602)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:				
Capital appropriations	11,577	0	0	11,577
Other contributions by owners	5,727	0	0	5,727
Distributions to owners	130	0	0	130
Total	17,434	0	0	17,434
Balance as at 30 June 2010	2,839,810	1,856,511	43,313	4,739,634

The Statement of Changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		191,297	197,602
Capital contributions		11,577	16,597
Holding account drawdowns		14,169	7,377
Cash and Cash equivalents distributed to owner		(1,258)	0
Net cash provided by State Government		215,785	221,576
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(162,912)	(159,217)
Supplies and services		(81,474)	(89,204)
Accommodation		(6,910)	(6,308)
Grants and subsidies		(21,849)	(6,217)
GST payments on purchases		(14,741)	(14,946)
GST payments to taxation authority		(214)	0
Other payments		(23,400)	(26,596)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		70,467	60,040
Commonwealth grants and contributions		7,721	8,991
Interest received		2,599	4,564
GST receipts on sales		5,590	4,568
GST receipts from taxation authority		8,764	10,691
Other receipts		35,772	25,041
Net cash used in operating activities	27	(180,587)	(188,593)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		1,396	1,013
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(29,843)	(34,753)
Net cash used in investing activities		(28,447)	(33,740)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		6,751	(757)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		69,891	70,648
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	27	76,642	69,891

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENSES BY SERVICE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Nature Conservation		Sustainable Forest Management		Parks and Visitor Services		Environmental Regulation		Environmental Sustainability		Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority		Coordinate the Response to Climate Change		Total	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
COST OF SERVICES																
Expenses																
Employee benefits expense	68,309	67,658	23,696	27,275	38,457	35,373	24,128	21,048	4,891	5,376	4,341	9,604	1,808	1,737	165,630	168,071
Supplies and services	35,903	34,274	10,046	13,202	22,895	23,027	6,510	9,629	5,124	4,166	779	2,377	1,568	1,876	82,825	88,551
Depreciation and amortisation expense	4,706	4,575	4,168	3,853	10,051	9,239	976	716	180	105	114	119	32	18	20,227	18,625
Accommodation expenses	1,382	1,422	345	344	1,184	918	2,885	2,253	582	592	313	609	263	116	6,954	6,254
Grants & subsidies	918	455	191	2	593	178	4,074	2,823	12,122	4,082	0	3	1,229	1,271	19,127	8,814
Other expenses	8,488	9,193	7,914	8,951	5,772	5,354	1,087	1,256	216	372	63	420	109	92	23,649	25,638
Total cost of services	119,706	117,577	46,360	53,627	78,952	74,089	39,660	37,725	23,115	14,693	5,610	13,132	5,009	5,110	318,412	315,953
Income																
User charges and fees	4,780	3,070	6,815	11,456	15,354	14,924	18,812	16,802	25,821	12,891	(36)	742	33	20	71,579	59,905
Commonwealth grants and contributions	3,616	7,345	272	115	2,785	198	178	124	3	408	0	25	2	2	6,856	8,217
Other grants and contributions	25,936	15,047	197	13	3,797	3,243	65	333	14	220	108	86	0	0	30,117	18,942
Interest revenue	2,013	2,501	25	77	85	173	196	245	685	740	0	0	2	0	3,006	3,736
Other revenue	2,961	2,890	2,756	2,598	3,476	3,216	254	112	320	25	0	4	0	0	9,767	8,845
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	241	98	524	330	145	(351)	8	111	0	400	0	31	0	56	918	675
Total income other than income from State Government	39,547	30,951	10,589	14,589	25,642	21,403	19,513	17,727	26,843	14,684	72	888	37	78	122,243	100,320
NET COST OF SERVICES	80,159	86,626	35,771	39,038	53,310	52,686	20,147	19,998	(3,728)	9	5,538	12,244	4,972	5,032	196,169	215,633
Income from State Government																
Service appropriation	82,444	81,248	39,518	38,108	56,962	47,818	20,644	19,580	(268)	9,503	4,028	12,128	7,470	7,256	210,798	215,641
Resources received free of charge	1,017	677	233	380	269	454	51	279	10	157	0	197	4	31	1,584	2,175
Total income from State Government	83,461	81,925	39,751	38,488	57,231	48,272	20,695	19,859	(258)	9,660	4,028	12,325	7,474	7,287	212,382	217,816
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	3,302	(4,701)	3,980	(550)	3,921	(4,414)	548	(139)	3,470	9,651	(1,510)	81	2,502	2,255	16,213	2,183

The Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
 SCHEDULE OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES BY SERVICE
 AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	Nature Conservation		Sustainable Forest Management		Parks and Visitor Services		Environmental Regulation		Environmental Sustainability		Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority		Coordinate the Response to Climate Change		Total	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS																
Current Assets	44,174	43,655	14,912	12,361	21,398	15,199	15,446	10,746	14,657	20,096	0	1,237	3,286	264	113,873	103,558
Non Current Assets	654,779	629,265	3,053,749	3,143,773	953,437	912,294	15,065	11,226	3,486	3,206	0	2,560	689	770	4,681,205	4,703,094
Total Assets	698,953	672,920	3,068,661	3,156,134	974,835	927,493	30,511	21,972	18,143	23,302	0	3,797	3,975	1,034	4,795,078	4,158,820
LIABILITIES																
Current Liabilities	16,369	16,003	7,693	7,561	10,447	9,216	5,264	6,586	1,252	1,055	0	1,552	380	324	41,405	42,297
Non Current Liabilities	5,975	5,876	1,779	2,066	3,420	3,279	2,268	1,400	428	362	0	625	169	117	14,039	13,725
Total Liabilities	22,344	21,879	9,472	9,627	13,867	12,495	7,532	7,986	1,680	1,417	0	2,177	549	441	55,444	56,022
NET ASSETS	676,609	651,041	3,059,189	3,146,507	960,968	914,998	22,979	13,986	16,463	21,885	0	1,620	3,426	593	4,739,634	4,750,630

The Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS AND INCOME ESTIMATES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 Estimate \$'000	2010 Actual \$'000	Variance	2010 Actual \$'000	2009 Actual \$'000	Variance
<i>Delivery Services</i>						
Item 109 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	0	0	0	0	201,656	(201,656)
Item 110 Services Provided to the Environmental Protection Authority	0	0	0	0	13,320	(13,320)
Item 110 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	171,150	210,107	38,957	210,107	0	210,107
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes						
– Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	685	691	6	691	665	26
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	171,835	210,798	38,963	210,798	215,641	(4,843)
<i>Capital</i>						
Item 178 Capital appropriations	0	0	0	0	16,597	(16,597)
Item 172 Capital appropriations	12,933	11,577	(1,356)	11,577	0	11,577
GRAND TOTAL	184,768	222,375	37,607	222,375	232,238	(9,863)
<i>Details of Expenses by Service</i>						
Nature Conservation	103,071	119,706	16,635	119,706	117,577	2,129
Sustainable Forest Management	44,149	46,360	2,211	46,360	53,627	(7,267)
Parks and Visitor Services	74,352	78,952	4,600	78,952	74,089	4,863
Environmental Regulation	40,745	39,660	(1,085)	39,660	37,725	1,935
Environmental Sustainability	23,431	23,115	(316)	23,115	14,693	8,422
Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority	11,293	5,610	(5,683)	5,610	13,132	(7,522)
Coordinate the Response to Climate Change	11,483	5,009	(6,474)	5,009	5,110	(101)
Total Cost of Services	308,524	318,412	9,888	318,412	315,953	2,459
Less total income	(135,505)	(122,243)	13,262	(122,243)	(100,320)	(21,923)
Net Cost of Services	173,019	196,169	23,150	196,169	215,633	(19,464)
Adjustments (1)	(1,184)	14,629	15,813	14,629	8	14,621
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	171,835	210,798	38,963	210,798	215,641	(4,843)
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	30,347	29,843	(504)	29,843	34,753	(4,910)
Adjustment for other funding sources	(17,414)	(18,266)	(852)	(18,266)	(18,156)	(110)
Capital appropriations	12,933	11,577	(1,356)	11,577	16,597	(5,020)
<i>Details of Income Estimates</i>						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	170	133	(37)	133	148	(15)

(1) Adjustments comprise movements in cash balances and other accrual items such as receivables, payables and superannuation.

Note 31 "Explanatory statement" provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2010 and between the actual result for 2009 and 2010.



Notes to the financial statements

1. Australian Accounting Standards

General

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2010 have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The term 'Australian Accounting Standards' refers to Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

DEC has adopted any applicable, new and revised Australian Accounting Standards from their operative dates.

Early adoption of standards

DEC cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 *Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements*. No Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued or amended but not operative have been early adopted by DEC for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2010.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General statement

The financial statements constitute general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

Where modification is required and has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, modified by the revaluation of land, buildings and infrastructure which have been measured at fair value.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been consistently applied throughout all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

(c) Reporting entity

The reporting entity comprises DEC.



Mission

Working with the community, we will ensure that Western Australia's environment is valued, protected and conserved, for its intrinsic value, and for the appreciation and benefit of present and future generations.

DEC is predominantly funded by Parliamentary appropriations supplemented by fees received for the provision of services to the public. The financial statements encompass all funds through which DEC controls resources to carry on its functions.

Services

DEC provides the following services:

Service 1 Nature Conservation

The development and implementation of programs for the conservation of biodiversity (the variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form), including threatened species and ecological communities, and for sustainable use of commercially exploited species; the acquisition, conservation and protection of representative ecosystems; and encouraging public awareness, understanding and support for nature conservation.

Service 2 Sustainable Forest Management

The provision of economic, social and cultural benefits from State forest and timber reserves while conserving biodiversity, maintaining soil and water values and sustaining the health, vitality and productive capacity of the forest for current and future generations.

Service 3 Parks and Visitor Services

Management of land and waters; dealing with public involvement, visitation and appreciation of the natural environment on lands and waters managed by the department, including preparing and implementing management and recreation site development plans; providing, managing and maintaining appropriate access, recreation opportunities and visitor facilities; protecting natural areas, visitors and facilities from bushfire; training departmental staff and volunteers, working with local tourist bureaus and commercial tour operators; involving Indigenous people in park management and the provision of visitor facilities and services; providing visitor information and designing and initiating educational and interpretive activity programs which enrich visitor experience and help develop greater community awareness and support for parks, natural areas, astronomy, nature-based tourism and recreation services and policies; undertaking scientific, visitor and social research, including astronomy in cooperation with other research institutions. Provision of services to, and performance of statutory functions by the Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.

Service 4 Environmental Regulation

Regulate emissions and discharges to the environment and the transport of hazardous wastes. Regulate the investigation, classification and management of contaminated sites. Monitor ambient air quality and develop air quality management plans for priority air sheds (the air canopy surrounding population centres, industrial and other facilities, within which the impacts of air pollutants need to be considered from health and environmental viewpoints).



Service 5 Environmental Sustainability

Develop and implement policies and strategies that promote environmentally sustainable practices in industry, government and the community.

Service 6 Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority

Manage the environmental impact assessment process and coordinate the development of policy for the Environmental Protection Authority to enable sound environmental advice to be provided to the Government, developers and the public in accordance with statutory functions.

On 27 November 2009, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) was established. As a result DEC does not account for expenditure, income, assets or liabilities related to this service in its financial statements from 27 November 2009.

Service 7 Coordinate the response to climate change

To provide leadership in the development and implementation of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation initiatives to reduce the impact of climate change for Western Australia.

DEC administers assets, liabilities, income and expenses on behalf of government which are not controlled by, nor integral to the function of DEC. These administered balances and transactions are not recognised in the principal financial statements of DEC but schedules are prepared using the same basis as the financial statements and are presented at note 38 'Administered expenses and income'.

(d) Contributed equity

AASB Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities* requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 955 *Contributions by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities* and have been credited directly to Contributed equity.

Transfer of net assets to/from other agencies, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal.

(e) Income

Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Sale of goods

Revenue is recognised from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets when the significant risks and rewards of ownership transfer to the purchaser and can be measured reliably.



Provision of services

Revenue is recognised on delivery of the service to the client or by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

Interest

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

Service Appropriations

Service Appropriations are recognised as revenues at nominal value in the period in which DEC gains control of the appropriated funds. DEC gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited to DEC's bank account or credited to the 'Amounts receivable for services' (holding account) held at Treasury.

Net appropriation determination

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed receipts to be retained for services under the control of DEC. In accordance with the determination specified in the 2009-2010 Budget Statements, DEC retained \$122,243 million in 2010 (\$100.320 million in 2009) from the following:

- proceeds from fees and charges
- sale of goods
- Commonwealth specific purpose grants and contributions
- sale of property, plant and equipment
- other departmental revenue.

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions

Revenue is recognised at fair value when DEC obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions usually when cash is received.

Other non-reciprocal contributions that are not contributions by owners 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.

Gains

Gains may be realised or unrealised and are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non-current assets and some revaluations of non-current assets.

(f) Property, plant and equipment

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Items of property, plant and equipment costing \$5,000 or more are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of property, plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Initial recognition and measurement

All items of property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost.



For items of property, plant and equipment acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition as an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of land and buildings and the cost model for all other property, plant and equipment. Land and buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation (buildings only) and accumulated impairment losses. All other items of property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

The fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of current market buying values determined by reference to recent market transactions, or on the basis of existing use. The accumulated depreciation for buildings is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

Independent valuations of land and buildings are provided annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services) and recognised annually to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the asset's fair value at the end of the reporting period.

The most significant assumptions in estimating fair value are made in assessing whether to apply the existing use basis to assets and in determining estimated useful life. Professional judgment by the valuer is required where the evidence does not provide a clear distinction between market type assets and existing use assets.

Derecognition

Upon disposal or derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment, any revaluation surplus relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation surplus.

Asset revaluation surplus

The asset revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets as described in note 22 'Property, plant and equipment'.

Depreciation

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Buildings	20–40 years
Furniture	10 years
Office equipment	6–7 years
Computer equipment	4 years
Software (i)	2.5 years
Aircraft	5–6 years
Boats	5 years
Plant and machinery	4–10 years



Heavy fleet vehicles	5 years
Parks and visitor facilities	10–20 years

(i) Software that is integral to the operation of related hardware.

Works of art controlled by DEC are classified as property, plant and equipment, which are anticipated to have very long and indefinite useful lives. Their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period and so no depreciation has been recognised.

(g) Impairment of assets

Property, plant and equipment are tested for any indication of impairment at the end of each reporting period. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised. As DEC is a not-for-profit entity, unless an asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs.

Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment at the end of each reporting period irrespective of whether there is any indication of impairment.

The recoverable amount of assets identified as surplus assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and the present value of future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Surplus assets carried at fair value have no risk of material impairment where fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence. Where fair value is determined by reference to depreciated replacement cost, surplus assets are at risk of impairment and the recoverable amount is measured. Surplus assets at cost are tested for indications of impairment at the end of each reporting period.

(h) Non-current assets classified as held for sale

Non-current assets held for sale are recognised at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell and are presented separately from other assets in the Statement of Financial Position. Assets classified as held for sale are not depreciated or amortised.

Most land holdings are Crown land vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia by the government. The Department of Regional Development and Lands is the only agency with the power to sell Crown land. The Conservation Commission transfers Crown land and any attaching buildings to DRDL when the land becomes available for sale.

(i) Leases

DEC holds operating leases for buildings, office equipment and motor vehicles. Lease payments are expensed on a straight-line basis over the lease term as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.



(j) Financial instruments

In addition to cash, DEC has two categories of financial instrument:

- Loans and receivables; and
- Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost.

Financial instruments have been disaggregated into the following classes:

Financial Assets

- Cash and cash equivalents
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents
- Receivables
- Amounts receivable for services

Financial Liabilities

- Payables

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The fair value of short-term receivables and payables is the transaction cost or the face value because there is no interest rate applicable and subsequent measurement is not required as the effect of discounting is not material.

(k) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

(l) Accrued salaries

Accrued salaries (*refer to note 24 'Payables'*) represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the pay date for the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. DEC considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value.

The accrued salaries suspense account (*refer to note 16 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents'*) consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account over a period of 10 financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay days occur instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

(m) Amounts receivable for services (holding account)

DEC receives funding on an accrual basis that recognises the full annual cash and non-cash cost of services. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (Holding account receivable) that is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover leave entitlements and asset replacement.



(n) Inventories

Trading stock is measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned by the method most appropriate to each particular class of inventory, with the majority being valued on a first in first out basis.

Publications held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted for any loss of service potential.

(o) Receivables

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off against the allowance account. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that DEC will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days.

(p) Payables

Payables are recognised at the amount payable when DEC becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as they are generally settled within 30 days.

(q) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount and are recognised where there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at the end of each reporting period.

Provisions – employee benefits

Annual leave and long service leave

The liability for annual and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Annual and long service leave expected to be settled more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period is measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Leave liabilities are in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions. In addition, the long service leave liability also considers the experience of employee departures and periods of service.

The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

All annual leave and unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as DEC does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period.



Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) in accordance with legislative requirements administers public sector superannuation arrangements in Western Australia.

Employees may contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme now closed to new members or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members.

DEC has no liabilities under the Pension or the GSS Schemes. The liabilities for the unfunded Pension Scheme and the unfunded GSS Scheme transfer benefits due to members who transferred from the Pension Scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS Scheme obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by DEC to the GESB. The concurrently funded part of the GSS Scheme is a defined contribution scheme as these contributions extinguish all liabilities in respect of the concurrently funded GSS Scheme obligations.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who were not members of either the Pension or the GSS Schemes became non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS). Employees commencing employment on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS). Both of these schemes are accumulation schemes. DEC makes concurrent contributions to GESB on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*. These contributions extinguish the liability for superannuation charges in respect of the WSS and GESBS Schemes.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension and GSS Schemes, and is recouped from the Treasurer for the employer's share.

Provisions – other

Employment on-costs

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses' and are not included as part of DEC's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

(r) Superannuation expense

The superannuation expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income comprises of employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS), and the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS).

The GSS Scheme is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole-of-government reporting. However, it is a defined contribution plan for agency purposes because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by the agency to GESB extinguish the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

(s) Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost

Resources received free of charge or for nominal cost that can be reliably measured are recognised as income and as assets or expenses as appropriate, at fair value.



Where assets or services are received from another State Government agency, these are separately disclosed under Income from State Government in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(t) Comparative figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

With the legal creation of the OEPA on the 27 November 2009, this has resulted in the financials for Service 6 only including a part year for 2010. The 2009 figures for Service 6 are for a full year.

3. Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates

Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard

DEC has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009 that impacted on DEC.

AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements (September 2007).

This Standard has been revised and introduces a number of terminology changes as well as changes to the structure of the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Comprehensive Income. It is now a requirement that owner changes in equity be presented separately from non-owner changes in equity. There is no financial impact resulting from the application of this revised Standard.

AASB 2007-10 Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101.

This Standard changes the term 'general purpose financial report' to 'general purpose financial statements', where appropriate in Australian Accounting Standards and the *Framework* to better align with IFRS terminology. There is no financial impact resulting from the application of this Standard.

AASB 2008-13 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 17 – Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners [AASB 5 & AASB 110].

This Standard amends AASB 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations* in respect of the classification, presentation and measurement of non-current assets held for distribution to owners in their capacity as owners. This may impact on the presentation and classification of Crown land held by DEC where the Crown land is to be sold by the Department of Regional Development and Lands (formerly Department for Planning and Infrastructure). DEC does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied prospectively.

AASB 2009-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Improving Disclosures about Financial Instruments AASB 4, AASB 7, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038.

This Standard amends AASB 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures* and will require enhanced disclosures about fair value measurements and liquidity risk with respect to financial instruments. There is no financial impact resulting from the application of this Standard.



Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

DEC cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 *Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements*. Consequently, DEC has not applied early any following Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued that may impact DEC. Where applicable, DEC plans to apply these Australian Accounting Standards from their application date.

	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
<p><i>AASB 2009-11 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 10 & 12].</i></p> <p>The amendment to AASB 7 requires modification to the disclosure of categories of financial assets. DEC does not expect any financial impact when the Standard is first applied. The disclosure of categories of financial assets in the notes will change.</p>	1 January 2013
<p><i>AASB 1053 Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards</i></p> <p>This Standard establishes a differential financial reporting framework consisting of two tiers of reporting requirements for preparing general purpose financial statements.</p> <p>The Standard does not have any financial impact on DEC. However it may affect disclosures in the financial statements of DEC if the reduced disclosure requirements apply. DTF has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the new Standard for agencies.</p>	1 July 2013
<p><i>AASB 2010-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to many Australian Accounting Standards, including Interpretations, to introduce reduced disclosure requirements into these pronouncements for application by certain types of entities.</p> <p>The Standard is not expected to have any financial impact on DEC. However this Standard may reduce some note disclosures in financial statements of DEC. DTF has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the amendments to these Standards for agencies.</p>	1 July 2013



	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
4. Employee benefits expense		
Wages and salaries (a)	135,546	140,434
Superannuation – defined contribution plans (b)	13,439	12,967
Long service leave (c)	3,418	2,770
Annual leave (c)	13,227	11,900
	165,630	168,071
<p>(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefits to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component. (b) Defined contribution plans include West State, Gold State and GESB Super Scheme (contribution paid). (c) Includes a superannuation contribution component.</p> <p>Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 9 'Other expenses'. The employment on-costs liability is included at note 25 'Provisions'.</p>		
5. Supplies and services		
Communications	4,261	4,206
Consultants and contractors	15,754	14,146
Services and contracts	28,488	35,082
Materials	15,418	15,656
Repairs and maintenance	5,914	5,275
Travel	4,388	5,253
Government Regional Officers' Housing rental expense	3,696	3,459
Other	4,906	5,474
	82,825	88,551
6. Depreciation and amortisation expense		
Depreciation		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	15,140	14,273
Buildings	5,087	4,352
Total depreciation	20,227	18,625
7. Accommodation expenses		
Lease rentals	5,515	4,971
Electricity, power and water	1,439	1,283
	6,954	6,254
8. Grants and subsidies		
Recurrent		
Western Australian Local Government Association	3,273	137
LandCorp	3,000	0



	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
Colmax Glass	2,730	20
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)	995	640
Carnegie Wave Energy	661	0
Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	659	58
Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre	550	0
Mindarie Regional Council	401	91
Kimberley Toad Busters	310	309
Southern Metropolitan Regional Council	276	342
Department of Local Government and Regional Development	250	0
Curtin University of Technology	224	0
The Perth Mint	205	2,700
Rivers Regional Council	176	131
WA Planning Commission	175	0
Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority	170	0
Munda Biddi Trail Foundation	155	0
Shire of Wagin	155	72
Western Metropolitan Regional Council	154	48
Conservation Council of WA Inc	150	190
Earthcare Recycling	140	35
City of Geraldton-Greenough	133	19
Gascoyne Development Commission	118	35
Shire of Manjimup	118	1
Geographe Catchment Council Inc	110	20
Waste Management Association of Australia	108	16
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	93	65
City of Bunbury	92	33
Esperance Regional Forum Inc	92	0
Bibbulmun Track Foundation	90	60
City of Albany	89	0
Shire of Busselton	87	50
Motor Trade Association of WA	85	161
Shire of Toodyay	85	0
Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group	80	10
Cleanaway	78	117
Pilbara Regional Council	74	18
Amcor Recycling Australasia	73	110
Blue Planet Energy Australia Pty Ltd	71	0
Shire of Victoria Plains	62	0
Department of Water	60	160
North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources Inc	60	0
Agsafe Ltd	55	14



	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
City of Rockingham	42	64
Xearth Pty Ltd	27	63
Pioneer Road Services Pty Ltd	23	67
WA Chip and Pulp Co Pty Ltd	23	66
Manjimup Land Conservation District Committee	12	59
Department of Fisheries	5	80
Department for Planning and Infrastructure	0	750
CSIRO	0	500
Earthcare Consulting	0	132
South East Metropolitan Regional Council	0	91
Shire of Ashburton Tom Price & Paraburdoo	0	69
C & D Recycling	0	66
Geocatch	0	60
Sunset Events	0	59
Direct Recycling	0	51
Various grants under \$50,000	2,272	975
	19,127	8,814

9. Other expenses

Employment on-costs (a)	99	880
Operating lease – motor vehicle	12,503	13,124
Other lease, rental and hire expenses	11,047	11,634
	23,649	25,638

(a) Includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at note 25 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

10. User charges and fees

User charges	13,013	12,197
Fees	17,283	19,319
Landfill levy revenue	23,707	12,618
Emission and discharge licences	14,876	13,499
Waste control permits	2,700	2,272
	71,579	59,905

11. Commonwealth grants and contributions

Capital	823	733
Recurrent	6,033	7,484
	6,856	8,217



2010	2009
\$'000	\$'000

At 30 June 2010 \$5,032,339 relates to outstanding commitments.

12. Other grants and contributions

Capital	520	520
Recurrent	29,597	18,422
	30,117	18,942

At 30 June 2010 \$27,642,502 relates to outstanding commitments.

13. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets

Costs of Disposal of Non-Current Assets

Plant, property, equipment & vehicles	420	221
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Proceeds from Disposal of Non-Current Assets

Plant, property, equipment & vehicles	1,338	896
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Net gain/(loss)	918	675
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14. Other revenue

Publications revenue	420	524
Mining compensation revenue	5,532	5,420
Other revenues	3,815	2,901
	9,767	8,845

15. Income from State Government

Appropriation revenue received during the year:

Service appropriations (a)	210,107	201,656
Services provided to EPA	0	13,320
<i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	691	665
Total appropriations	210,798	215,641

Resources received free of charge (b)

Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:

– Landgate	568	1,506
– State Solicitor's Office	692	310
– Department of Water	3	5
– Department of Treasury and Finance	319	160
– Department of Agriculture and Food	0	192
– Department of Transport	2	2
Total resources received free of charge	1,584	2,175

212,382	217,816
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2010	2009
\$'000	\$'000

(a) Service appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the net cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.

(b) Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal cost, DEC recognises revenues equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably measured and which would have been purchased if they were not donated, and those fair values shall be recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable. Where the contribution of assets or services are in the nature of contributions by owners, DEC makes an adjustment direct to equity.

16. Restricted cash and cash equivalents

Current

Cash amounts in suspense account (a)	64,015	58,328
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Non Current

Accrued salaries suspense account (b)	2,721	2,118
---------------------------------------	--------------	--------------

(a) Cash held in the account is to fund the four special purpose accounts disclosed at note 36 and a range of specific purpose accounts.

(b) Amount held in the suspense account is only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years.

17. Inventories

Current

Inventories held for resale:

Souvenirs	492	512
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Inventories held for distribution:

Publications	880	669
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1,372	1,181
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18. Receivables

Current

Receivables	12,352	13,935
-------------	--------	--------

Allowance for impairment of receivables	(36)	(100)
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GST receivable	2,372	1,920
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Accrued revenue	10,279	3,939
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24,967	19,694
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Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:

Balance at start of year	100	223
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Doubtful debts expense recognised in the statement of comprehensive income	0	0
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Amounts recovered during the year	(57)	(21)
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Amounts written off during the year	(7)	(102)
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Balance at end of year	36	100
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2010	2009
\$'000	\$'000

DEC does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to receivables.

19. Amounts receivable for services

Current	12,871	14,169
Non-current	71,759	65,636
	84,630	79,805

Represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

20. Other assets

Current

Prepayments	742	741
-------------	------------	------------

21. Non-current assets classified as held for sale

Opening balance

Plant, equipment and vehicles	0	2
Less write-down from cost to fair value less selling costs	0	0
	0	2

Assets reclassified as held for sale

Plant, equipment and vehicles	0	0
Less write-down from cost to fair value less selling costs	0	0
	0	0

Total assets classified as held for sale

Plant, equipment and vehicles	0	2
Less write-down from cost to fair value less selling costs	0	0
	0	2

Less assets sold

Plant, equipment and vehicles	0	2
Less write-down from cost to fair value less selling costs	0	0
	0	2

Closing balance

Plant, equipment and vehicles	0	0
Write-down from cost to fair value less selling costs	0	0
	0	0



22. Property, plant and equipment

Land

At fair value (a)

2010	2009
\$'000	\$'000

4,396,680	4,427,134
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4,396,680	4,427,134
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Buildings

At fair value (a)

74,313	83,209
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74,313	83,209
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Plant and equipment

At cost

125,627	112,289
---------	---------

Accumulated depreciation

(40,360)	(29,387)
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85,267	82,902
---------------	---------------

Vehicles

At cost

21,347	19,279
--------	--------

Accumulated depreciation

(12,887)	(9,457)
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8,460	9,822
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Works of art

At cost

190	190
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190	190
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Assets under construction

41,815	32,083
--------	--------

4,606,725	4,635,340
------------------	------------------

(a) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2009 by the Western Australian Land Information Department (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2010 and recognised at 30 June 2010. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$2,427,343,100 and buildings: \$6,138,500. For the remaining balance, fair value of land and buildings was determined on the basis of existing use or depreciated replacement cost.



Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant, equipment and vehicles and assets under construction at the beginning and end of the reporting period are set out below:

	Land	Buildings	Plant and equipment	Vehicles	Works of Art	Assets under construction	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2010							
Carrying amount at start of year	4,427,134	83,209	82,902	9,822	190	32,083	4,635,340
Additions	4,963	254	14,016	2,169	0	9,732	31,134
Assets not previously identified	0	0	172	0	0	0	172
Transfers (a)	5,728	(131)	131	0	0	0	5,728
Disposals	(170)	(92)	(345)	0	0	0	(607)
Classified as held for sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation decrements	(40,975)	(3,840)	0	0	0	0	(44,815)
Depreciation	0	(5,087)	(11,609)	(3,531)	0	0	(20,227)
Carrying amount at end of year	4,396,680	74,313	85,267	8,460	190	41,815	4,606,725
	Land	Buildings	Plant and equipment	Vehicles	Works of Art	Assets under construction	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2009							
Carrying amount at start of year	3,800,519	73,058	83,306	10,684	190	21,688	3,989,445
Additions	3,355	6,507	10,028	2,734	0	10,395	33,019
Assets not previously identified	0	0	395	0	0	0	395
Transfers (a)	14,132	0	0	0	0	0	14,132
Disposals	0	(71)	(118)	(32)	0	0	(221)
Classified as held for sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation increments	609,128	8,067	0	0	0	0	617,195
Depreciation	0	(4,352)	(10,709)	(3,564)	0	0	(18,625)
Carrying amount at end of year	4,427,134	83,209	82,902	9,822	190	32,083	4,635,340

(a) DEC has received assets from other agencies, this is accounted for as a contribution by owners.

23. Impairment of assets

There were no indications of material impairment to property, plant and equipment at 30 June 2010.

DEC held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period and at balance sheet date there were no intangible assets not yet available for use. All surplus assets at 30 June 2010 have been written off.



24. Payables

Current

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Trade payables	6,779	8,268
Accrued expenses	2,039	1,839
Accrued salaries	2,538	1,979
Accrued superannuation	255	157
Unearned revenue	3,027	2,953
	14,638	15,196

25. Provisions

Current

Employee benefits provision

Annual leave (a)	14,500	15,155
Long service leave (b)	12,029	11,704
	26,529	26,859

Other provisions

Employment on-costs (c)	238	242
	26,767	27,101

Non-current

Employee benefits provision

Long service leave (b)	13,914	13,596
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Other provisions

Employment on-costs (c)	125	129
	14,039	13,725

(a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of balance sheet date	14,500	15,155
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(b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of balance sheet date	12,029	11,704
More than 12 months of balance sheet date	13,914	13,596
	25,943	25,300

(c) The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is included in note 9 'Other expenses'.



	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000

Movements in Other Provisions

Movements in each class of provisions during the financial year, other than employee benefits, are set out below.

Employment on-cost provision

Carrying amount at start of year	371	293
Additional provisions recognised	99	880
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefits	(107)	(802)
Carrying amount at end of year	363	371

26. Equity

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of DEC. The government holds the equity interest in DEC on behalf of the community. The asset revaluation surplus represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets.

Contributed equity

Balance at the start of the year	2,822,376	2,791,647
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Contributions by owners

Capital contribution	11,577	16,597
Transfer of net assets from other agencies		
Main Roads	0	10,500
Land and Building transferred from Department of Regional Development and Lands (DRDL)	5,727	5,172
Total contributions by owners	2,839,680	2,823,916

Distributions to owners

Transfer of net assets to other agencies and government	130	(1,540)
Balance at the end of the period	2,839,810	2,822,376

Reserves

Asset revaluation surplus:

Balance at the start of the year	1,901,326	1,284,131
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	(40,975)	609,128
Buildings	(3,840)	8,067
Balance at the end of the year	1,856,511	1,901,326

Accumulated surplus

Balance at the start of the year	26,928	24,350
Result for the period	16,213	2,183
Income and expense recognised directly in equity	172	395
Balance at the end of the year	43,313	26,928



2010	2009
\$'000	\$'000

27. Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follow:

Cash and cash equivalents	9,906	9,445
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	66,736	60,446
	76,642	69,891

Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows used in operating activities

Net cost of services	(196,169)	(215,633)
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Non-cash items:

Depreciation and amortisation expense	20,227	18,625
Resources received free of charge	1,584	2,175
Net (gain)/loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	(918)	(675)

(Increase)/decrease in assets:

Current receivables (c)	1,499	(2,228)
Inventories	(190)	242
Prepayments	(3)	(32)
Other current assets	(6,404)	554

Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:

Current payables (c)	(1,673)	100
Provisions	2,061	7,966

Net GST receipts/(payments) (a)	(601)	313
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Change in GST in receivables/payables (b)

Net cash used in operating activities	(180,587)	(188,593)
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(a) This is the net GST paid/received, i.e. cash transactions.

(b) This reverses out the GST in receivables and payables.

(c) Note that Australian Taxation Office (ATO) receivable/payable in respect of GST and receivable/payable in respect of the sale/purchase of non-current assets are not included in these items as they do not form part of the reconciling items.

28. Resources provided free of charge

During the year DEC provided resources free of charge for functions outside the normal operation of DEC to:

Office of the Environmental Protection Authority	292	0
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2010	2009
\$'000	\$'000

29. Commitments

Capital expenditure commitments

Capital expenditure commitments, being contracted capital expenditure additional to the amounts reported in the financial statements, are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	4,067	14,287
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0	0
	4,067	14,287

The capital commitments include amounts for:

Buildings	3,830	14,069
Plant and Equipment	237	218
	4,067	14,287

Non-cancellable operating lease commitments

Commitments for minimum lease payments are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	8,559	7,434
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	12,202	13,174
Later than 5 years	6,468	7,330
	27,229	27,938

DEC's fleet leases account for the majority of the non-cancellable operating lease commitments. The lease term varies depending on the vehicle. The lease payments are fixed for the term of the lease and are payable monthly. There is no option to renew the lease at the end of the lease term.

30. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Contingent liabilities

In addition to the liabilities included in the financial statements, DEC has the following contingent liabilities:

Litigation in progress

DEC has various pending litigation that may affect the financial position to the value of \$541,233, of which \$453,461 is fire related. DEC has denied liability and any legal claim will be defended.

Native title claims

DEC's land is subject to a number of native title claims that have yet to be assessed by the National Native Title Tribunal. The financial effect should these claims be successful cannot be estimated at this time.

Contaminated sites

Under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* DEC is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites to DEC. In accordance with the Act, DEC classifies these sites on the basis of the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as *contaminated – remediation required* or *possibly contaminated – investigation required*, DEC may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

In May 2007 DEC submitted a programme for reporting known or suspected sites to itself under section 12 of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*. The programme provided for the identification and reporting of



sites over an 18 month period (later extended to 22 months). Forty-two sites were reported under the programme.

Twenty-four of DEC’s sites have been classified *possibly contaminated – investigation required*, while the former Waste Control site in Bellevue (an “orphan” site) has been classified *contaminated - remediation required*. During 2009-10, DEC installed a permeable reactive barrier groundwater treatment system to remediate off-site groundwater contamination in Bellevue (at a cost of \$3 million), however, the contamination source zones still require remediation. DEC also has some responsibility for investigating and, where necessary, remediating the former Brookdale Liquid Waste Treatment Facility and arsenic contamination on land near the former Pemberton Timber Mill, although these sites have not yet been classified under the Act. The financial effect of these liabilities cannot be reliably estimated at this time. DEC may apply for funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account to undertake future investigation and/or remediation at these sites.

31. Explanatory statement

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expense as presented in the financial statement titled “Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates” are shown below. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% or \$5 million.

Total appropriations provided to deliver services

(i) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2010

There were significant variations in the total appropriation, in the total income and in the following service expenditure:

	2010 Estimate	2010 Actual	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total appropriations provided to deliver services for the year	171 835	210 798	38,963 (a)
Total income	135 505	122 243	(13,262)(b)
Service expenditure:			
Nature Conservation	103 071	119 706	16,635 (c)
Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority	11 293	5 610	(5,683)(d)
Coordinate the Response to Climate Change	11 483	5 009	(6,474)(e)

(a) *Total appropriations provided to deliver services* – The variance is due to a number of budget adjustments as follows: replacement of a shortfall in budgeted revenues from the waste management landfill levy \$30.885 million, bushfire suppression \$16 million, voluntary severances \$5.547 million, transfer of appropriations for the establishment of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority minus \$6.118 million, increased employer contributions to Goldstate Super \$0.351 million, procurement savings minus \$1.187 million, vehicle fleet savings minus \$0.365 million, grant savings minus \$0.145 million and an increase to the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975* provision \$0.006 million. Further, the cash flow for the following project expenditures were adjusted in the forward estimates: Low Emissions Energy Development Fund minus \$3.885 million, Brookdale decommissioning minus \$2.2 million, Ord Native Title minus \$1.382 million, Burrup Native Title minus \$0.85 million and the Kimberley Conservation Strategy minus \$0.694 million.

(b) *Total income* – The variance is due principally to a shortfall in the estimated revenue due from the Waste Management landfill levy of \$28.3 million offset by increased revenue from other grants and contributions of \$13.7 million.

(c) *Nature Conservation* – The variance is due to increased specific purpose grants funded activity, unbudgeted bushfire expenditure and payment of unbudgeted staff voluntary severances.



(d) Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority – Expenditure against this service ceased after the establishment of a separate Office of the Environmental Protection Authority on 27 November 2009.

(e) *Coordinate the Response to Climate Change* – The variance is due to the re-cash flow of funding provided for payments from the Low Emissions Energy Development (LEED) Fund.

(ii) Significant variances between actual results for 2009 and 2010

Although there were no significant variances in the total appropriation provided to deliver services, there were significant offsetting variances in the following service expenditure:

	2010 Actual \$'000	2009 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Total appropriation provided to deliver services for the year	210 798	215 641	(4,843)
Total income	122 243	100 320	21,923(a)

(a) *Total income* – The variance is due principally to increases in revenue from the Waste Management landfill levy and from other grants and contributions.

Service expenditure

Significant variances between actual results for 2009 and 2010

	2010 Actual \$'000	2009 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Sustainable Forest Management	46 360	53 627	(7,267)(a)
Environmental Sustainability	23 115	14 693	8,422(b)
Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority	5 610	13 132	(7,522)(c)

(a) *Sustainable Forest Management* – The variance is due largely to a reduction in bushfire suppression activity on lands managed by this service.

(b) *Environmental Sustainability* – The variance is due to increased payments processed from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account.

(c) *Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority* – The variance is due to the creation of Office of the Environmental Protection Authority on 27 November 2009.

(iii) Capital appropriation

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2010

No significant variance in Capital appropriation.

Significant variances between actual results for 2009 and 2010

	2010 Actual \$'000	2009 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Capital appropriation	11 577	16 597	(5,020)(a)

(a) Actual capital expenditure decreased from \$34.753 million in 2009 to \$29,843 million in 2010. The decrease was due mainly to reduced expenditure occurring on plant and equipment purchases.



32. Financial instruments

(a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

Financial instruments held by DEC are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables. All of DEC's cash is held in the public bank account (interest bearing) apart from restricted cash held in a special purpose account. DEC has limited exposure to financial risks. DEC's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of DEC's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to DEC.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at end of the reporting period in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment, as shown the table at note 32(c) 'Financial Instruments Disclosures' and note 18 'Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with DEC's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amounts receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than government, DEC trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. DEC has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that DEC's exposure to bad debts is minimal. At the end of the reporting period there were no significant concentrations of credit risk

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises when DEC is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. DEC is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business.

DEC has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including drawdowns of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will affect DEC's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments.

DEC does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks.

Other than as detailed in the Interest rate sensitivity analysis table at note 32(c), DEC is not exposed to interest rate risk because DEC has no borrowings.

(b) Categories of financial instruments

In addition to cash, the carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are as follows:

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<i>Financial Assets</i>		
Cash	9,906	9,445
Restricted cash	66,736	60,446
Loans and receivables (a)	107,225	97,579



	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	14,638	15,196

(a) The amount of loans and receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(c) Financial instrument disclosures

Credit Risk and Interest Rate Risk Exposures

The following table discloses DEC's maximum exposure to credit risk, interest rate exposures and the ageing analysis of financial assets. DEC's maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period is the carrying amount of financial assets as shown below. The table discloses the ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired and impaired financial assets. The table is based on information provided to senior management of DEC.

DEC does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to the financial assets it holds.

DEC does not hold any financial assets that had to have their terms renegotiated that would have otherwise resulted in them being past due or impaired.



Interest rate exposures and ageing analysis of financial assets (a)

	Interest rate exposure		Past due but not impaired							Impaired financial assets
	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	Carrying Amount	Up to 3 months	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	More than 5 years		
	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Financial Assets</i>										
2010										
Cash and cash equivalents	4.0	9,906	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	4.0	66,736	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables (a)		22,595	2,676	3,898	2,167	0	0	0	0	36
Amounts receivable for services		84,630	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		183,867	2,676	3,898	2,167	0	0	0	0	36
2009										
Cash and cash equivalents	5.4	9,445	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	5.4	60,446	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables (a)		17,774	4,311	1,008	0	106	0	0	0	99
Amounts receivable for services		79,805	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		167,470	4,311	1,008	0	106	0	0	0	99

(a) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).



Liquidity Risk

The following table details the contractual maturity analysis for financial liabilities. The contractual maturity amounts are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the end of the reporting period. The table includes both interest and principal cash flows. An adjustment has been made where material.

Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial liabilities

	Interest rate exposure				Maturity dates								
	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	Carrying Amount	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing	Adjustment for discounting	Total Nominal Amount	Up to 3 months	3-12 months	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	More than 5 years
	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>													
2010													
Payables		14,638	0	14,638	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		14,638	0	14,638	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009													
Payables		15,196	0	15,196	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		15,196	0	15,196	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities.



Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of DEC's financial assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period on the surplus for the period and equity for a 1% change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

2010	Carrying amount \$000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$000	Equity \$000	Surplus \$000	Equity \$000
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	9,906	(99)	(99)	99	99
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	66,736	(668)	(668)	668	668
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(767)	(767)	767	767

2009	Carrying amount \$000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$000	Equity \$000	Surplus \$000	Equity \$000
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	9,445	(94)	(94)	94	94
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	60,446	(604)	(604)	604	604
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(698)	(698)	698	698

Fair Values

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the statement of financial position, whether they are carried at cost or fair value, are recognised at amounts that represent a reasonable approximation of fair value unless otherwise stated in the applicable notes.

33. Remuneration of senior officers

The number of senior officers, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year, falls within the following bands are:

\$	2010	2009
	Number	
60,001 – 70,000	1	0
100,001 – 110,000	0	1
130,001 – 140,000	0	1
140,001 – 150,000	0	6
150,001 – 160,000	6	3
160,001 – 170,000	2	2
170,001 – 180,000	1	0
190,001 – 200,000	1	0
220,001 – 230,000	0	1
230,001 – 240,000	1	0
360,001 – 370,000	0	1
370,001 - 380,000	1	0
The total remuneration of senior officers is:	2,295	2,481



The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by DEC in respect of senior officers. Three senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
34. Remuneration of Auditor		
Remuneration payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:		
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and performance indicators	134	128

35. Affiliated bodies

The Environmental Protection Authority, Conservation Commission and Marine Parks and Reserves Authority are government affiliated bodies that received administrative support from DEC. They are not subject to operational control by DEC.

Environmental Protection Authority (a)	506	1,206
Conservation Commission	984	913
Marine Parks and Reserves Authority	192	201
	1,682	2,320

(a) Only to 27 November 2009.

36. Special purpose accounts

Special Purpose Account section 16 1(b) of FMA

Nature Conservation and National Parks Trust Account

The purpose of the trust account is for scientific research relating to flora and fauna.

Balance at the start of the year	1,255	1,350
Receipts	330	362
Payments	(325)	(457)
Balance at the end of the year	1,260	1,255

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

The purpose of the trust account is to: encourage the conservation of resources and energy through waste reduction and recycling; to promote, support and encourage viable alternatives to landfill disposal of waste; to encourage applied research and the development of appropriate waste management, waste reduction and recycling infrastructure and markets. The Fund will be used to fund nominated programs and other waste management initiatives established by the Minister for Environment on the advice of the Waste Authority.

Balance at the start of the year	15,974	11,470
Receipts	15,148	13,441
Payments	(16,853)	(8,937)
Balance at the end of the year	14,269	15,974



	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000

Contaminated Sites Management Account

The purpose of the trust account is to enable investigation or remediation of any site where the State or a public authority (excluding local government) is responsible for remediation. The Account also funds DEC costs of investigation and ensuring compliance with notices.

Balance at the start of the year	4,906	3,197
Receipts	5,465	5,703
Payments	(4,669)	(3,994)
Balance at the end of the year	5,702	4,906

Barrow Island Net Conservation Benefit Account

The purpose of the account is for the funding of ongoing programs that will provide demonstrable and sustainable additions to or improvements in biodiversity conservation values of Western Australia targeting, where possible, the biodiversity conservation values affected or occurring in similar bioregions to Barrow Island.

Balance at the start of the year	3,681	3,452
Receipts	4,593	229
Payments	0	0
Balance at the end of the year	8,274	3,681

37. Supplementary financial information

(a) Write-offs

During the financial year \$7,018.82 was written off as bad debts and \$4,732.09 of DEC's asset and public property register under the authority of:

The Accountable Authority	12	102
The Minister	0	0
Executive Council	0	0
	12	102

(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

Losses of public money and public and other property through theft or default.	5	41
Amounts recovered	0	26
	5	15



38. Disclosures of administered income and expenses by service

	Nature Conservation		Sustainable Forest Management		Parks and Visitor Services		Environmental Regulation		Environmental Sustainability		Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority		Coordinate the Response to Climate Change		Total	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
COST OF SERVICES																
<i>Expenses</i>																
Transfer payment	133	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133	148
Total administered expenses	133	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133	148
<i>Income</i>																
Regularly fees and charges	41	24	0	0	0	0	43	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	82
Other revenue	49	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	66
Total administered income	90	90	0	0	0	0	43	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	133	148



Certification of Key Performance Indicators

I hereby certify that the key performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Department of Environment and Conservation's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Environment and Conservation for the financial year ended 30 June 2010.

Keiran McNamara

Accountable Authority

Date: 24 August 2010



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Vision

A healthy, diverse and well managed Western Australian environment.

Mission Statement

Working with the community, we will ensure that Western Australia's environment is valued, protected and conserved, for its intrinsic value, and for the appreciation and benefit of present and future generations.

Funding Objectives

Funding for the year was received in accordance with the following Outcomes and Services.

Outcome 1

Conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity.

Service 1 Nature Conservation

The development and implementation of programs for the conservation of biodiversity (the variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form), including threatened species and ecological communities, and for sustainable use of commercially exploited species; the acquisition, conservation and protection of representative ecosystems; and encouraging public awareness, understanding and support for nature conservation.

Service 2 Sustainable Forest Management

The provision of economic, social and cultural benefits from state forest and timber reserves while conserving biodiversity, maintaining soil and water values and sustaining the health, vitality and productive capacity of the forest for current and future generations.

Outcome 2

Community enjoyment of park facilities and services, wildlife and the natural environment displayed in parks.

Service 3 Parks and Visitor Services

Management of land and waters; dealing with public involvement, visitation and appreciation of the natural environment on lands and waters managed by the department, including preparing and implementing management and recreation site development plans; providing, managing and maintaining appropriate access, recreation opportunities and visitor facilities; protecting natural areas, visitors and facilities from bushfire; training departmental staff and volunteers, working with local tourist bureaus and commercial tour operators; involving Indigenous people in park management and the provision of visitor facilities and services; providing visitor information and designing and initiating educational and interpretive activity programs which enrich visitor experience and help develop greater community awareness and support for parks, natural areas, astronomy, nature-based tourism and recreation services and policies; undertaking scientific, visitor and social research, including astronomy in cooperation with other research institutions. Provision of services to, and performance of statutory functions by the Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.



Outcome 3

Emissions and discharges meet acceptable criteria.

Service 4 Environmental Regulation

Regulate emissions and discharges to the environment and the transport of hazardous wastes. Regulate the investigation, classification and management of contaminated sites. Monitor ambient air quality and develop air quality management plans for priority air sheds (the air canopy surrounding population centres, industrial and other facilities, within which the impacts of air pollutants need to be considered from health and environmental viewpoints).

Outcome 4

Adoption of environmentally sustainable practices to protect, manage and restore the State's natural resources.

Service 5 Environmental Sustainability

Develop and implement policies and strategies that promote environmentally sustainable practices in industry, government and the community.

Service 6 Environmental Impact Assessment and Policies for the Environmental Protection Authority

Manage the environmental impact assessment process and coordinate the development of policy for the Environmental Protection Authority to enable sound environmental advice to be provided to the government, developers and the public in accordance with statutory functions.

On 27 November 2009, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) was established. As a result DEC does not account for expenditure, income, assets or liabilities related to this service in its financial statements from 27 November 2009.

Due to new indicators for the OEPA, DEC has not reported the key performance indicators that related to the former Service 6. Please refer to the OEPA's annual report for key performance results.

Service 7 Coordinate the Response to Climate Change

To provide leadership in the development and implementation of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation initiatives to reduce the impact of climate change for Western Australia.



Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators

Outcome: Conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity

	2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
Total number of listed threatened taxa and ecological communities	727	701	(26)	703	703	0
Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with improved conservation status	1	1	0	0	4	4(a)
Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with declining conservation status	5	0	(5)	2	2	0
Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan	60%	59%	(1%)	62.2%	66%	3.8% (b)
Proportion of terrestrial sub-bioregions with greater than 15% reservation	24.1%	20.4%	(3.7%)	20.4%	20.4%	0%
Proportion of marine bioregions with marine conservation reserves	42.1%	42.1%	0%	42.1%	42.1%	0%

Note to the indicators:

- (a) It is difficult to estimate the number of species with improved conservation status due to the long term nature of recovery actions.
- (b) The number of listed species may change each year, and the preparation of recovery plans requires data collation and consultation. A greater number of recovery plans were finalised during the year than was anticipated.

Percentage of Forest Management Plan performance indicators where defined annual targets are met

The department aims to achieve a high level of compliance with standards for management of forests.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
75%	78%	3%	75%	80%	5%

Outcome: Community enjoyment of park facilities and services, wildlife and the natural environment displayed in parks

Average level of visitor satisfaction with their visit

The average level of customer satisfaction with their visit is a key indicator of the department's effectiveness in delivering parks and other natural areas that allow the community to understand, enjoy and appreciate the natural environment. Visitor satisfaction levels are consistently high.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
85%	88.1%	3.1%	85%	87.2%	2.2%



Park visitation (annual number of visits)

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
12,300,000	14,179,806	1,879,806	13,340,000	14,614,117	1,274,117

Annual percentage change in park visitation

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
0.4%	12.9%	12.5%	2.7%	3.1%	0.4%

Note to the indicator: The 2009-10 target figure was based on predictions that tourism across the State would be negatively affected by the economic crisis. This prediction was overestimated and visitor numbers have not been impacted, showing normal growth.

Outcome: Emissions and discharges meet acceptable criteria

Number of exceedances of approved environment criteria by regulated activities

The number of exceedances of approved environment criteria is a key indicator of the department’s effectiveness in setting and monitoring environmental standards.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
50	37	(13)	60	30	(30)

Note to the indicator: The variance between the target and actual exceedances is due to improved industry practice.

Number of air National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) exceedances per annum of criteria pollutants

The monitoring of air quality for criteria pollutants against national health standards and goals specified under the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) for air quality is a vital tool to enable the effective monitoring and management of emissions and discharges to air sheds. Monitoring of air quality against criteria pollutants enables: assessment of compliance with NEPM standards and goals set to protect human health, the effectiveness of long term air quality management strategies and tools to be evaluated, and effectiveness of industry emission controls and management strategies to be evaluated.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
11	25	14	20	25	5

Note to the indicator: The actual number of Ambient Air Quality NEPM standard exceedances was more than estimated primarily due to nine smoke haze particle (PM₁₀) events recorded by the Collie monitoring station during the month of May 2010. This is mainly due to prescribed burning activities undertaken in the area.



Outcome: Adoption of environmentally sustainable practices to protect, manage and restore the State’s natural resources

Percentage of waste in the metropolitan area diverted from landfill through recycling

Developing strategies to reduce and recycle the volume of waste produced remains a significant challenge. Diverting waste that is currently being disposed of via landfill to recycling is an important component of reducing the impact of waste on our environment.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
25%	31%	6%	40%	34%	(6%)

Note to the indicator: The difference between the target waste diversion rate and the actual rate reflects a lower than expected increase in recycling activity associated with the impact of the Global Financial Crisis on recycling markets.

Number of approved projects with environmental impacts significantly exceeding those assessed.

Note to the indicator: On 27 November 2009, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) was established. As a result DEC does not account for expenditure, income, assets or liabilities related to this service in its financial statements from 27 November 2009.

Due to new indicators for the OEPA, DEC has not reported the key performance indicators that relate to the former Service 6. Please refer to the OEPA’s annual report for key performance results.

Percentage of Low Emissions Energy Development Fund milestones achieved within the targeted timeframe

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
100%	75%	(25%)	100%	80%	(20%)

Note to the indicator: There are currently two projects receiving support from the LEED Fund, with a total of 5 milestones to be achieved in the targeted timeframe. Delays in milestone achievement for the wave energy infrastructure installation were due mostly to unfavourable weather conditions. These delays are not considered to materially impact on overall successful delivery of the project.



Key Efficiency Indicators

Service 1 Nature Conservation

Average Cost per Hectare of Managing Wildlife Habitat

The cost per hectare of wildlife habitat management is an indirect indicator for the department's efficiency in delivering nature conservation. Increases in the indicator generally reflect increases in funding.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
\$3.44	\$4.30	\$0.86	\$3.68	\$4.35	\$0.67

Note to the indicator: Additional external grants were obtained for nature conservation work, increasing the expenditure per hectare value.

Service 2 Sustainable Forest Management

Average Cost per Hectare of Managing State Forest and Timber Reserves

The figure used is the accrual basis average gross cost per hectare of managing State forest and timber reserves in accordance with the relevant management plan. The area managed is less than the area gazetted as State forest and timber reserve because areas of State forest and timber reserve proposed to become part of the formal conservation reserve system in the Forest Management Plan 2004–2013 are being managed as if the land category change had already occurred.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
\$30.13	\$41.33	\$11.20	\$34.03	\$35.73	\$1.70

Service 3 Parks and Visitor Services

Cost per Visit

The cost per visit is affected by changes in both visitor numbers and levels of funding for park management.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
\$5.34	\$5.23	(\$0.11)	\$5.57	\$5.40	(\$0.17)

Service 4 Environmental regulation

Average Cost per Air Monitoring Station

The monitoring of air quality for criteria pollutants against national health standards and goals specified under the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) for air quality is a vital tool to enable the effective monitoring and management of emissions and discharges to air sheds. Monitoring of air quality against criteria pollutants enables: assessment of compliance with NEPM standards and goals set to protect human health, the effectiveness of long term air quality management strategies and tools to be evaluated, effectiveness of industry emission controls and management strategies to be evaluated.



2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
\$454,875	\$468,375	\$13,500	\$383,167	\$418,500	\$35,333

Note to the indicator: Although DEC operated 18 air monitoring stations during 2009/10, 13 were fulltime and five were campaign based and not in-field for the entire 12 month period. When calculating the total number of stations for the financial year, the proportion of the year each monitor was in-field was used to calculate a total of 16.

Average Cost per Industry Licence

The department increased the level of resourcing applied to management of regulation of discharges to the environment. The increased resource level to achieve improved performance outcomes will result in increased costs per licence.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
\$16,977	\$21,686	\$4,709	\$16,208	\$23,638	\$7,430

Note to the indicator: The allocation basis used to set the target for this measure was refined over 2009–10 and as a result there was a variation between actual and target.

Average Cost per Contaminated Site Assessment

This indicator is affected by the number of contaminated site assessments carried out each year.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
\$6,667	\$7,190	\$523	\$14,574	\$6,011	(\$8,563)

Note to the indicator: The actual average cost per contaminated site assessment in 2009-10 was lower than the target because a significantly higher number of site assessments were completed, resulting in a decrease in unit costs. The increased number of site assessments completed is due to efficiency improvements, including the use of accredited auditors on more complex sites which has reduced the amount of staff time required to classify a site.

Average Cost of Remediating State Sites

This indicator reflects average costs in remediating State contaminated sites. Costs can be affected by a range of variables but mainly reflect the extent of contamination on sites.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
\$2,989,600	\$1,436,000	(\$1,533,600)	\$795,417	\$626,000	(\$169,417)

Note to the indicator: The allocation basis used to set the target for this measure was refined over 2009–10 and as a result there was a variation between actual and target.



Service 5 Environmental sustainability

Cost of Administering Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account includes programs which provide grants to a range of waste reduction and recycling activities. Managing the administration costs associated with the fund is important so as to ensure that maximum levels of funding are available for waste reduction and recycling initiatives.

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
17.1%	8.1%	(9.0%)	5.0%	6.1%	1.1%

Note to the indicator: The administration costs are higher than target levels as a result of increased demand on waste data analysis, monitoring and reporting. This has had the effect of keeping administration costs higher than expected as a percentage of the total account expenditure.

Service 6 Environmental impact assessment and policies for the Environmental Protection Authority

Cost per Environmental Assessment

Cost for Number of Environmental Policies Developed

Note to indicators: On 27 November 2009, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) was established. As a result DEC does not account for expenditure, income, assets or liabilities related to this service in its financial statements from 27 November 2009.

Due to new indicators for the OEPA, DEC has not reported the key performance indicators that relate to the former Service 6. Please refer to the OEPA’s annual report for key performance results.

Service 7 Coordinate the response to climate change

Cost of Administering Low Emissions Energy Development Fund as a Percentage of Total Funds

2008–09 Target	2008–09 Actual	Variation	2009–10 Target	2009–10 Actual	Variation
0.30%	0.25%	(0.05%)	0.41%	0.49%	0.08%

Note to indicator: The actual administration cost as a percentage of total funds is higher than the target because the fund balance was reduced by approximately \$5 million during this period. The reductions were part of the government’s Efficiency Dividend program and a subsequent government review of grant programs.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES



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MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES

No Ministerial directives were received during the financial year.



OTHER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

Pricing policies

The department is largely funded by appropriations; however, fees are charged for a range of goods, services and licensing arrangements where government has determined that full or partial cost recovery is appropriate. Fees are determined in accordance with guidelines on 'Costing and Pricing Government Services' published by the Department of Treasury and Finance. Fees are appropriately set and reasonably relate to the cost of providing the goods or services. Fees are reviewed on an annual basis.

Major capital projects

The department's planned capital works program of \$30.3 million for 2009–10 provided funds for buildings, including the Biodiversity Conservation Science Centre and Herbarium, tourism roads and park facilities, plant and equipment, conservation estate land purchase and fire fighting fleet replacement.

Summary of major capital works 2009–10

DETAILS OF MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

WORKS IN PROGRESS	Expected Year of Completion	Estimated Expenditure Remaining \$'000	Estimated Total Project Cost \$'000
Biodiversity Conservation Science Centre and Herbarium – Stage 1	2010–11	2,667	31,390
Ord New Parks Infrastructure	2010–11	834	1,000
RECURRING CAPITAL PROGRAMS	Expected Year of Completion		2009–10 Expenditure \$'000
Conservation Land Acquisition	Ongoing		4,962
Fire Fighting Fleet and Equipment	Ongoing		3,045
Plant and Equipment Purchase and Replacement	Ongoing		4,631
Tourism Road Improvements	Ongoing		770
Parks Improvement Program	Ongoing		4,013



Employment and industrial relations

Staff profile

	2009–10	2008–09
Full-time permanent	1,243	1,268
Full-time contract	333	418
Part-time measured on a FTE basis	297	292
On secondment	5	5
Total	1,878	1,983

The figures for 2008–09 differ from previously published figures due to differences in calculation methodology.

Transfer of staff and functions from the department to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority is the main reason for the lower numbers in 2009–10 relative to 2008–09.

Workers' compensation

DEC recognises that there is a direct relationship between occupational safety and health and workers' compensation and injury management. If there is an increase in the number or severity of incidents, then there are automatically increased costs. Equally relevant is the strong link between a safe and healthy workplace and performance. Although the major objective is caring for employees and looking after their safety and health, it also translates into a return on investment by implementing an effective workers' compensation and injury management system and related procedures to minimise premium and associated costs.

In 2009–10 DEC's workers' compensation contribution was \$1,124,229 compared with \$962,173 for the previous year. The number of lost time injuries in 2009–10 was 26 (down from 30 in 2008–09), with 69 medical treatment injuries (up from 65 in 2008–09).



GOVERNANCE DISCLOSURES

Contracts with senior officers

At the date of reporting, senior officers of the department held no contracts with the department other than normal employment contracts. No senior officers of the department had substantial interests in entities with existing or proposed contracts or agreements with the department.



OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Advertising (*Electoral Act 1907, S175ZE*)

In accordance with Section 175ZE of the Western Australian *Electoral Act 1907*, DEC incurred the following expenditure in advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising.

Advertising agencies	460,794.36
Adcorp	460,794.36
Direct mail organisations	Nil
Market research organisations	Nil
Media advertising organisations	80,459.58
Andimaps	380.00
Australia's Golden Outback	1,955.00
Australia's South West	10,370.00
Britel Enterprise	565.00
Cooks Tour	4,100.00
Countrywide Publications	2,520.00
Denmark Bulletin and Media Services	517.00
Email Media	2,310.00
Eyezon Pty Ltd	3,579.00
Hallmark Editions Pty Ltd	14,643.00
Marketforce Communications	564.17
Market Creations	4,273.50
Media Decisions	8,114.03
Optimum Media Decisions	902.11
Penguin and Seal Island Cruises	22,325.14
Rural Press Regional Media WA Pty Ltd	169.93
Scoop Publishing	2,574.00
Walpole Community Resource Telecentre	597.70
Polling organisations	Nil

Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes (*Disability Services Act 1993, S29*)

DEC continues to be a leading proponent of the Universal Access philosophy, which is based on the fundamental principles of equal opportunity and equity. DEC's policy on access and inclusion is to ensure that everyone in the community is able to access, use and enjoy our State's natural areas and the associated facilities, services and programs provided by the department.

The department's *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2007–2012* continues with DEC's ongoing program of improving access, facilities and services to ensure they meet the needs of



our customers and staff. The plan is monitored by the Disability Access and Inclusion Committee which has representatives from various divisions and Corporate Executive.

As the major provider of outdoor recreation areas and facilities in natural areas DEC continues to ensure that all site plans consider access requirements and are developed in accordance with DEC's *Policy 18* and *Universal Guidelines*. Noteworthy access improvement works undertaken by the department during the year included:

- redevelopment of Lesmurdie Falls providing improved access to toilets, picnic facilities and lookouts over the falls
- new walk trail and boardwalk to Lake Thetis providing access to viewing thrombolites and birds at the site
- restoration of day use and camping areas at Stokes Inlet with improved access to picnic and camping facilities, as well as access to the inlet
- construction of accessible toilet at the 'Waterwheel' near Augusta
- redevelopment of Chapman Pool for enhanced access to the river for picnicking, pedestrians and canoeing
- improved pedestrian access along the lower Collie River near Honeymoon Pool on the Jabitj Trail, including new river access points
- commencement of new pedestrian paths at Fred Jacoby Park that will improve access from recently completed parking areas to picnic areas and toilets.

Additional key initiatives and achievements from the DAIP include:

- continued funding for access improvements for employees and their families, such as funding to improve access for volunteers with disabilities at Yanchep National Park
- the Albany and Geographe Bush Rangers WA units winning the Secondary Schools Section in the *Count Us In Awards*, which showcase initiatives that strengthen opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community life
- an audit of all DEC regional offices for accessibility to the reception counters from the car park, by people in wheelchairs identified that most locations are accessible. Where barriers were identified, improvements are being implemented
- continued promotion of the use of the *Creating Accessible Events Checklist*
- participation in the *You're Welcome* access initiative coordinated by the Disability Services Commission, promoting accessible facilities and services for all members of the community including people with disabilities
- continued funding of employees with disabilities' requests for improvements in information technologies
- emailing all information on vacant positions to various disability employment agencies
- selection panel training to ensure that staff are trained in interviewing people with a disability
- continuing to meet contemporary good practice and government guidelines for website accessibility for all, and to make all documents available in other formats upon request
- continuing to be an affiliate of the *Companion Card Program*, enabling people with a disability and their carers a fair ticketing system to access DEC's attractions and facilities
- recognising the needs for people with disabilities in all public consultation activities.



Compliance statements

Office of the Public Sector Standard Commissioner reporting under s31 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* for 2009–10.

Compliance issue	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
Public sector standards	
<p>Four breach claims were lodged in 2009–10.</p> <p>All were against the Recruitment, Selection and Appointment Standard (RSAS). No breach of this standard was found. Two claims were reviewed and dismissed by the OPSSSC. One claim was withdrawn. One claim has yet to be resolved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department’s People Services Branch intranet site has information on the Public Sector Standards including a hyperlink to the Office of Public Sector Standards Commissioner’s (OPSSC) internet site. • Ongoing training is provided to grievance officers and made available to officers required to participate on recruitment panels to ensure that the relevant standard is complied with. • Continual development and presentation of Human Resources Awareness Raising sessions occurs at both metropolitan and regional locations. The presentation of sessions at all DEC locations was completed in February 2010. Further refresher sessions are proposed for 2010–11. • Management Audit has completed an internal audit of the Department’s compliance with the Public Sector Standards and is of the view <i>“The Department is continuing to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with the Public Sector Standards”</i>.
WA Code of Ethics	
<p>There were no reports of non-compliance with the WA Code of Ethics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department’s Code of Conduct continues to incorporate references to the WA Code of Ethics including a hyperlink to the OPSSC internet site for ‘Western Australia Public Sector Code of Ethics’.
Department’s Code of Conduct	
<p>One allegation raised in 2008–09 was carried into 2009–10.</p> <p>Fourteen allegations of breaches of the code of conduct were raised in 2009–10.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The one outstanding allegation from 2008–09 was finalised in 2009–10. • Ten of the 14 allegations raised in 2009–10 were finalised in 2009–10. Three resignations were accepted, four findings supporting a breach of discipline were made and the other three allegations were not proven. • Four alleged breaches have been carried over to 2010–11. • The department is holding Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct and Accountable and Ethical Decision Making awareness briefings for all staff.

Equity and diversity

The department’s *Equity and Diversity Management Plan 2007–2012* provides for equitable appointment and effective management of a diverse workforce and assists DEC to meet diversity objectives and statutory obligations under the *WA Equal Opportunity Act 1984*, including achieving diversity targets, improving management of diversity and also maximising the potential and well-being of all employees. The plan is overseen by the Equity and Diversity Management Committee, which comprises members from various divisions across the department and Corporate Executive.



The plan is progressing according to timeframes and many workplaces are now actively incorporating equity and diversity principles into all practices.

Noteworthy equity and diversity initiatives and achievements this year have included:

- continuing to employ school-based trainees (Goldfields Region received an award from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for their commitment to training, with one of their Indigenous trainees accepting a regional award)
- maintaining good practice and following government access guidelines, ensuring that documents are available in other formats upon request and that the department's websites can be translated into 11 different languages
- graduation of Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES) trainees in certificates II, III and IV in Conservation and Land Management
- maintaining a 'Women in Management' project to develop and implement strategies to encourage attraction, appointment and retention of women in management positions
- updating grievance policy and procedure to reflect the Office of Public Sector Standards Commissioner's (OPSSC's) new *Grievance Resolution Guidelines* (the department now has 33 Good Working Relations Contact Officers all trained in DEC's grievance resolution procedure and EEO legalisation)
- engaging 198 Indigenous Bush Ranger cadets, and continuing to provide Aboriginal cross-cultural awareness training for all employees
- observing diversity-focused events such as Harmony Week and International Women's Day
- continuing training of employees in preventing workplace discrimination and sexual harassment
- updating and continued use of a language database which identifies employees who have language skills other than English
- promoting work/life balance to employees via guidelines and awareness raising sessions
- continuing targeted recruitment such as advertising in disability, international and Indigenous media
- participating in work experience programs both at the high school and university level.

Recordkeeping Plans (*State Records Act 2000, S61, State Records Commission Standards*)

The department's compliance with the *State Records Act 2000* is supported by the Corporate Information Section (CIS).

The newly established office of the OEPA has been incorporated into the department's revised Recordkeeping Plan and submitted to the State Records Commission for approval. DEC RKP 2010043 will replace the current plan.

In addition, a Service Level Agreement has been established outlining various services CIS will be providing to the OEPA throughout 2010–11.



GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Substantive equality

In implementing the State Government's Policy Framework for Substantive Equality, DEC assessed the management planning process carried out under the CALM Act to determine whether there were issues of discrimination.

Management plans cover a 10-year period over specific areas and must contain a statement of policies or proposed guidelines to be followed and a summary of the operations proposed to be undertaken in the area. This process is overseen by the department's Parks and Visitor Services division. Public participation in management planning is a key requirement of the CALM Act. The department achieves this through public and peak stakeholder meetings, formal advisory committees and community advisory committees, newsletters and broad public invitations to comment on draft plans. Public participation is given high priority and Aboriginal groups in particular are sought for consultation as both stakeholders and partners in the management of land they are associated with.

The assessment included:

- research into the department's relevant policies and practices in relation to public involvement and public consultation processes relating to the preparation of management plans under the CALM Act
- consultation with DEC officers responsible for preparing CALM Act management plans, including extensive staff interviews in relation to the Woodman Point and Yellagonga regional parks
- consultation with the Equal Opportunity Commission regarding Aboriginal joint management.

The assessment found that there was no indication that Aboriginal or any other culturally diverse groups are discriminated against in relation to policies or practices that apply to public participation in the management planning process. DEC is committed to substantive equality principles and practices and considers Aboriginal interests and aspirations to be of high importance, often going beyond the provisions and requirements of the CALM Act to accommodate these interests.

The department has a number of policies and practices in place which already safeguard the principles of substantive equality in the management planning process. These include:

- public participation facilitators are trained to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of age, gender, religion, cultural background and disability
- traditional custodians are continuously involved in decisions about the conservation of lands and waters, and legal representative bodies are routinely consulted and involved in management planning
- cross-cultural training is routinely provided and updated to all DEC staff, and Aboriginal culture and multicultural values are promoted within the department through the naming of parks, locations, meeting rooms and other installations with Aboriginal names
- 'Welcome to Country' is routinely part of DEC events and gatherings.

A key recommendation of the assessment was that DEC gathers data on the ethnicity of visitors to parks and recreation areas it manages, in order to respond to their interests and aspirations wherever possible. These data are now being gathered and monitored by the Parks and Visitor Services division.



A full report on the implementation of the Substantive Equality Policy Framework in CALM Act management planning was presented to the Equal Opportunity Commission in July 2009.

Occupational Safety, Health and Injury Management

DEC is resolute in its commitment to providing a safe, healthy and hygienic environment for employees, contractors, volunteers and visitors and to assisting injured workers to return to work as soon as medically appropriate. The importance of incident prevention is recognised as the major contributor to a safe and healthy working environment. This approach, together with an effective injury management system, contributes to the overall strategy emphasising human resource management.

The department is also committed to consulting with staff in an effective and productive manner on occupational safety and health (OSH) issues. OSH team leader positions have been established across the State to coordinate and communicate all matters relating to the safety and health of workers, and to monitor compliance with the relevant legislation and the department's OSH system and related procedures.

Formal mechanisms for consulting with staff on OSH matters include:

- quarterly OSH committee meetings
- regular team meetings addressing OSH matters
- trained OSH representatives
- on-line hazard reporting and incident notification systems
- effective incident investigation procedures to identify causal factors and minimise the likelihood of recurrences.

DEC ensures compliance with the injury management requirements of the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981* through a systematic approach to injury management whereby line managers are directly involved in the management of injured workers to ensure that early intervention occurs incorporating a return to work focus where possible.

In March 2008, an OSH review was conducted by external consultants who reported that the OSH system in place was robust in ensuring compliance with the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* and the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996*.

OSH initiatives in 2009–10 included:

- review of Job Safety Analyses for fire operations
- development of Critical Incident Response Plan
- annual review of Safety Management Plan to support continuous improvement
- completion of Asbestos Management Register and Plan
- review and update of code of practice for dive operations
- further development of on-line access to health and fitness initiatives
- internal training conducted for senior first aid and peer support.



OSH performance indicators

Indicator*	Target*	2008–09	2009–10	Target achieved
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	Yes
Lost time injury/disease (LTI/D) incidence rate	0 or 10% reduction	1.54	1.31	Yes
Lost time injury severity rate	0 or 10% improvement	3.33	0	Yes
Percentage of injured workers returned to work within 28 weeks	Report actual %	100%	100%	Yes
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	Greater than or equal to 50%	>50%	>50%	Yes

*In accordance with the Public Sector Commissioner’s Circular 2009/11

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