

Department of Environment and Conservation 2011–12 Annual Report



Department of
Environment and Conservation



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Photographs

Cover

Clockwise: Senior wildlife officer Rick Dawson with a Carnaby's cockatoo (picture: Leighton De Barros); common (weedy) seadragon (*Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*) (picture: Peter Nicholas); marine park ranger Stephen Goodlich (picture: Peter Nicholas); Yawuru program leader Sharon Ferguson doing turtle monitoring in Lacepede Islands Nature Reserve in the Kimberley (picture: Leighton De Barros); and environmental officer Saorla Finucane with Pollution Response Unit section manager Dr Jimmy Seow (picture: Peter Nicholas).

Inside

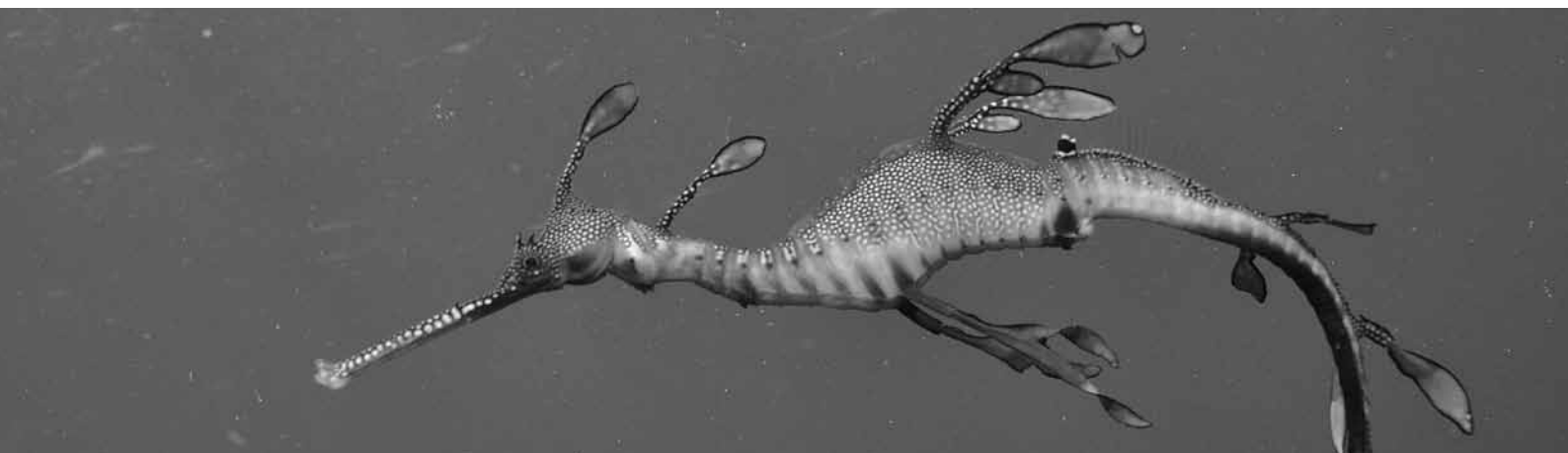
Page 1: Senior technical officer, Andy Williams, DEC Wildlife Research Centre (picture: Peter Nicholas).

Page 15: The new Granite Skywalk at Castle Rock in Porongurup National Park (picture: Andrew Halsall).

Page 55: Marine park ranger Stephen Goodlich and marine conservation officer Alison Sampey (picture: Peter Nicholas).

Page 57: Legal services officer Frances Hoskins (picture: Peter Nicholas).

Department of Environment and Conservation
2011–12 Annual Report







LETTER TO THE MINISTER

Hon Bill Marmion MLA

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 2011 to 30 June 2012.

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

Keiran McNamara

Director General



DIRECTOR GENERAL'S FOREWORD



The Department of Environment and Conservation has the lead responsibility for protecting and conserving the state's environment on behalf of the people of Western Australia and is, at its heart, largely an operational agency. The past year has been a difficult one for the department and its staff who are drawn to work for DEC by their interest in, and commitment to, conserving and protecting our natural environment. This commitment sees staff willingly take on challenging projects and situations where there are variables beyond their control.

Despite the commitment of staff and the expertise they bring in dealing with things like natural systems and fire, it is impossible to always guarantee outcomes, as there are many variables at work and the influence of a changing climate adds another layer of complexity.

During 2011–12, there were a number of significant achievements that were the result of many years of hard work. The creation of two new marine parks has added more than 796,000 hectares to Western Australia's world-class marine parks system.

The Camden Sound Marine Park, which protects the biggest calving area for humpback whales in the southern hemisphere, is the first of four marine parks being created as part of the government's *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*. In the state's South West, Ngari Capes Marine Park protects an area that contains both tropical and temperate marine habitats and species.

Updating legislation to meet changing community needs and expectations is an important aspect of the department's work and a number of legislation changes came into effect during the year. The gazettal of joint management legislation was a significant highlight and formalises DEC's longstanding practice of working with Aboriginal communities in managing parks. In the area of environmental regulation, an amendment to the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 reduced administrative costs for numerous small businesses. DEC is also continuing its industry regulation reform project to remove duplication and improve regulatory efficiency, consistency, quality and effectiveness.

However, these and many other achievements are tempered by the devastating consequences of the November 2011 Margaret River bushfire that was caused by an escape from a DEC prescribed burn. The burn was being undertaken to reduce an unacceptable level of fuel build-up along the Leeuwin-Naturaliste ridge, to reduce the risk of a catastrophic bushfire. That the intentions of the burn were good is no solace to those who lost homes. The department accepts responsibility for the fire and I once again apologise to all those affected.

The Margaret River bushfire was the subject of a Special Inquiry by Mr Mick Keelty AO and the department has welcomed the recommendations of his report. Fire is dangerous and has inherent risks. The department is committed to doing everything possible to try to reduce the risks and this includes a review of prescribed burning risk management practices. Prescribed burning is the primary tool available to DEC to manage fuel loads, which helps protect the community by minimising the impact of bushfires. DEC will continue to carry out a prescribed burning program, under a strengthened risk management framework, to protect the community and meet conservation objectives.

Experienced fire officers are the backbone of the department's fire management capacity. During the fire season DEC's response to major bushfires is augmented by pre-formed teams, made up of staff drawn from across all areas of the department and across the state, enabling the department to respond to more than one incident and to conduct long-running campaigns. During the 2011–12 fire season, DEC conducted its biggest firefighting operation in more than 50 years in terms of the size and duration of the fires. The Carnarvon complex of fires, started by lightning, burned through more than 800,000 hectares of mostly pastoral land and took more than five weeks to bring under control. In total, more than 350 people from DEC, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA), the State Emergency Service (SES), local bushfire brigades, local government, other government agencies, local volunteer organisations and pastoralists were involved in the response. The heads of agreement between DEC and FESA, signed in November 2011, provided a sound platform for cooperation between the agencies in providing joint bushfire management.



A demanding fire season required an outstanding effort from staff, many of whom had little respite between fires, and I thank all those involved for their willingness to work long and hard hours under challenging circumstances in the interests of serving the community. I also extend my thanks to their families for their patience and ongoing support. I would like to acknowledge the support of FESA, local bushfire brigades, other agencies, and the community. Without this cooperation and support it would not be possible to sustain major firefighting operations.

This extraordinary level of commitment is not restricted to staff responding to fires. Across the state, DEC officers have shown outstanding dedication in projects and programs as diverse as responding to pollution incidents and collecting seeds to safeguard the future of threatened flora species.

I would also acknowledge the work of the members of the Conservation Commission of WA and the Marine Parks and Reserve Authority, along with members of the Waste Authority, Keep Australia Beautiful Council, the Swan River Trust and the Contaminated Sites Committee, to which the department provides advice and support.

Keiran McNamara
Director General



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OVERVIEW OF AGENCY





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC) key responsibilities include broad roles in conserving biodiversity, and protecting, managing, regulating and assessing many aspects of the use of the state's natural resources. The department has a committed staff of almost 2,000 people across the state, many with frontline roles conserving Western Australia's fauna and flora; providing facilities for and looking after visitors to our parks; protecting the environment; and checking compliance with licence conditions and regulations, among many other things. During 2011–12, there were several significant achievements that were the result of many years of work. These included the creation of two new marine parks; the introduction of legislation providing a mechanism for joint management of DEC-managed lands and waters; and a persistent effort to address community concerns about two licensed premises in the Perth metropolitan area that resulted in major improvements in conditions for the affected communities.

Protecting our biodiversity

The creation of two new marine parks was a significant highlight of 2011–12. The Camden Sound Marine Park in the Kimberley will conserve one of the world's biggest humpback whale nurseries and breeding areas, and the Ngari Capes Marine Park, extending from Geographe Bay near Busselton to Augusta, covers about 123,000 hectares of one of the most diverse temperate marine environments in Australia.

Work continued in the Kimberley under the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*, one of the most significant conservation initiatives in Western Australian history. The landscape approach to conservation includes training and employment for Aboriginal rangers, Aboriginal involvement in land management, a major marine science program and investment in nature-based tourism. It is being implemented through partnerships with traditional owners, landholders, industry, government and non-government organisations. In addition to the creation of the Camden Sound Marine Park, the indicative management plan for the proposed Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park was released for public comment. Under a marine research program being led by DEC and implemented through the Western Australian Marine Science Institution, a science plan has been developed that will focus key research on information for the management of the Kimberley marine protected area system.

DEC signed a partnership agreement with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy in the Kimberley, and the government committed \$2.15 million over three years for conservation management of the Tableland pastoral lease and the Artesian Range/Charnley River area within the Charnley River pastoral lease, and for the *Ecofire* fire management project.

Implementation of *A Biodiversity and Cultural Conservation Strategy for the Great Western Woodlands* progressed with the support of a reference group. The state government allocated \$3.8 million for the management and protection of this biologically significant area. The Great Western Woodlands, which covers 16 million hectares, has 3,000 species of flowering plants and is the only arid region in the world that has tall trees.

To aid biodiversity conservation efforts in the south-west, DEC has been working with WWF-Australia on the *Southwest Australia Ecoregion Initiative*. During 2011–12, the *Southwest Australia Ecoregion Strategic Framework for Biodiversity Conservation* was completed. The framework provides a regional-scale planning structure for the south-west of the state for targeting investment to achieve the most effective outcomes for biodiversity conservation, and will be used to direct project investment.

Key fauna conservation projects undertaken as part of the *Threatened Fauna Ark: saving Western Australia's threatened fauna* project saw more than 350 individuals of 12 species translocated to 17 sites to establish new populations and boost existing populations. As part of biodiversity conservation work, \$3.75 million was allocated to targeted projects across the state focusing on invasive animal control, environmental weed control, threatened species and ecological communities' recovery, *Phytophthora* dieback management, biological survey and research, rangelands management and the *State Cane Toad Initiative*.



During 2011–12, the entire Western Australian Herbarium collection was moved to new premises at DEC's Kensington site. This was an enormous undertaking that coincided with a complete upgrading of the recording system to new, 21st century standards. The number of plant specimens held at the Herbarium increased by 7,033, bringing the total number of specimens held to 733,578. A total of 179 vascular plant names was added to the Western Australian Plant Census. Western Australia's vascular flora (flowering plants, ferns, cycads and conifers) now comprises 13,481 species, subspecies and varieties (12,257 native and 1,224 introduced to the state).

A record 164 grants were awarded to community groups and individuals in the third round of funding under the Minister for Environment's four-year, \$6 million *Environmental Community Grants* program.

Managing our parks and reserves

DEC's long history of working with Aboriginal communities in managing parks was formalised in March 2012 when the *Conservation Legislation Amendment Act 2011* (CLA Act) amended the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act). The CLA Act provides a mechanism for joint management of lands and waters between DEC and other landowners, or those with a vested or other interest in the land, and helps to establish the joint management frameworks required for the state government to meet its legal obligations under the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement, the Ord Final Indigenous Land Use Agreement and the Yawuru Agreements. Other sections of the CLA Act, due to come into effect later in 2012, will enable Aboriginal people to fulfil longstanding aspirations to carry out traditional activities on DEC-managed lands and waters.

In the Kimberley, good progress was made on joint management initiatives for conservation reserves in and around Kununurra and Broome with the Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation and Yawuru native title holders respectively. Under the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*, eight Bunuba Rangers were appointed.

As part of its commitment to providing access for people with disabilities and raising awareness in the department of their requirements, DEC audited the accessibility of visitor facilities across the state. This information was provided to the *You're Welcome* website www.accesswa.com.au being developed by the Disability Services Commission. The department also completed a number of improvement projects to provide universal access to tourist sites and facilities in parks across the state.

As part of its efforts to cater for a range of visitor needs and to attract people to national parks, DEC undertook projects that would add to, or improve, low-cost, in-park camping opportunities. Other improvement projects included the upgrading of roads and facilities and the construction of new visitor facilities including picnic areas, toilets, paths, lookouts, walk trails and car parks.

The total number of visits to DEC-managed lands and waters increased slightly to 15.65 million from 15.42 million last year and the visitor satisfaction index was 88.8 per cent.

The allocation of two sites under the *Naturebank* program, which identifies and prepares suitable sites on DEC-managed lands for sustainable ecotourism initiatives, marked a milestone. The sites, at Purnululu National Park and King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park, are both operating and offer visitors a remote, natural experience in the Kimberley region. Submissions for the Wharncliffe Mill site, in Bramley National Park near Margaret River, are being assessed. A site in François Péron National Park, in the Shark Bay World Heritage area, has been assessed and is being prepared for release.

During 2011–12, volunteers once again made a significant contribution, with 3,838 people contributing 457,557 hours to DEC projects across Western Australia.



Ensuring the future of our forests

Substantial progress was made on preparing the *Draft Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*, and an environmental scoping document for the plan was produced. The new plan will replace the current plan that guides the management of State forests in providing economic, social and cultural benefits while conserving biodiversity, maintaining soil and water values, and sustaining the health, vitality and productive capacity of the forest for current and future generations. Preparatory work done on the new plan included consulting key stakeholders in government, local government, and peak conservation and industry groups.

As part of the continued implementation of the *Forest Management Plan 2004–2013*, an end-of-term audit of performance report was prepared. The plan was also amended, raising production levels of karri bole logs other than first and second grade sawlog from 117,000 to 160,000 cubic metres averaged annually for 10 years.

The *FORESTCHECK* program continued to monitor the effects of timber harvesting on biodiversity, and a series of papers reporting the results of the program were published. As part of another initiative to maintain and enhance biodiversity of State forests, preliminary work was undertaken on the design of 10 indicative fauna habitat zones, and the location of 11 zones covering an area of 2,400 hectares was finalised. Work was also undertaken on improving the modelling of the rate of spread of *Phytophthora* dieback disease in south-west landscapes.

Environmental regulation and assessment

The department made significant progress with its ongoing program of regulatory reform, an initiative to improve efficiency, consistency, quality and effectiveness without compromising environmental outcomes. In particular, under *Re-Engineering For Industry Regulation and Environment* (REFIRE) those work sections responsible for industry regulation were restructured to remove duplication and ensure regulation is effective and sector-focused. The reform process also included legislative changes. In a move to reduce administrative costs for small business, the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 were amended and more than 700 premises are no longer required to be registered with DEC. The small businesses benefiting from the change include premises where fibreglass reinforced plastic is manufactured; where meat is smoked, cured or cooked; small abattoirs; water treatment facilities; and some abrasive blasting facilities. The change has not increased the risk of adverse effects on the environment, as all the affected facilities are still subject to environmental controls.

To ensure the environmental risk presented by prescribed activities is adequately captured, DEC reviewed its prescribed premises risk assessment framework that guides the targeting of resources. As part of the *Statewide Industry Regulation Compliance Strategy*, DEC carried out more than 1100 inspections of prescribed premises.

After many years of work to achieve improvements, DEC made significant progress in addressing two long-running issues causing community concern. In fulfilment of a condition set in December 2010, Cockburn Cement Ltd (CCL) operations at Munster installed a baghouse filter on kiln six, which produces lime. Baghouse filters constitute best practice for controlling dust emissions from lime plants. Since the baghouse filter has been in operation, dust emissions from kiln six have been significantly reduced, to very low levels. In March 2012, DEC issued a new licence to CCL with stringent new conditions to further improve the facility's environmental performance. The licence requires CCL to install a baghouse filter on kiln five.

In May 2012, DEC took action to resolve the odour issue at the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale, which had been the source of ongoing odour complaints from the community. DEC issued an amended licence allowing the centre to continue to operate but at a reduced throughput and with temporary additional pollution control equipment, pending the installation of permanent new scrubbers before 15 December 2012.

Air quality issues were also the focus at Perth's first annual Air Quality Forum, attended by more than 125 people. A range of topics was covered, including the achievements of the *Perth Air Quality Management Plan*, current action and the future direction of air quality management. The report into the findings of the *Kwinana Background Air Quality Study: Phases I–III*, carried out between 2005 and 2010, was released in April 2012.

The Environmental Enforcement Unit initiated 21 prosecutions during 2011–12, involving a broad range of charges including pollution, unauthorised clearing of native vegetation and littering. Six cases were subject to final determination and 15 remain before the courts.



Sustainability

In fulfilling its responsibility to develop and implement policies and strategies that promote environmentally sustainable practices in industry, government and the community, the department assisted the Waste Authority in its preparation of the *Western Australian Waste Strategy: Creating the Right Environment*. The strategy, which provides a blueprint for long-term continuous improvement of waste services, was released in March 2012. It sets targets for waste reduction, recovery and diversion from landfill.

DEC continued to work with the Western Australian Local Government Association on developing a standard model for local laws under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* that can be readily adopted by local governments.

As part of initiatives to identify and address issues arising from development, the department started a strategic assessment of development in the Perth and Peel regions under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* following the signing of an agreement by the federal Environment Minister and the Western Australian Ministers for Environment and Planning. To improve consistency, transparency and accountability of offsets arising from environmental approval requirements, a Western Australian Government Environmental Offsets Policy was developed.

Support for the development of new technology to reduce emissions continued, with a total of \$12.7 million from the government's Low Emissions Energy Development Fund (LEED) allocated to six new projects. A significant milestone for the LEED fund was achieved with the successful development of a prototype mallee harvester. This was the first LEED fund-supported project to be completed.

Four grants totalling \$42,280 were allocated under round one of the *Community Grants Scheme* for community-scale projects on waste management.

Fire management

DEC is involved in both the suppression of bushfires and the use of prescribed fire to achieve land management objectives in the varied environments of the state. The 2011–12 fire season was dominated by a number of large bushfires that saw DEC heavily committed to fire response almost continuously for three months from late November 2011 to February 2012.

The department attended several significant fires, including those at Margaret River and Milyeannup that were the result of escaped DEC prescribed burns. The Margaret River fire destroyed 45 houses, chalets and outbuildings, and greatly impacted on the local community. The Milyeannup fire was one of the largest fires in the south-west forest regions in 50 years. Other fires of note included those at Northcliffe, near Pemberton, and the Carnarvon complex of fires that burnt for almost six weeks. Started by lightning strikes, these fires required the longest sustained suppression effort ever undertaken by DEC. The response to all of these fires involved significant inter-agency cooperation. DEC was assisted by FESA, local government, volunteer bushfire brigades and other agencies.

During 2011–12, DEC attended and monitored 625 bushfires which burnt about 4,991,504 hectares. A significant number of fires were started by lightning: 31 per cent compared to the 10-year average of 23 per cent. Thirty-six per cent of fires were deliberately lit, five per cent were caused by escapes from private burns and two per cent by escapes from DEC prescribed burns.

DEC pre-formed incident management teams were deployed to five fires (or fire complexes) and DEC's fixed-wing water bombers flew 979 operational hours attending 187 bushfires, and dropped 1,791 loads, delivering 5.4 million litres of product. In 2010–11, the aircraft flew 862 operational hours and dropped 1,509 loads.

The department completed its largest-ever prescribed burning program across the state, with prescribed burning undertaken on about 7.7 million hectares. In its three south-west forest regions DEC achieved a total burn area of about 103,165 hectares, which was less than the target. This was due to dry conditions and the significant level of commitment to bushfire suppression operations.



During 2011–12, significant DEC fire management resources were dedicated to improving interagency bushfire management arrangements through the Interagency Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC) and associated sub-committees. Outside the IBMC, there was substantial interagency liaison regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Inquiry, conducted by Mr Mick Keelty AO, into the February 2011 Perth Hills Bushfire. DEC has the lead role for six of the inquiry recommendations.

Mr Keelty conducted a second Special Inquiry following the Margaret River bushfire in November 2011. The inquiry report contained 10 recommendations, of which DEC has carriage of eight. Of these, four are well advanced and progressing steadily towards completion and the other four are also being progressed. Particular attention has been given to recommendation two, which advocates a review of risk management practices associated with prescribed burning. Through the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre, DEC has engaged specialist consultants to assist in this task.

Two post-incident analyses of the two major bushfires that resulted from escapes from two DEC prescribed burns in November 2011, the Margaret River fire and the Milyeannup fire, were facilitated by Canberra-based independent consultancy firm Noetic Solutions. It is intended that the findings and recommendations of the Noetic Solutions reports will improve prevention, preparation, response and recovery in future incidents. The final reports were delivered to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in late June 2012 and, once the government has considered them, DEC will work with other agencies to implement the recommendations.



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 reporting period was to the Minister for Environment; Water, Hon Bill Marmion MLA, who exercised authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and other DEC-administered legislation.

Legislation administered by DEC at 30 June 2012

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 (National Environment Protection Measure–National Pollutant Inventory [NEPM–NPI]) Regulations 1998
- Environmental Protection (National Environment Protection Measure for Used Packaging Materials [NEPM–UPM]) Regulations 2007 (ceased 30 June 2012)
- Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997
- Environmental Protection (Packaged Fertiliser) Regulations 2010
- 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 2011

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 2011–12 to legislation administered

A number of changes to legislation administered by DEC occurred during the reporting period.

On 14 March 2012, the *Conservation Legislation Amendment Act 2011* (CLA Act) amended the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) to provide for the joint management of land under the CALM Act and to recognise the value of land and waters to the cultural heritage of Aboriginal people. The CLA Act also amended the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (WC Act), providing for Aboriginal people to take fauna and flora for Aboriginal customary purposes, extending the existing entitlement to take fauna and flora for food.

On 4 October 2011, the *Personal Property Securities (Consequential Repeals and Amendments) Act 2011* amended the CALM Act to provide that licences and permits are not personal property for the purposes of the federal *Personal Property Securities Act 2009*.

On 7 December 2011, minor changes to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) were made by the *Agricultural Practices (Disputes) Act 2011* amending the types of agricultural practices treated as “authorised acts” under the EP Act, which provide defences to environmental harm offences.

On 31 December 2011, minor amendments to the *Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority Act 2011* updated references to regional redevelopment authorities that have been amalgamated into the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority.

On 1 July 2011 and 23 September 2011, respectively, the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Amendment Regulations 2011 and the WARR Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2011 were gazetted. These amended the WARR Regulations 2008 by:

- prescribing a fee, and additional information, that must be included with an application for a waste collection permit
- allowing waste collection permits to be issued with additional restrictions specified on the permit
- replacing the Chief Executive Officer’s power to revoke or suspend a waste collection permit with a voluntary surrender process
- amending the records required to be kept by a licensee of a licensed landfill.

On 1 July 2011, the WARR Levy Amendment Regulations were also gazetted, amending the WARR Levy Regulations 2008 by adding to the categories of exempt waste and listing types of conditions that may be included on a notice granting an exemption.

On 3 March 2012, the Environmental Protection (NEPM–NPI) Amendment Regulations 2012 (NEPM–NPI Amendment) amended the Environmental Protection (NEPM–NPI) Regulations 1998 (NEPM–NPI Regulations). The NEPM–NPI Amendment:

- added a number of new defined terms into the NEPM–NPI Regulations
- added a new provision exempting occupiers of reporting facilities from complying with the NEPM–NPI Regulations where they are already subject to an alternative federal reporting regime established under the National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure
- introduced additional categories of information to be reported by occupiers of reporting facilities
- added new provisions dealing with the release by the state of mandatory transfer data.



Also on 3 March 2012, the Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations 2012 amended the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 (EP Regulations) to add modified penalties for offences under the NEPM–NPI Regulations dealt with by way of infringement notices.

On 9 May 2012, Environmental Protection Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2012 amended the EP Regulations by removing the requirement for an occupier to register premises specified in Schedule 2 of the EP Regulations, and deleting Schedule 2. The categories of premises which were dealt with in Schedule 2 included: abattoirs; premises on which meat is smoked, cured or cooked; premises on which fibreglass reinforced plastic is manufactured; water treatment facilities; and abrasive blasting facilities of specified capacities. The Environmental Protection (Abattoirs) Amendment Regulations 2012 amended the Environmental Protection (Abattoirs) Regulations 2001 to remove a reference to the deleted Schedule 2.

On 30 September 2011, the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2011 were gazetted, amending daily fees for the Tree Top Walk and the Geikie Gorge National Park boat trips. The Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Amendment Regulations 2012, gazetted on 6 April 2012, amended the fees payable under the Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004.

On 30 June 2012, the Environmental Protection (NEPM–UPM) Regulations 2007 expired.

During the 2011–12 reporting year, the following management plans were approved by the Minister for Environment under section 60 of the CALM Act:

- *Lane Poole Reserve and Proposed Reserve Additions Final Management Plan*, gazetted 4 October 2011
- *Millstream Chichester National Park and Mungaroona Range Nature Reserve Final Management Plan*, gazetted 14 October 2011
- *Dryandra Woodland Final Management Plan*, gazetted 27 October 2011
- *Amendment to the Fitzgerald River National Park Management Plan 1991–2001*, gazetted 30 December 2011
- *Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks Final Management Plan*, gazetted 28 February 2012
- *Perup Final Management Plan*, gazetted 1 May 2012
- *Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves and Proposed Reserve Additions Management Plan*, gazetted 11 May 2012.

On 2 July 2011, minor administrative changes were made to the Environmental Protection (Pinjar Gas Turbine Station Noise Emissions) Approval 2004 to reflect a change of name and the subdivision of land.

On 30 August 2011, Conservation and Land Management (Excision from Timber Reserve) Order (No. 1) 2011 excised an area of about 0.8 hectares from Timber Reserve No. 170/25 in the Shire of Donnybrook–Balingup to allow for the realignment of a section of road.

On 18 November 2011, the Wildlife Conservation (Restricted Open Season for Wild Ducks Causing Damage) Notice 2011 was gazetted, declaring a restricted open season from 1 January to 30 June for the years 2012–16.

The Environmental Protection (Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat) Policy 2011 was approved on 14 February 2012 and replaced the 2002 policy. The new policy updated references to legislation, listed the GPS coordinates defining the boundaries of the area covered by the policy and clarified the intentions of the policy.



On 17 February 2012, the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2012 and the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2012 revoked and replaced the notices previously in force under sections 23F(2) and 14(4) of the WC Act, respectively. The new notices added 24 fauna species and seven flora species to the list of species in need of special protection, and made some scientific and common name changes to listed species.

On 6 March 2012, the Minister, by notice in the Government Gazette, approved the *Western Australian Waste Strategy: Creating the Right Environment*, prepared by the Waste Authority, under section 31(2) of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*.

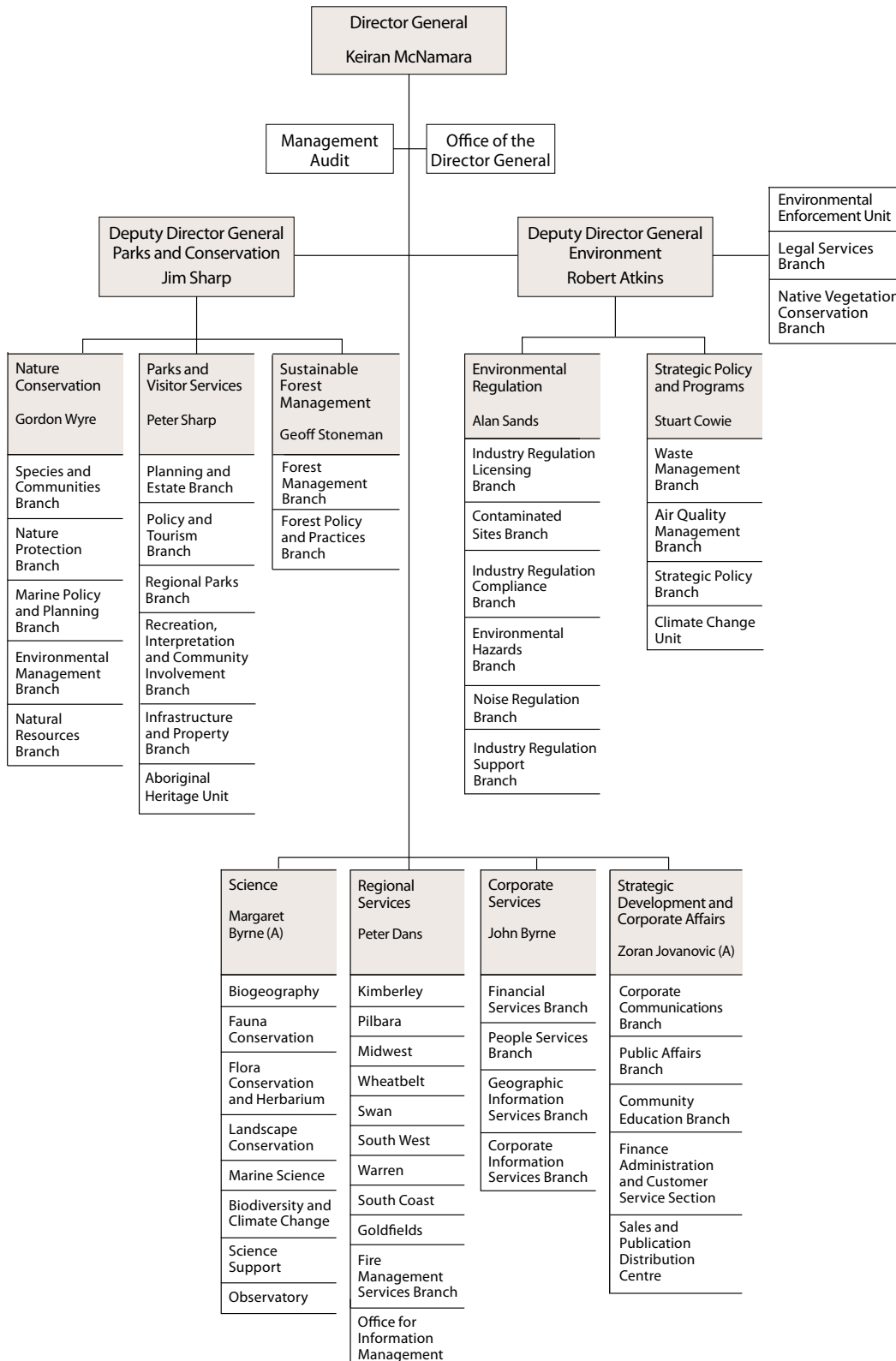
On 12 June 2012 and 19 June 2012 respectively, the Ngari Capes Marine Park Order and the Camden Sound Marine Park Order were gazetted, creating two new class 'A' marine parks under section 13 of the CALM Act.

On 29 June 2012, the Environmental Protection (Wagerup Alumina Refinery Noise Emissions) Approval 2012 was gazetted under regulation 17(7) of the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 to allow Alcoa to exceed the noise standards that would otherwise apply under those regulations

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



DEC Organisational Chart



Correct at June 2012



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
	Community enjoyment of park facilities and services, wildlife and the natural environment displayed in parks	3. Parks and Visitor Services
Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the state	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. Coordinate the response to climate change

Changes from the 2010–11 reporting year

There are no changes to the performance management framework.

Shared responsibilities with other agencies

During the year, DEC contributed to whole-of-government reform initiatives including corporate services reform, implementation of efficiency and other targeted savings. The department also contributed to the following key cross-agency initiatives.

Initiative	Contributing agencies	Result for 2011–12
Responding to climate change	DEC (lead agency), Department of Planning, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Transport, Department of Treasury, Office of Energy (now the Public Utilities Office within the Department of Finance, as of 31 March 2012)	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
- 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 and genetic 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 Minister for Environment, 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* (CALM Act).

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* (WC Act) 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 licences and wildlife interaction licences, and enforces compliance under the WC Act. DEC also takes a lead role for the state in conserving WA wetlands, including through the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (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, and implementing, state legislation and policy
- participating in national working groups developing national policies and procedures
- developing and implementing 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



- addressing the system-wide threat of salinity and other impacts of altered hydrology 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 for 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 to support local conservation projects
- 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
- facilitating best-practice management of remnant vegetation in transport corridors through awareness-raising, liaison and cooperation with stakeholders via the Roadside Conservation Committee
- providing technical advice and support to stakeholders and land managers through the *Urban Nature* program
- providing biodiversity conservation support and advice for private land through a range of programs, including *Land for Wildlife* and the *Nature Conservation Covenant* program.

Performance summary

	2011–12 Target \$'000	2011–12 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	145,365	125,942	(19,423)
Key Efficiency Indicator	2011–12 Target	2011–12 Actual	Variance
Average cost per hectare of managing wildlife habitat	\$5.25	\$4.45	(\$0.80)

Performance highlights

- The department continued to implement the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*, which was released in June 2011 with an implementation budget of \$63 million over five years and a commitment to ongoing funding for key initiatives. As part of the strategy, the Camden Sound Marine Park was created to conserve one of the world's biggest humpback whale nurseries and breeding areas, and the indicative management plan for the proposed Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park was released for public comment.



- A total of \$12 million over six years was allocated for a Kimberley marine research program to be led by the department and implemented through the Western Australian Marine Science Institution. A science plan has been developed that will focus research on key information for the management of Kimberley marine parks.
- A partnership agreement was entered into with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy in the Kimberley. The state will provide \$2.15 million over three years for conservation management of the Tableland pastoral lease and the Artesian Range/Charnley River area within the Charnley River pastoral lease, and for the *Ecofire* fire management project.
- On 12 June 2012, Ngari Capes Marine Park was gazetted. The state's 11th marine park extends from Geographe Bay near Busselton to Augusta, covering about 123,000 hectares of one of Australia's most diverse temperate marine environments. *Royalties for Regions* funding of \$8.56 million over four years was allocated to DEC and the Department of Fisheries to manage the new marine park.
- The *Southwest Australia Ecoregion Initiative*, a cooperative program between DEC and WWF-Australia, completed the *Southwest Australia Ecoregion Strategic Framework for Biodiversity Conservation* for the south-west of the state. The framework provides a regional-scale planning structure for targeting investment to achieve the most effective outcomes for biodiversity conservation and will be used to direct project investment.
- Implementation of *A Biodiversity and Cultural Conservation Strategy for the Great Western Woodlands* progressed with the support of a reference group and \$3.8 million allocated over three years by the government to better manage and protect the area.
- The department continued to implement a range of programs and strategies for biodiversity conservation across the state, including those in keeping with the national framework set out in *Australia's Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity 2010–2030*.
- The government allocated \$23.43 million to four major *Net Conservation Benefits* program projects from funds provided by the Gorgon Joint Venture partners following negotiations with the state government prior to the approval of the Gorgon Project. The funded projects run over five to seven years and are required to deliver long-term biodiversity conservation benefits to Western Australia in areas with similar values to Barrow Island.
- A total of \$3.75 million was allocated to a special biodiversity projects program for 37 projects focusing on invasive animal control, environmental weed control, threatened species and ecological communities' recovery, *Phytophthora* dieback management, biological survey and research, rangelands management and the *State Cane Toad Initiative*.
- Strategic terrestrial biological surveys continued, with an additional 150 sites surveyed on a further three greenstone ranges in the Yilgarn.
- The third round of funding under the Minister for Environment's four-year, \$6 million *Environmental Community Grants* program was distributed in 2011–12, with a record 164 grants awarded to community groups and individuals in July 2011. Applications opened for the fourth funding round in February 2012.
- *NatureMap*, one of DEC's web portals providing access to high-quality biodiversity data, increased its registrations by 30 per cent from 729 to 1,042, with the largest share coming from industry.
- The ecological character descriptions for Western Australia's 12 Ramsar-listed wetland systems, completed during 2010–11, were submitted for endorsement at state and federal level. Wetland mapping for a 100,000-hectare area from Cervantes to Coolimba in the Midwest was completed. Wetland location, boundary, type and values were identified and incorporated into the state wetlands database.
- The *Natural Diversity Recovery Catchment Program* continued at Buntine-Marchagee, Drummond, Lake Bryde, Lake Muir-Unicup, Lake Warden and Toolibin Lake, to slow degradation and recover high-value biodiversity assets at risk from altered hydrology. Improvements as a result of the gravity pipeline installed in the Lake Warden wetland complex have continued in 2011–12, with vegetation recovering in some areas and recent data suggesting that the range of waterbird species and numbers of waterbirds are returning to target levels.



- During 2011–12, a prototype mallee harvester was successfully developed and trialled. This was a significant breakthrough in a cooperative project that DEC has been involved in for many years. The project aimed to develop a new sustainable industry from mallee farming that would benefit biodiversity and salinity management. The development of the prototype harvester removes a major barrier to the development of the mallee industry, which has the potential to play an important role in biodiversity conservation through improved landscape-scale management of the south-west agricultural area. The final stages of this project received funds from the state government's Low Emissions Energy Development initiative.
- The entire Western Australian Herbarium collection was moved during the year to the new premises at DEC's Kensington site. This was an enormous undertaking that coincided with a complete upgrading of the recording system to new, 21st century standards.
- The number of plant specimens held at the Western Australian Herbarium increased by one per cent (7,033 specimens), bringing the total number of specimens held to 733,578.
- A total of 179 vascular plant names was added to the Western Australian Plant Census, representing a net increase of 51 in the number of taxa recognised as occurring in the state, and 61 new names were formally published. Western Australia's vascular flora (flowering plants, ferns, cycads and conifers) now comprises 13,481 species, subspecies and varieties (12,257 native and 1,224 introduced to the state).
- Seven species of flora were added to the WC Act list of specially protected (threatened) flora. Three species were deleted from the list, with two being retained in the Priority 4 list for monitoring purposes. Two species were regraded in threat ranking from endangered to critically endangered, and one species was regraded from endangered to vulnerable. One species was removed from the extant threatened flora species list and listed as presumed to be extinct. At 30 June 2012, there were 405 extant threatened flora species, 14 listed as presumed to be extinct, and 2,935 taxa on the department's priority flora list.
- A total of 24 species of fauna were added to the WC Act list of specially protected (threatened) fauna, with 22 assigned the threat ranking of vulnerable and two of critically endangered. One species was regraded in threat ranking from endangered to vulnerable. At 30 June 2012, there were 233 threatened fauna species (45 critically endangered, 39 endangered and 149 vulnerable), 18 listed as presumed to be extinct, 11 listed as otherwise specially protected, and 192 species on the department's priority fauna list.
- Under the *Threatened Fauna Ark: saving Western Australia's threatened fauna* project, funded by the 2009–10 WA state NRM program, 12 species—more than 350 individuals—were translocated to 17 locations to establish new populations and boost existing populations. The experience gained in carrying out these operations added to the understanding of captive husbandry and monitoring techniques as well as translocation processes and procedures. New partnerships and collaborations were developed between DEC and government and non-government organisations, and community groups.
- In March 2012, the department's new *Threatened and Priority Flora* database was launched, containing information on the populations of threatened and priority flora in the state. The new database has greater querying and reporting functions than its predecessor and includes a 'threats and management actions' section for each population. It also houses the official threatened and priority flora list detailing the conservation status of flora in Western Australia.
- A total of 512 populations, comprising 241 species of threatened and priority flora, were surveyed or monitored, and 34 new populations of threatened flora and 55 new populations of priority flora were located.
- Records for 278 new populations were added to the *Threatened and Priority Flora* database. There were 4,794 records of sightings, captures or evidence of threatened and priority fauna added to the *Threatened and Priority Fauna* database or the *Fauna Survey Returns* system. New occurrence information was added to the *Threatened Ecological and Priority Communities* database for six threatened ecological communities and 30 priority ecological communities (PECs), assisting in resolving the status of the PECs, and providing improved information for land-use planning.



- The department continued to monitor a major *Phytophthora* dieback project implemented by DEC and South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc in 2010–11 that eradicated a *Phytophthora* dieback infestation in Cape Arid National Park and successfully contained an infestation in Fitzgerald River National Park at a cost of about \$450,000.
- In the Albany District, a recovery project to protect nine critically endangered flora species threatened by grazing and dieback was implemented. Recovery actions included the management of grazing by rabbits, quokkas and western grey kangaroos, amelioration of the impact of *Phytophthora* dieback, and seed collection for the future establishment of new protected populations.
- A total of 116 new seed collections were banked at the Threatened Flora Seed Centre. Ninety-nine collections were from threatened flora and nine from priority listed flora. A further 68 collections were incorporated into the seed bank, the majority from the Swan Region. Seedlings of 14 species from 51 collections were provided for DEC translocation projects.
- New seed orchard sites were established for two critically endangered plant species, Stirling Range beard heath (*Leucopogon gnaphalioides*) and Fairall's honeysuckle (*Lambertia fairallii*), and a new translocation site was established for the large-flowered short-styled grevillea (*Grevillea brachystylis* subsp. *grandis*). Infill planting was undertaken at 12 previously established flora translocation sites. Monitoring and maintenance was undertaken of 37 established translocation sites of 26 taxa.
- Twenty-four interim recovery plans for flora and three updated interim recovery plans for threatened ecological communities were approved. Two new fauna recovery plans were approved, for the woylie (*Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*) and the western spiny-tailed skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*).
- The *Land for Wildlife* scheme registered 81 new properties, bringing the total area of registered sites to 317,863 hectares.
- The voluntary *Nature Conservation Covenant Program* entered into covenants in perpetuity on 22 land titles, which protected an additional 3,653 hectares of native vegetation.
- In 2011–12, nine prosecutions under the WC Act, the CALM Act, and associated regulations were taken to court, with a further 24 matters pending. A further 552 infringement notices and 435 caution notices were issued.

Native vegetation clearing permits

DEC's clearing permit system database records details of all clearing permit applications and decisions made 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 544 applications to clear native vegetation in 2011–12, and made 492 decisions. Under delegation from DEC, DMP received 289 applications and made 296 decisions (some carried over from previous reporting periods).

During the year, 18,413 hectares were approved to be cleared, and 39 hectares were refused.

Seventy five per cent of decisions on applications to clear native vegetation were made within 60 calendar days, a further 23 per cent within 90 days and two per cent of decisions took longer than 90 days.

Flora and fauna licences

In 2011–12, DEC issued 8,920 licences under the WC Act to take, collect, keep and breed, deal in, trap or export native fauna; and 1,958 licences to collect native flora. A further 462 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 the 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 wood inventory data to assist the Forest Products Commission, DEC and the Conservation Commission to plan, manage and monitor wood production in State forest and timber reserves
- mapping vegetation to inform silvicultural decisions, old-growth forest assessments, disease impact predictions, reserve analysis and planning, and the protection of poorly reserved forest ecosystems and less well-reserved vegetation complexes
- carrying out field measurement programs to monitor the yields and silvicultural standards realised in timber harvest operations
- providing specialist services, including aerial photography, photo-interpretation, photogrammetry, vegetation and disease-mapping surveys and database design and development, to other DEC services, 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 bushfire and prescribed forest fires to support fire planning and reporting; and helping 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
- managing an approvals process for disturbance activities in State forest
- implementing fauna habitat zones
- monitoring timber harvesting operations
- assessing 10 *FORESTCHECK* monitoring grids within the eastern jarrah forest in the Wellington District for the effects of silvicultural treatments on forest structure and biodiversity, including vascular flora, macrofungi, lichens and bryophytes, birds and other terrestrial vertebrates
- carrying out forest audits and forest health monitoring.



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 timber harvest plans submitted.

5. Maintaining partnerships, including with:

- the community and key stakeholder groups (including volunteer projects on vegetation condition and multi-resource inventory)
- other state agencies and authorities
- federal government agencies.

Performance summary

	2011–12 Target \$'000	2011–12 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	50,021	53,626	3,605
Key Efficiency Indicator	2011–12 Target	2011–12 Actual	Variance
Average cost per hectare of managing State forest and timber reserves	\$38.55	\$41.26	\$2.71

Performance highlights

- The *Forest Management Plan 2004–2013* continued to be implemented.
- An end-of-term audit of performance report of the *Forest Management Plan 2004–2013* was prepared.
- Support was provided to an expert panel review of silviculture practices for the south-west forests of Western Australia.
- A three-year (2011–13) indicative timber harvest plan was prepared and published.
- *The Forest Management Plan 2004–2013* was amended, raising production levels of karri bole logs other than first and second grade sawlog from 117,000 to 160,000 cubic metres averaged annually for 10 years.
- More than 50 disturbance operations exceeding 8,990 hectares within State forest and timber reserves were evaluated and monitored to ensure compliance with the environmental outcomes sought in the *Forest Management Plan*.
- Ten papers reporting the results from the *FORESTCHECK* program were published. The program monitors the effects of timber harvesting on biodiversity.
- Fire management was implemented to protect the values on State forest and timber reserves within the south-west forests.
- Preliminary work was undertaken on the design of 10 indicative fauna habitat zones. The location of 11 fauna habitat zones was finalised, totalling a gross area of more than 2,400 hectares of State forest.
- The detection and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback disease on DEC-managed lands was undertaken on 15,900 hectares to inform the planning and management of disturbance operations and the prioritisation of disease treatments.



- Work was undertaken to improve modelling of the rate of spread of *Phytophthora* dieback disease.
- An environmental scoping document for the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* was prepared.
- Key stakeholders in government, local government and peak conservation and industry groups were consulted on the preparation of the next forest management plan.
- Substantial progress was made on preparing the *Draft Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*.
- A community forest inspection was undertaken in the Warren Region.

Service 3: Parks and Visitor Services

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

- preparing and implementing management plans in accordance with the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- preparing and implementing recreation master and 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 bureaux and commercial tour operators
- involving Aboriginal 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 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 2012 there were:

- 52 final statutory terrestrial management plans in place
- seven final terrestrial management plans in preparation
- six draft terrestrial management plans in preparation
- nine final statutory marine management plans in place
- one marine indicative management plan in preparation
- one marine indicative management plan released for public comment.

2. Acquiring and administering protected areas, through:

- reserve creation and land acquisition
- leasing arrangements involving 253 formal lease agreements for activities such as recreation, tourism accommodation, utilities and sawmills
- apiary site management involving 3,299 current permits, of which 1,656 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 37,000-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 promotional 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 for involvement, and ongoing projects and programs
- engaging with community groups
- supporting and training volunteers
- engaging in cross-promotional opportunities with other government bodies and other organisations for DEC's *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* program, 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, through:

- monitoring visitor use in national parks, State forests 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 and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (MPRA), through:

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

(As independent statutory authorities, the Conservation Commission and the MPRA report on their activities in separate annual reports, which are available on their websites at: www.conservation.wa.gov.au and www.dec.wa.gov.au/mpra.)

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

	2011–12 Target \$'000	2011–12 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	77,827	99,149	21,322
Key Efficiency Indicator	2011–12 Target	2011–12 Actual	Variance
Cost per visit	\$4.83	\$6.33	\$1.50

Performance highlights

- The *Naturebank* program involves the identification and preparation of suitable sites on DEC-managed lands for appropriate sustainable ecotourism initiatives. To date, two sites have been allocated, at Purnululu National Park and King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park (Mt Hart Wilderness Lodge). Both sites are operating and offer visitors a remote, natural experience in the Kimberley region. Submissions for the Wharncliffe Mill site, in Bramley National Park near Margaret River, are being assessed. A site in François Péron National Park, in the Shark Bay World Heritage area, has been assessed and is being prepared for release.
- As part of its commitment to providing access for people with disabilities and raising awareness in the department of their requirements, DEC audited the accessibility of facilities across the state. This information was provided to the *You're Welcome* website www.accesswa.com.au being developed by the Disability Services Commission.
- During 2011–12, several projects were undertaken to provide facilities with universal access, or to improve access to existing facilities. Details about some of these projects are listed in the Other Legal Requirements section of this report.



- There was strong consumer support for the online booking system for camp sites trialled on the DEC Campgrounds website—www.dec.wa.gov.au/campgrounds—with 6,799 bookings made in 2011–12 for sites in Cape Range, Purnululu and Beelu national parks, and at Lane Poole Reserve, Dwellingup.
- The *Conservation Legislation Amendment Act 2011* (CLA Act) was passed by Parliament on 13 September 2011. Some sections came into effect on 14 March 2012, providing a mechanism for joint management of lands and waters between DEC and other landowners, or those with a vested or other interest in the land, and helping to establish joint management frameworks required for the state government to meet its legal obligations under the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement, the Ord Final Indigenous Land Use Agreement and the Yawuru Agreements. Other sections of the Act, due to come into effect later in 2012, will enable Aboriginal people to fulfil longstanding aspirations to carry out traditional activities on DEC-managed lands and waters.
- Good progress was made on joint management initiatives for conservation reserves in and around Kununurra and Broome, with the Yawoorroong Miriuwung Gajerrong Yirrgeb Noong Dawang Aboriginal Corporation and Yawuru native title holders respectively.
- Eight Bunuba Rangers were appointed through funding from the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*.
- Work continued on the joint \$40 million state and federal government-funded improvement project in Fitzgerald River National Park and included the sealing of roads and car parks, and improvements to gravel roads. The redevelopment of five recreation sites, including campgrounds, is almost complete. Planning for the construction of two walk trails continues.
- Under the \$6.5 million *Royalties for Regions*-funded infrastructure and roads initiative at Kalbarri National Park, coastal paths at five tourist sites were sealed and the 900-metre Bigurda Trail boardwalk was completed. Good progress was made on the planning of the second phase of the project, which includes sealing the access road to the Murchison Gorge and improving recreation sites at the gorge.
- The 16-kilometre Wellington National Park spur trail, linking the Bibbulmun Track to the park trails network, was completed. Work included the construction of three footbridges and two camp sites.
- The realignment of three kilometres of the Bibbulmun Track and construction of two new overnight shelters were completed in response to the Grasmere expansion of the Albany Wind Farm close to Torndirrup National Park.
- Work continued on extending the Munda Biddi Trail from Manjimup to Albany. During 2011–12, a new 74-kilometre section of the cycling track, between Denmark and Albany, was opened and construction continued on the Manjimup–Walpole and Walpole–Denmark sections.
- In collaboration with the Recreational Trailbike Riders' Association of WA, DEC continued developing and improving trails for family and novice riders in the gazetted off-road vehicle areas at Pinjar and Gngarara. A pilot trail network is also being developed in the Perth Hills District.
- The Kalamunda Circuit mountain bike trail was completed in partnership with the Perth and broader Western Australian mountain bike communities.
- Work continued on raising public awareness of, and improving access to information about, Western Australia's national and regional parks through the *Rediscover Parks* initiative, the development of a new parks website and e-media technology such as smartphone applications.
- In Purnululu National Park, major works were undertaken to upgrade car parks and visitor facilities at Echidna Chasm, Piccaninny Creek and Mini Palms Gorge. Gorge Road and Kurrajong camp site were also improved.
- Capital works improvements funded through the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy* included the upgrading of car park and visitor facilities in Tunnel Creek National Park and ablution facilities in Geikie Gorge National Park. Work started on site development and interpretation planning for Munurru campground and day-use area in Mitchell River National Park.



- In King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park, new two-bedroom ranger accommodation was built at Silent Grove, and work started on the provision of new services and two ranger houses in Karijini National Park.
- In Nambung National Park, the expansion and redevelopment of road and visitor infrastructure at Hangover Bay day-use site is nearing completion. The work is being undertaken in response to an increase in visitors following the opening of the Indian Ocean Drive between Lancelin and Cervantes.
- Work continued on the provision of low-cost, in-park camping opportunities with the development of campgrounds at Gregories and South Gregories sites in François Péron National Park, and in Peak Charles National Park. A new universal access campground at Baden Powell in Lane Poole Reserve is almost complete and work has started on redeveloping the Kurrajong campground in Cape Range National Park, funded by *Royalties for Regions*.
- Other major roadworks included the construction of a sealed access road and car park at the Cascades site in Gloucester National Park and improving the scenic drive in Porongurup National Park. Work continued on improving roads at Hamersley Gorge in Karijini National Park, funded by *Royalties for Regions*.
- In collaboration with the Crooked Brook Forest Community Group, vehicle access and visitor facilities in Crooked Brook Forest were improved.
- The redevelopment of the Donnelly boat landing site was completed. This included improved boat access, car park, paths and visitor information.
- Redevelopment of the Lake Jasper and Black Point recreation sites in D'Entrecasteaux National Park continued, with improvements to vehicle access and new visitor facilities such as toilets, information shelters and camping areas.
- During 2011–12, the number of DEC-registered volunteers increased to 14,604, with 3,838 of those people contributing 457,557 hours to projects across Western Australia. Volunteers took part in a wide range of activities.
- The total number of visits to DEC-managed lands and waters increased slightly to 15.65 million from 15.42 million last year (see Figure 1). The figure for 2010–11 was amended following the discovery of an error in the visitation database. It was reported as 15.75 million in the 2010–11 Annual Report.
- The 2011–12 visitor satisfaction index, averaged from visitor responses to a survey at selected parks, reserves and forest areas around the state, was 88.8 per cent. This outcome, with results from previous years of the survey program, is illustrated in Figure 2.
- Visitor safety is a high priority for the department. Tragically, during 2011–12, six visitors died in the extensive areas managed by DEC. Through its *Visitor Risk Management Program*, the department conducted post-incident reviews and key recommendations of those reviews were implemented. DEC has also formed an interagency working group to develop a statewide approach to reduce the number of injuries and deaths associated with rock fishing in Western Australia. The initiative is supported by a range of government and non-government agencies.

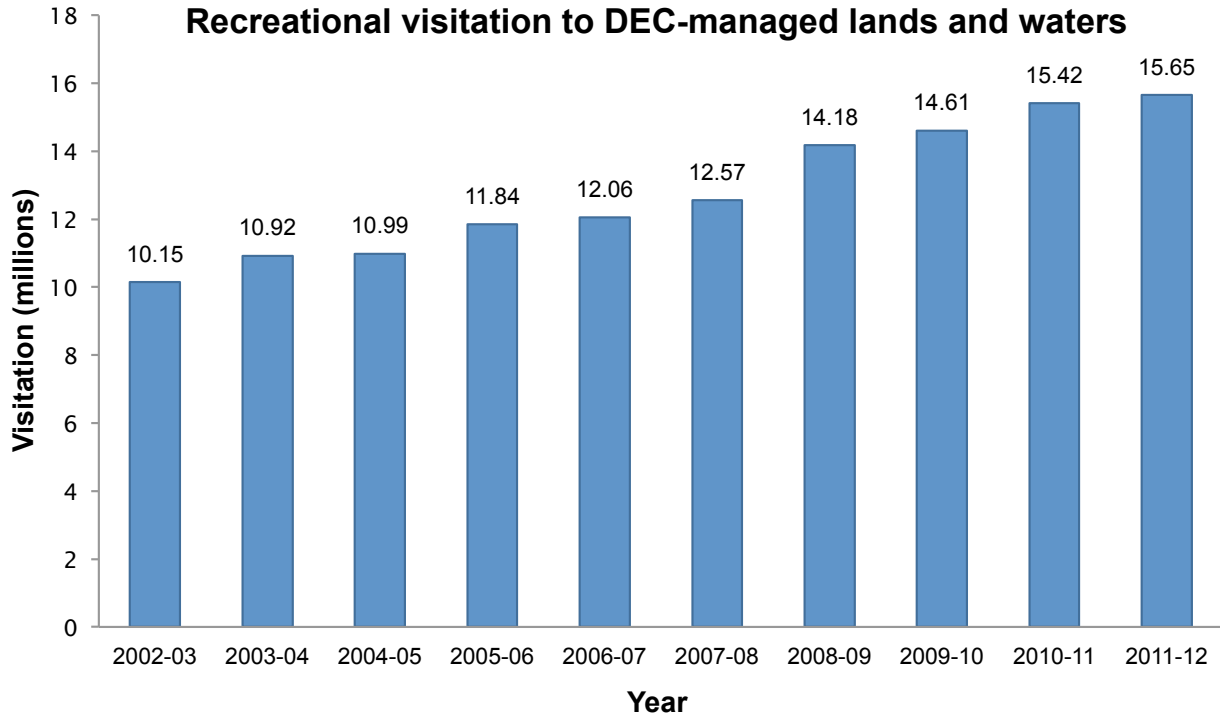


Figure 1: Total visits to lands and waters managed by DEC

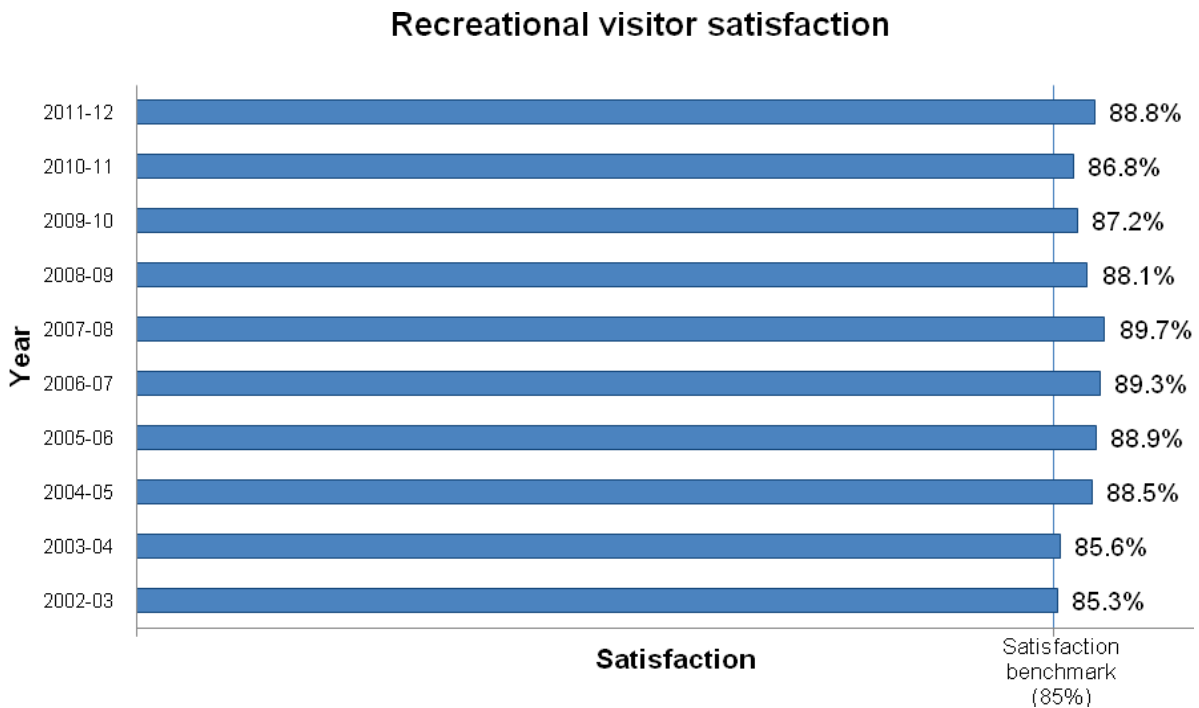


Figure 2: A comparison of annual visitor satisfaction levels within DEC-managed lands and waters



Service 4: Environmental Regulation

This service protects the environment and community, by ensuring that emissions and discharges meet acceptable criteria, pollution incidents are responded to effectively, and 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 in Western Australia. The department also monitors and audits compliance with works approvals, licence conditions and regulations; takes enforcement actions as appropriate; and develops and implements departmental licensing and industry regulation policy.

DEC is also responsible for overseeing works approvals and licensing of prescribed premises, including the provision of environmental regulatory operations, in Indian Ocean Territories, servicing Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands as part of a formal arrangement with the federal government.

Key features and projects in this reporting period include:

- the regulation of prescribed premises through licensing of premises and overseeing works approvals
- implementing the industry regulation compliance strategy, a statewide initiative aligning proactive compliance activities and enforcement to meet performance targets based on risk
- enforcing the Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004 by licensing carriers, vehicles and drivers transporting controlled waste; providing driver training; and tracking controlled waste from point of origin to point of disposal to ensure appropriate environmental outcomes
- providing noise regulation technical advice to the Environmental Protection Authority and planning and local government authorities as well as policy, technical, enforcement and training support for DEC, police and local government officers
- finalising and implementing amendments to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 to improve the regulation of noise
- identifying and resolving serious environmental hazards by responding to pollution incidents and hazardous material emergencies, supporting local governments in managing minor pollution issues by providing training and advice, and representing DEC on state hazardous materials emergency committees.

2. Contaminated sites

Under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (CS Act), the department regulates contaminated sites by receiving reports of known or suspected contaminated sites, assessing and classifying contaminated sites, maintaining public information on contaminated sites, and, where indicated, ordering and monitoring remediation.

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 provides technical, scientific and strategic advice on air quality to the Environmental Protection Authority, state and federal government agencies, and local government authorities. The department participates in national air quality policy development and implementation, including the development of a new *National Plan for Clean Air*. DEC leads, advises and assists with the implementation of the *Perth Air Quality Management Plan*, with a focus on motor vehicle emissions and haze from domestic wood heaters. The department investigates ambient air quality in regional areas, with a current focus on Kwinana, Port Hedland, Kalgoorlie and Collie. The department, in cooperation with major industries, monitors rock art on the Burrup Peninsula to ensure its protection against air pollutants. DEC monitors ambient air quality via a fixed network to meet its obligations under the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure. The department also conducts strategic campaign monitoring programs to investigate and inform local air quality issues. During 2011–12, DEC maintained and operated eight metropolitan and five regional fixed air quality monitoring stations to assess the presence of pollutants, including carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide and particles. This ambient air quality data are made publicly available through twice daily updates on the DEC website; and within publications such as the annual *Western Australia Air Monitoring* report.

Performance summary

	2011–12 Target \$'000	2011–12 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	39,283	40,389	1,106
Key Efficiency Indicators	2011–12 Target	2011–12 Actual	Variance
Average cost per air monitoring station	\$478,338	\$510,504	\$32,166
Average cost per industry licence	\$23,971	\$27,040	\$3,069
Average cost per contaminated site assessment	\$5,051	\$6,797	\$1,746
Average cost of remediating state sites	\$496,035	\$705,891	\$209,856

Performance highlights

- The *Statewide Industry Regulation Compliance Strategy* and its underlying framework was reviewed and revised. Under the *Industry Regulation Compliance Program 2011–12*, DEC carried out more than 1,100 compliance inspections of prescribed premises across a range of sectors, controlled waste, and the fertiliser and abrasive blasting industries.
- DEC reviewed its prescribed premises risk assessment framework to ensure the risk presented by prescribed activities is adequately captured so that resources are targeted accordingly.
- The report on the public submissions on proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 was published and work continued on redrafting the regulations.
- As part of DEC's reform project, *Re-Engineering For Industry Regulation and Environment* (REFIRE), the work sections responsible for managing industry regulation were restructured. The creation of three new branches—the Industry Regulation Licensing Branch, Industry Regulation Support Branch and Industry Regulation Compliance Branch—will ensure DEC's regulatory function is effective and sector-focused. This reform aims to remove duplication and improve regulatory efficiency, consistency, quality and effectiveness.
- The regulations relating to the administration of the *National Pollutant Inventory* (NPI) in Western Australia were amended to allow for modified penalties to be issued and to incorporate changes made to the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure relating to the NPI.



- As part of DEC's ongoing regulatory reform program, and specifically to reduce administrative costs on small businesses, Schedule 2 of the Environmental Protection Regulations 1987 was removed. Categories of premises affected by the change included: small abattoirs; premises on which meat is smoked, cured or cooked; premises on which fibreglass reinforced plastic is manufactured; water treatment facilities; and abrasive blasting facilities of specified capacities. More than 700 premises are no longer required to be registered with DEC. Environmental risk has not increased as a result of this reform initiative as these facilities are still subject to environmental controls.
- Major resource project approvals were processed, on average, within the target timeframe of 60 days. DEC's approvals performance statistics are reported on DEC's website.
- DEC continued to receive and process a high number of works approvals for both major resource projects and other industry projects. During 2011–12, 148 major resource project works approvals were issued, following the trend set in 2010–11 when 150 were processed as compared to 71 in 2009–10 and 48 in 2008–09.
- During 2011–12, DEC classified 515 contaminated sites. The total number of sites classified under the CS Act is 2,221.
- During 2011–12, as required by licence conditions set by DEC in December 2010, Cockburn Cement Ltd (CCL) operations at Munster, which had been the subject of ongoing community complaints, installed a baghouse filter on kiln six, which produces lime. Baghouse filters constitute best practice for controlling dust emissions from lime plants. Since the baghouse filter has been in operation dust emissions from kiln six have been significantly reduced, to very low levels.
- On 30 March 2012, DEC issued a new licence to CCL with a number of new, stringent conditions to further improve the environmental performance of the operation. The licence requires CCL to install a baghouse filter on kiln five, to be in operation by 30 June 2013. Other licence conditions required monitoring to be done to reduce odour and other emissions.
- In May 2012, DEC issued an amended licence to the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's Regional Resource Recovery Centre in Canning Vale. The facility had been the source of ongoing odour complaints from the community. The licence included 21 new conditions, allowing the centre to continue to operate but at a reduced throughput and with temporary additional pollution control equipment, pending the installation of permanent new scrubbers before 15 December 2012.
- The report into the findings of the *Kwinana Background Air Quality Study: Phases I–III*, carried out between 2005 and 2010, was released in April 2012.
- In March 2012, the Air Quality Coordinating Committee convened by DEC presented Perth's first annual Air Quality Forum. More than 125 people attended the forum, which covered a range of topics, including the achievements of the *Perth Air Quality Management Plan*, current action and the future direction of air quality management.
- The Industry Regulation Information and Support (IRIS) document library and system, established as part of DEC's industry reform regulation program, continued to support officers in performing more efficiently and effectively. The system also now includes a complete set of documents automatically uploaded to licence case files by the Industry Licensing System workflow.
- Further software upgrading of the Industry Licensing System added new features and 'bug' fixes to improve ease of use and workflow. It is now easier to track the progress of new licence and works approval applications, and the increased flexibility in reassigning applications has overcome issues arising from temporary unavailability of staff.
- Infrastructure components of the Controlled Waste Tracking System's computer software were upgraded, resulting in a reduction in lost time due to system performance problems and the associated need to process data manually. Benefits included: fewer introduced errors, the elimination of problems associated with the loss or corruption of data, better customer service, and improved ability to meet legislative requirements.



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 the Regional Funding Program for local government. The branch also administers various funding programs for Strategic Waste Management Plan initiatives and provides policy advice to government and other stakeholders on waste and recycling issues.

The branch implements 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 Regulations 2008 and Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008. Under this legislation, landfills in the Perth metropolitan area, and other landfills that receive waste from the metropolitan area, are obliged to pay a landfill levy on the waste received for disposal. DEC administers receipt of landfill levy funds and compliance with the legislation, 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 the Council of Australian Governments Standing Council on Environment and Water

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

Western Australia is represented on seven *National Waste Policy* implementation working groups.

In addition, DEC participates in a number of Standing Council on Environment and Water working groups including:

- Ambient Air Quality Impact Mitigation
- Ambient Air Quality Impact Assessment
- Packaging Impacts (including beverage containers)
- Australian Packaging Covenant and Used Packaging Materials NEPM
- National Chemicals Environmental Management
- Assessment of Site Contamination NEPM Review
- Noise Pollution Reduction Labelling

Western Australia is represented on the Australian Packaging Covenant Council and, as part of the implementation of the Australian Packaging Covenant, the department administers a funding program.

The National Environment Protection Measure for Used Packaging Materials (NEPM–UPM) is implemented in Western Australia through enforcement of the Environmental Protection (NEPM–UPM) Regulations 2007.



5. Strategic Policy

The Strategic Policy Branch is responsible for leading and coordinating high-level strategic policy and legislative review across DEC, including regulatory gatekeeping, approvals reform and promoting good environmental sustainability policy outcomes.

Performance summary

	2011–12 Target \$'000	2011–12 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	17,441	12,444	(4,997)
Key Efficiency Indicator	2011–12 Target	2011–12 Actual	Variance
Cost of administering Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account	6.0%	8.0%	2.0%

Performance highlights

- A strategic assessment of development in the Perth and Peel regions under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* was started following the signing of an agreement between the federal Environment Minister and the Western Australian Minister for Environment and Minister for Planning.
- A Western Australian Government Environmental Offsets Policy was developed to improve consistency, transparency and accountability of offsets arising from environmental approval requirements.
- On 6 March 2012, the *Western Australian Waste Strategy: Creating the Right Environment* was released. The WARR Act requires the Waste Authority to develop a waste strategy for long-term continuous improvement of waste services, benchmarked against best practice that includes targets for waste reduction, recovery and diversion from landfill. As part of a statewide consultation process, DEC's Waste Management Branch organised 13 workshops and considered 96 written submissions.
- The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008 and Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008 were amended.
- DEC participated in working groups to support the Select Council on Environment and Water and the Council of Australian Governments Working Group on Environmental Regulation Reform.
- During 2011–12, one round of the *Community Grants Scheme* was completed and the assessment of another round was started. Four grants, totalling \$42,280, were awarded to community-scale projects on waste management.
- Applications from seven local governments were addressed for the development of local laws under the WARR Act, and DEC continued to collaborate 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.
- On 17 October 2011, the Construction and Demolition Reference Group, whose work was supported by DEC staff, reported to the Minister for Environment on the potential for government to purchase more products made from recycled construction and demolition waste.



Service 6: 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 state government's lead agency for climate change policy coordination, DEC advises on the impact of climate change, develops mitigation and adaptation strategies for the state, and coordinates whole-of-government advice.

Functions through which DEC delivers this service include:

1. Low Emissions Energy Development (LEED) Fund

This leveraged industry support fund is a state government initiative to invest in the development of low emission technologies to cut greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector. It is administered via an annual grants program.

2. Indian Ocean Climate Initiative (IOCI) (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 Western Australia. Stage 3 builds on the work already completed by IOCI to provide better understanding of the current and future climate and the impact of changes, particularly in the north-west of the state. This investment will enable the development of better projections of regional weather and make the knowledge available in a policy-ready form 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 is participating in a trial of electric vehicles managed by The University of Western Australia and CO2 Smart Pty Ltd. This trial aims to test 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, helping government agencies account for and report their greenhouse gas emissions and reductions.

5. Enabling local government adaptation

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

6. Climate change adaptation advice

DEC provides advice to state agencies, local governments and other stakeholders on undertaking climate change risk and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning, and integrating adaptation considerations into existing policies, programs and decision-making.

7. Climate change mitigation advice

DEC provides advice to state agencies, local governments and other stakeholders on measures to achieve mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. The department also provides advice on the impact of, and ways to complement, national policies in the area of greenhouse gas mitigation.

8. Support for participation in the Select Council on Climate Change

The department participates in inter-jurisdictional working groups to develop national climate change policy and provides policy advice to the Minister for Environment on Select Council on Climate Change matters. DEC is represented on the Complementary Measures and Adaptation working groups.



Performance summary

	2011–12 Target \$'000	2011–12 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	19,215	3,179	(16,036)
Key Efficiency Indicator	2011–12 Target	2011–12 Actual	Variance
Cost of administering Low Emissions Energy Development fund as a percentage of total funds	0.52%	0.58%	0.06%

Performance highlights

- In June 2012, \$12.7 million in LEED funding for six new low emissions energy projects in Perth, the Midwest and the Wheatbelt was announced. In-principle funding was awarded to Curtin University; Morton Seed and Grain; Biogas Renewables; Green Rock Energy Ltd; Solastor, in consortium with Carbon Reduction Ventures; and The University of Western Australia.
- The Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre mallee harvester was completed. The harvester was the first LEED fund-supported project to be completed.
- A total of \$508,613 in LEED funding was provided to Future Farm Industries' mallee harvester, Carnegie Wave Energy's pilot plant at Garden Island and Aurora Algae's biofuel plant at Karratha for milestone achievements.
- The 2010–11 *System for Accounting and Reporting of Government Emissions* program helped 27 government agencies to account for and report their greenhouse gas emissions and reductions for the year.
- A triennial report was completed and published for the 2006–07, 2007–08 and 2008–09 results of the *System for Accounting and Reporting of Government Emissions* for Western Australian government agencies.
- An electric vehicle was incorporated into the DEC fleet, contributing valuable performance data to an Australian-first large-scale trial of converted vehicles managed by CO2 Smart and monitored by The University of Western Australia.
- The joint management of IOCI Stage 3 with CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology was completed.



SUPPORTING OUR DEPARTMENT

Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs

The Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs Division (SDCA) provides corporate leadership in communications and community relations 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 and online services, public participation planning, events coordination, advertising and a variety of corporate programs.

The division's media unit provided communications support across the department through the preparation of communication plans, speeches, the release of media statements covering the full spectrum of the department's activities, and providing information for the Minister's office and responses to media inquiries. Unit staff performed a vital role in providing public information during a fire season that was demanding in terms of the number of fires, the duration of some, and the severity of five major fires. These fires placed significant demands on the unit's small team, which worked a 24-hour cycle providing hourly or two-hourly fire updates on seven occasions for up to eight consecutive days. During this time staff worked closely, and forged strong working relationships, with colleagues from FESA Media and Public Affairs as well as the emergency broadcasting team from ABC Local Radio.

In 2011, the *Western Australian Environment Awards* celebrated its 10th anniversary. With the support of a diverse range of sponsors from industry and government, the awards program, organised by SDCA, recognises projects and initiatives that set new benchmarks in protecting and conserving Western Australia's environment. It is also an avenue to acknowledge, promote and celebrate community involvement in biodiversity conservation and environmental care. More than 100 entries were received from corporations, small businesses, local and state government agencies, community groups and individuals across the state. Nominated projects were honoured at a presentation dinner attended by the Minister for Environment and 350 guests.

The division also coordinates publishing for the department, enabling the production of more than 600 reports, periodicals, management plans, books, brochures, magazines, manuals, field guides, newsletters and other items each year. Notably, two new titles featuring the work of the department were released in 2011–12. *Deepsea Whale Rescue* is a children's book about a whale disentanglement written by award-winning Western Australian author Jan Ramage. *On a Wing and a Prayer*, by filmmaker Leighton De Barros, is an account of a family of endangered Carnaby's cockatoos during the breeding season. This book is a companion to the acclaimed documentary film of the same name that was broadcast on ABC TV. In addition, the department produced four issues of *LANDSCOPE* magazine and 22 issues of the online corporate newsletter *Environment and Conservation News*.

DEC's range of saleable products, sold under the WA Naturally brand, was available from more than 360 retail outlets across the state, interstate and online. DEC publications, including park passes, are also available from DEC offices and visitor centres and through DEC's online shop, which continues to attract an increasing number of Western Australian, interstate and overseas buyers.

In 2011–12, the division continued to manage the department's online presence through its various websites in accordance with the state government's *Website Governance Framework*. Under the department's online publishing policy, 20 social media activities from various DEC business areas were registered, including Facebook groups, Twitter accounts and blogs.

In addition, the division facilitated internal staff communications through the development and maintenance of the intranet, enabling staff dispersed across the state to collaborate and consolidate their business on a common platform.

Through its frontline services, SDCA continued to provide access to a range of internal and external library resources, and answered thousands of phone and visitor inquiries.



During 2011–12, the division's EcoEducation Section was integrated into its Community Education Branch. This has enhanced collaboration between staff and improved program delivery, particularly in the formal education sector.

Through the Community Education Branch the division continued to provide valuable learning experience in the natural environment for school students through programs such as *EcoEducation* and *Bush Rangers Western Australia*, and by providing holiday activities through the *Nearer to Nature* program.

Place-based Education started a pilot project at Lynwood Senior High School that makes use of a biodiversity audit tool developed by Greening Australia. Website resources were revised and support for the *Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative–WA* continued.

Waste Wise Schools saw 45 new schools join during 2011–12. More than 600 metropolitan and regional schools have participated in the program since it was started in 2002. Grants totalling \$217,000 were provided to schools to help them implement *Waste Wise* strategies.

EcoEducation saw the number of schools participating in excursions and incursions increase by 70 to 329 in 2011–12. A total of 13,566 students, teachers and other accompanying adults learnt about Western Australia's rich biodiversity, with many also learning about Aboriginal culture.

Bush Rangers Western Australia celebrated its 13th anniversary and continued to support conservation initiatives and the social development of young people. A 2011–12 evaluation study showed the program is helping school students connect with the environment and promoting strong conservation values in schools.

AirWatch focused on redeveloping the *Energy Smart for Air* program with new teacher, student and online resources. The action-learning behaviour-change program encourages schools to create and implement their own energy-saving campaign to reduce overall electricity use and carbon emissions. Support provided includes teacher instruction, student incursions and free resources.

Ribbons of Blue continued to be popular, and a new model for the operation of the program is being developed in partnership with other agencies, including the Swan River Trust, local governments and non-government organisations.

Environmental Enforcement Unit

Enforcement support

The Environmental Enforcement Unit (EEU) provides investigative and enforcement support to the department's environment stream. It is responsible for providing legal quality-assurance for enforcement, 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 investigators and environmental staff, which resulted in prosecutions and other high-level sanctions.

The unit also continued to deliver the *Authorised Officer Training Course* 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 branch and regional staff who are responsible for responding to incidents.

Finalised environmental prosecutions for 2011–12

Eight environmental prosecutions were subject to final court determination during 2011–12, including cases relating to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, *Litter Act 1979* and the *Unauthorised Discharge Regulations 1987*.



Environmental prosecutions currently before the courts

Twenty-one environmental prosecutions were initiated by the department during 2011–12, involving a broad range of charges including pollution, unauthorised clearing of native vegetation and littering.

At 30 June 2012, 15 environmental prosecutions remained before the courts.

There were 17 pending cases that, subject to the evidentiary standard being met, were likely to result in prosecution or high-level sanction.

Modified penalty fines

Modified penalty 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 one Modified Penalty Notice during 2011–12, to the Geraldton Port Authority for allegedly contravening a licence condition after an investigation identified that between 22 October 2010 and 23 October 2010, the Geraldton Port Authority exceeded the 24-hour ambient concentration emission limit for lead listed in its licence. A \$12,500 fine was paid.

Legal Services Branch

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

Litigation

During 2011–12, the department received three writs issued out of the District Court of Western Australia for negligence due to breach of statutory duty. The State Solicitor's Office is representing DEC on these matters and liability has not been admitted.

Freedom of Information

The Legal Services Branch manages processes for the department under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The department's *Information Statement 2011–12* (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 256 applications for access to information, eight of which were subsequently withdrawn. The average time taken to process each application was 30 days.

The department received 14 applications requesting internal review of the department's decision and three applicants requested an external review.

Fire Management Services Branch

DEC is involved in both the suppression of bushfires and the use of prescribed 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 2011–12

DEC staff attended and monitored 625 bushfires which burnt about 4,991,504 hectares in 2011–12, including:

- 398,936 hectares in the Pilbara Region
- 2,519,835 hectares in the Goldfields Region
- 879,933 hectares in the Kimberley Region
- 26,647 hectares in the South Coast Region
- 1,061,703 hectares in the Midwest Region
- 614 hectares in the Wheatbelt Region
- 103,836 hectares in the three forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren regions).

The causes of these fires were:

- lightning—31 per cent (well 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—12 per cent
- escapes from private burns—5 per cent
- escapes from DEC burns—2 per cent
- other causes—5 per cent
- unknown—9 per cent.

The 2011–12 fire season was dominated by a number of large bushfires that saw DEC heavily committed to fire response almost continuously for three months from late November 2011 to February 2012. The department attended several significant fires, including those at Margaret River and Milyeannup that were the result of escaped DEC prescribed burns. The Margaret River fire destroyed 45 houses, chalets and outbuildings, and greatly impacted on the local community. The Milyeannup fire was one of the largest fires in the south-west forest regions in 50 years. Other fires of note included those at Northcliffe, near Pemberton, and the Carnarvon complex of fires that burnt for almost six weeks. Started by lightning strikes, these fires required the longest sustained suppression effort ever undertaken by DEC.

The response to all of these fires involved significant inter-agency cooperation. DEC was assisted by FESA, local government, volunteer bushfire brigades and other agencies.

Also of note were large fires on the northern Nullarbor Plain, fuelled by the most prolific grass growth in the area since the mid-1970s.

DEC pre-formed incident management teams were deployed, either in full or in part, to five fires (or fire complexes) during the 2011–12 fire season.

Prescribed burning

The indicative burn target for 2011–12 in the south-west forest regions was 200,000 hectares. DEC achieved 103,165 hectares, including about 7,669 hectares that were burnt for pine plantation protection.

A further 7.6 million hectares was burnt in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast regions. The burns were carried out on DEC-managed lands as well as on unallocated Crown lands and unmanaged reserves within these regions.



Aerial fire suppression operations

DEC contracted nine fixed-wing water bombers from late November 2011 to late April 2012. Two Air Tractor 602 aircraft were based at Manjimup, two Air Tractor 802 aircraft each at Albany, Bunbury and Perth, and an Air Tractor 802 was available on ad hoc hire from the Perth base. They provided rapid aerial suppression capability in the South Coast, Midwest, Wheatbelt and south-west forest regions, including the Perth outer-metropolitan area, giving significant assistance to ground crews in the initial attack on bushfires.

Fixed-wing water bombers were used successfully on numerous bushfires that threatened residential areas across the south-west. These aircraft flew 979 operational hours attending 187 bushfires, and dropped 1,791 loads, delivering 5.4 million litres of product. In 2010–11, the aircraft flew 862 hours and dropped 1,509 loads.

Fire detection

DEC provided an effective fire-detection system in the high fire risk zones of the south-west forest regions using single-engine fire detection aircraft and 11 fixed-lookout towers. The department's fleet of 10 'spotter' aircraft flew 4,456 hours for aerial surveillance in pre-determined circuits. Flight schedules varied according to fire danger levels and fire activity. The aircraft also flew about 431 hours in support of aerial suppression operations during 2011–12. The detection aircraft were flown by three permanent senior pilots, and 11 pilots filling seasonal positions.

Logistics support for bushfire response

During the first half of 2012, Fire Management Services Branch and DEC Fleet and Works Support Section collaborated on the construction of a departmental logistics warehouse in Bunbury next to DEC's South West Regional Office. Capital funding for the facility was provided in the 2011–12 budget.

The warehouse is expected to be ready for use during the 2012–13 fire season, and will be the management and storage hub for:

- DEC fire and emergency cache equipment
- mobile communications facility and logistics semi-trailer
- logistics sea containers
- fire consumables such as foam, retardant, fire hoses and fixings
- general fire equipment.

Fire training and development

Fire Management Services Branch development and education staff conducted 36 formal fire-training courses involving 420 participants. In addition, district and regional staff delivered 12 formal fire-training programs to 105 participants. These courses included:

- *Introduction to AIIMS (Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System)*
- *AIIMS Awareness*
- *Advanced Incident Leadership Program*
- *Prescribed Burning*
- *Fire Line Construction Using Machines*
- *Fire Operations 1*
- *Operational Management*
- *Situation Unit Management*
- *Incident Mapping*



- *Incident Planning*
- *Basic Wildfire Awareness*
- *Fire Fighting Level 1*
- *Fire Fighting Level 2*
- *Structural Fire Fighting*
- *Western Australian Emergency Radio Network (WAERN)*
- *Introduction to Managing Fire in DEC*
- *Resources Unit Management*
- *Fireline Leadership*
- *Information Services Unit Management*
- *Safety Advisor.*

Course participants were predominantly from DEC, including campground host volunteers and Bush Ranger cadets, but also included personnel from the Forest Products Commission, FESA and local governments.

DEC staff presented the *Advanced Incident Leadership* program in Victoria for the Department of Sustainability and Environment and in Western Australia to senior incident management personnel from fire and land management agencies across Australia and New Zealand.

Aviation Section personnel provided training for 195 DEC aerial operations personnel. These courses included:

- *Air Attack Supervisor Qualification*
- *Air Attack Supervisor Currency*
- *Air Observer*
- *Ground Controller*
- *Helitorch Operations*
- *Retardant Tanker Operation*
- *Incendiary Operations Supervisor*
- *Aerial Incendiary Bombardier*
- *Fire Bomber Pilot (water bombing of fires)*
- *Search and Rescue Keeper*
- *Detection Pilot School.*

In addition, water bomber reloading training was provided to 282 people at 35 operational bases, with the majority of participants from South West volunteer bushfire brigades and local State Emergency Service units.

Incendiary Operations Supervisor, Aerial Incendiary Bombardier, Air Observer and Aerial Drip-Torch Operator training was also provided to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in South Australia. *Aerial Incendiary Bombardier* training was provided to staff from the Northern Territory Bushfires Council, Kimberley Land Council and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

DEC and FESA continued to develop and promote common fire training programs and course materials under the auspices of the Interagency Bushfire Management Committee and with other agencies in Australia and New Zealand.



Fire preparedness on unallocated Crown lands

Since 1 July 2003, DEC has had responsibility 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 outside the Perth metropolitan area and townsites.

Work undertaken by DEC included the construction and maintenance of firebreaks, modification of vegetation in strategic buffers, open-edge prescribed burning and large-scale aerial ignition. Prescribed burning was undertaken to mitigate risks associated with abnormally high fuel loads following good rainfall in some rangelands areas such as the Nullarbor.

In the Kimberley, Pilbara and Goldfields regions, DEC continued to make good progress in engaging and building partnerships with other stakeholders, including Aboriginal communities and neighbouring pastoralists. The use of planned fire for developing landscape-scale mosaics continued to yield benefits for mitigating large bushfires, protecting biodiversity and cultural values, and achieving designated nature conservation outcomes.

Fire Planning

Work continued to redesign and modernise DEC's tools and information management systems for prescribed fire planning, implementation and reporting. This effort focused largely on ensuring the scope of works is comprehensive and suits the needs of district, regional and corporate users. The phased approach will ensure that system development, testing and adoption will be supported by statewide communication, consultation and training.

Interagency Bushfire Management

During 2011–12, significant DEC fire management resources were dedicated to improving interagency bushfire management arrangements through the Interagency Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC) and associated sub-committees.

The sub-committees servicing the IBMC are:

- Bushfire Research (chaired by DEC)
- Fuel Load Management (chaired by FESA)
- Training (chaired by FESA)
- Fire Operations (chaired by DEC)
- Aerial Fire Suppression (chaired by FESA).

Outside the IBMC, there was substantial inter-agency liaison regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Inquiry into the Perth Hills Bushfire through a process coordinated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).



Fire inquiries

A Shared Responsibility—The Report of the Perth Hills Bushfire February 2011 Review

This report was the result of a Special Inquiry conducted by Mr Mick Keelty AO into the bushfire in Kelmscott–Roleystone in February 2011. The report contained 55 recommendations, implementation of which is being coordinated by DPC.

DEC has the lead role for six of the recommendations (13, 14, 19, 20, 22 and 42) and collaborated with FESA, local government, volunteer organisations and other agencies in the implementation process overseen by DPC.

Appreciating the Risk—Report of the Special Inquiry into the November 2011 Margaret River Bushfire

A second Special Inquiry by Mr Keelty, which was conducted into the Margaret River bushfire of November 2011, led to this report. It contained 10 recommendations, of which DEC has carriage of eight (recommendations one to eight). DPC has carriage of recommendations nine and 10.

Of DEC's eight recommendations, four are well advanced and progressing steadily towards completion (recommendations one to four). Four further recommendations (five to eight) are also being progressed.

Particular attention has been given to recommendation two, which advocates a review of risk management practices associated with prescribed burning. Through the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre, DEC has engaged specialist consultants to assist in this task. The review is expected to be complete in time for the spring 2012 prescribed burning season.

DEC is committed to fulfilling each of the eight recommendations of the report for the betterment of the state's fire preparedness and incident management systems and practices. DEC will continue to dedicate significant resources and promote partnerships with other firefighting agencies and community organisations to ensure that the recommendations are realised in full.

Post-incident analyses of the Margaret River and Milyeannup bushfires

On 23 November 2011, two major bushfires occurred as a result of separate escapes from two DEC prescribed burns. In April 2012, DPC appointed the Canberra-based independent consultancy firm Noetic Solutions to facilitate the two separate post-incident analysis processes. The scope of the Milyeannup fire analysis included the conduct of the prescribed burn and the subsequent bushfire. In the case of the Margaret River fire analysis, the Special Inquiry provided insight and recommendations into the prescribed burn process, while the Noetic Solutions report focused on the bushfire response.

The post-incident analyses were conducted as tripartite processes involving DEC, FESA and the relevant local government in each case (Augusta–Margaret River and Nannup respectively).

It is intended that the findings and recommendations of the Noetic Solutions reports will improve prevention, preparation, response and recovery in future incidents. It is anticipated that the reports will be released once considered by the government.



Fire ecology education programs

Fire Management Services Branch continued to work with Strategic Development and Corporate Affairs (SDCA) Division to provide a fire education program. A total of 8,230 students, teachers and parents took part in fire-related education programs at Perth Hills Centre, Henderson Centre, Wellington Discovery Forest and Margaret River Eco-Discovery Centre. SDCA continues to update the *Fire—a force of life* program to meet geography and biology curriculum requirements as changes are introduced.

Detailed educational materials have now been written for the Kimberley fire education program to be included in the Kimberley education manual. The interactive fire education packages can be downloaded from the *EnviroNorth* website, which can be accessed via DEC's website.

Fire is one of the six key themes for education materials being prepared for the Great Western Woodlands.

Each year, Fire Management Services Branch runs a reward camp for DEC Bush Ranger cadets to give them an insight into the branch's roles and responsibilities. Activities include training in the nationally accredited *Basic Wildfire Awareness* course and conducting a prescribed burn. Each year cadets burn a different cell in a predefined area that now effectively demonstrates a mosaic of different ages of forest regeneration after a burn. This year, 14 cadets from three cadet units—Albany Secondary Education Support Centre, Emmanuel Catholic College and Mercy College—attended the course.

Other education activities included:

- the promotion of fire ecology education programs at a Scitech booth visited by about 400 teachers
- nine presentations of the *Fire—a force of life* program attended by a total of 149 students and 14 teachers
- a presentation on fire management to 17 Notre Dame University students and two staff members as part of an Australian ecology program.

Science Division

The Science Division is a prime source of new knowledge and information based on scientific research for the department. The work of this division reflects a significant investment by DEC in multi-disciplinary biodiversity conservation research, monitoring, and biogeography. In partnership with internal and external groups, the division strives to understand the composition, patterns and processes of Western Australian marine and terrestrial biota as a basis for its conservation and sustainable utilisation. Science and information have a vital role in underpinning the department's policies and practices.

The division comprises some 150 people based throughout the state including scientists, technical officers and staff providing administrative support. Many of the division's scientists are nationally and internationally recognised in their field of expertise, providing a high degree of credibility for the science undertaken in DEC. The division publishes two peer-reviewed science journals: *Nuytsia* and *Conservation Science Western Australia*.

The division is structured around eight outcome-based research and science application programs: Biogeography Program, Fauna Conservation, Flora Conservation and Herbarium, Landscape Conservation, Marine Science, Science Applications Unit, Biodiversity and Climate Change Unit, and the Perth Observatory.

Building strategic partnerships is vital for addressing Western Australia's conservation and natural resource management needs. The division supports many PhD students and has more than 100 significant research partnerships with federal and state research institutions, universities, NRM groups, community groups, and the corporate sector, particularly the mining industry.

The division publishes an annual research activity report which is available on DEC's website: www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/3572/1808



MANAGING OUR DEPARTMENT

Office for Information Management

The Office for Information Management is responsible for the management of DEC's information and communications technology (ICT) services, systems and resources, including risk and security, programs and projects, asset management, and legal compliance.

The office, under the leadership of the Chief Information Officer, coordinates DEC's ICT resources and services, including managing projects relating to these services. The office undertook a number of initiatives during the year to improve DEC's ICT framework, including:

- implementing an ICT governance framework
- establishing standard-based policies to support information security in line with the Office of the Auditor General's recommendations
- progressing critical works to maintain business continuity and disaster recovery systems through a risk management framework.

Portfolio and project management

The Portfolios and Project Management Office was established in 2010–11 to improve the way DEC undertakes changes in ICT. In August 2011, a project management framework was rolled out to improve governance and delivery of Information Management (IM) and ICT projects. This framework aims to ensure DEC's IM and ICT investments provide value for money and value for business.

Knowledge and information management

Planning for the establishment of a knowledge management office has continued. This office will aim to guarantee the confidentiality, integrity and availability of DEC's information assets to internal and external stakeholders.

Information systems and computer engineering

The work of the department is enabled 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by ICT systems. The IT Operations section manages DEC's core ICT systems and services. It is also responsible for guiding the development of DEC's ICT architecture. This includes supporting business needs and the operational delivery of emergency services, scientific research, environmental monitoring and regulation, land and marine management, and parks and visitor services.



Major achievements in 2011–12 include:

- collaborating with the Department of Finance to maximise ICT value for money through better *Common Use Agreements*
- establishing a modular framework for DEC's ICT standard operating environment that is scalable to meet DEC's business needs and allows a level of customisation
- improving business continuity through internet redundancy solutions, and improved access to the internet through the expansion of wireless technology capabilities
- starting a program to upgrade regional ICT facilities to establish telecommunications infrastructure that is interoperable and improves voice and data communications, and data management
- establishing the Solutions Architecture Working Group to be the focal point for the gathering of knowledge for integrating technology with business needs
- improving information systems development methodology to support the project management framework
- implementing an 'open ICT system' to provide an interoperable, user-centric, collaborative, sustainable and flexible environment for DEC's core software and ICT infrastructure
- replacing critical out-of-date business applications to improve interoperability, security and efficiency, and reduce the cost of application ownership and ongoing support
- reducing energy consumption through technological advances and enhanced data storage capabilities.

Radio and sensor engineering

DEC owns, maintains and manages an extensive radio communications network that provides reliable and flexible communications for fire and other emergency operations as well as day-to-day business activities. The Radio Communications Section (RCS) is responsible for a broad spectrum of telecommunications equipment, ranging from an extensive statewide land mobile VHF network to complex electronic switching systems including microwave, satellite and fibre optics. RCS coordinates the planning, design, commissioning and monitoring of DEC's radio communications network and radio frequency management, and provides solutions to terrestrial, aviation and marine challenges. Solutions include automatic weather stations, automatic vehicle location, closed-circuit television, radio-over-internet-protocol and multi-agency interoperability.

The department is heavily involved in the \$40 million *Regional Mobile Communications Project*, which will extend mobile phone coverage across remote areas of the state through the commissioning of more than 100 new mobile phone facilities during the next three years.

The department is a stakeholder in the Western Australian Emergency Radio Network (WAERN). RCS has completed the commissioning of new radio infrastructure, such as towers and repeaters, across all regions of the state to support the interoperability requirements of the WAERN initiative. Under this high-band VHF migration program, the department's mid-band VHF radio network has been upgraded to high-band VHF. This will enhance radio communications interoperability with FESA, volunteer bushfire brigades, local authorities and other government agencies during emergency incidents and day-to-day operations.

Other communications infrastructure commissioned across the state included the completion of additional VHF repeaters in the Kimberley and Goldfields regions, the installation of radio-over-internet-protocol in remote areas and additional public emergency radios in Karijini National Park.

The annual preventative maintenance program was also completed.

Collaboration continued with Western Australia Police on new infrastructure upgrades across the state and the testing of new digital radio technology to further advance DEC's compatibility and interoperability with the Western Australia Police 'P25' radio communication standard.



Geographic Information Services

The Geographic Information Services Branch continued to maintain data in the corporate spatial databases used by major departmental business systems, including the department's new spatial information dissemination database. The branch also routinely distributed corporate geographic information systems (GIS) datasets to users.

The branch contributed to the *Midwest Gascoyne Emergency Services Directory* (ESD). This ESD will be the first to use road data captured from the department's *Strategic Roads Initiative* project and reconciled with the state's topographic database at Landgate. New road symbols for ESD maps have been developed to represent the department's new road classification system.

Emergency management and field operations were supported with the revision of large-format coordination boards, aerial surveillance maps, *Western Shield* baiting maps and the *Conservation Operations Graphic*.

The branch maintains GIS data for a number of corporate datasets, including DEC-managed lands and waters (for which a tenure advisory service is also maintained), and has supplied aerial photography and georeferenced versions of the department's operations maps.

It also continued to provide GIS support for the establishment of the national reserve system by providing analysis of vegetation data and a number of GIS datasets. New techniques introduced this year and consultation with data and information custodians resulted in improved analysis and reporting. Results from this work were distributed within DEC and via Landgate's *Shared Land Information Platform* web portal.

Significant progress was also made towards upgrading the customised GIS software tools to make them compatible with a new version of the department's GIS desktop software. Training in the use of the department's desktop GIS software was provided, with 76 people attending sessions at metropolitan and regional centres.

Mapping and monitoring, using remote sensing technologies, was undertaken in targeted projects. These include the ongoing monitoring of vegetation in natural diversity recovery catchments, monitoring of the duration and severity of wandoo decline, analysis of dredging plumes off Barrow Island, monitoring of changes in forest areas due to drought for the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*, fire history mapping over the Greater Western Woodlands, and the audit of vegetation clearing. Ongoing tasks include the annual updates of imagery and derived products at a regional and local scale, plus the marine and coastal mapping/monitoring program.

In other significant activities, the branch participated in Landgate's *Shared Land Information Platform* and is continuing to work with Landgate on a collaborative approach to topographic data maintenance.



Corporate Information Services

Corporate Information Services (CIS) Branch continued to implement the department's recordkeeping plan by providing recordkeeping training, and facilitating access to and maintaining the department's electronic recordkeeping management system. CIS is responsible for coordinating daily mail and courier services, maintaining the corporate filing system and providing a comprehensive records retention and disposal service.

The branch completed regional file conversions by introducing corporate recordkeeping and providing *InfoBase* training to regional staff. *InfoBase*, the department's electronic document and records management system, has been deployed to all staff. CIS continues to review and evaluate policies and procedures for electronic recordkeeping to assist staff in managing electronic records as well as paper records in an integrated environment.

Other significant activities included a review of the department's *General Complaints Policy* and procedures, and providing advice and support to the Industry Licensing System which integrates with *InfoBase*.

The branch continued to provide a records management service to the Conservation Commission under an operational relationship agreement and to the Swan River Trust and the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority under service level agreements.

Financial Services Branch

The department's central Financial Services Branch maintains core financial software and manages accounts payable, accounts receivable, asset records, tax reporting and remote area housing. The branch also manages the department's light and heavy vehicle fleet and produces a range of statutory and management financial reports. Services are also provided to a number of client agencies.

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 management of the safety, health and well-being of DEC employees. It also provides human resource services to other agencies on a fee-for-service arrangement.



DEC-managed lands and waters

Total estate

At 30 June 2012, the total area managed by DEC was 28,285,218 hectares, representing a net increase of 819,693 hectares during 2011–12. The major component of the increase was 796,000 hectares due to the creation of the Ngari Capes and Camden Sound marine parks in June 2012.

The terrestrial area managed (i.e. not including marine reserves) is approximately 10.23 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 at 30 June 2012

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total
National park	153,161	1,406,089	568,943	2,432,132	861,417	143,987	117,195	562,459	1,292	6,246,675
Conservation park	182,817	459,942	14,967	149,348	677	13,560	24,366	76	1,559	847,312
Nature reserve	6,299,940	174,653	739,521	251,019	1,568,833	12,967	53,258	87,267	1,057,463	10,244,921
State forest	781	-	-	-	4,055	542,389	466,509	262,642	28,066	1,304,442
Timber reserve	28,509	-	26,338	-	5,231	26,474	28,501	8,216	-	123,269
Marine park	-	760,807	868,860	288,108	-	123,000	16,391	1,446	-	2,058,612
Marine nature reserve	-	-	132,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,000
Marine management area	-	-	-	143,385	-	-	-	-	-	143,385
Sections 5(1)(g) & 5(1)(h) reserve	81,566	237,952	2,099	7,810	644	31,203	28,237	1,600	1,445	392,556
Miscellaneous reserve	<1	568,006	509	1,779	3,767	124	6,006	244	15	580,450
Freehold (CALM exec body)	-	<1	1,550	<1	-	20,821	50	4,658	<1	27,079
Leasehold (CALM exec body)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Former leasehold	1,846,091	80,748	3,287,128	786,503	-	-	-	-	-	6,000,470
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	-	-	4,882	-	3,573	3,253	5,068	116	2,518	19,410
TOTALS	8,621,379	3,726,138	5,736,915	4,060,084	2,448,197	917,899	753,484	928,764	1,092,358	28,285,218



National parks

The area of the 99 national parks at 30 June 2012 was 6,246,675 hectares, a net increase of 49 hectares. There were no significant changes during the year.

National parks vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia at 30 June 2012

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
Badgingarra	13,108	Greenmount	202	Porongurup	2,621
Beelu	4,617	<i>Gull Rock</i>	2,104	<i>Prince Regent</i>	576,400
<i>Blackwood River</i>	20,477	Hassell	1,265	Purnululu	239,723
Boorabbin	28,153	Helena	12,255	Scott	3,273
<i>Boorara-Gardner</i>	11,008	Hilliger	16,962	Serpentine	4,387
<i>Boyndaminup</i>	5,439	<i>Jane</i>	6,863	Shannon	52,598
<i>Bramley</i>	3,892	John Forrest	2,678	Sir James Mitchell	247
Brockman	52	Kalamunda	375	Stirling Range	115,921
Cape Arid	279,446	Kalbarri	183,005	Stokes	9,726
Cape Le Grand	31,801	Karijini	627,442	Tathra	4,322
Cape Range	47,655	Karlamilyi	1,283,706	Torndirrup	3,936
Collier Range	235,162	Kennedy Range	141,660	Tuart Forest	2,049
D'Entrecasteaux	118,779	Korong	6,344	<i>Tunnel Creek</i>	91
<i>Dalgarup</i>	2,377	<i>Lake Muir</i>	9,625	<i>Un-named</i>	1,571
<i>Dirk Hartog</i>	62,928	<i>Lawley River</i>	17,572	<i>Un-named</i>	79
Drovers Cave	2,681	Leeuwin-Naturaliste	21,284	Walpole-Nornalup	19,448
Drysdale River	448,264	Lesmurdie Falls	56	<i>Walyunga</i>	1,814
<i>Easter</i>	2,985	Lesueur	27,235	<i>Wandoo</i>	46,493
<i>Eucla</i>	3,560	Midgegooroo	2,492	Warren	2,981
Fitzgerald River	297,244	Millstream Chichester	238,167	Watheroo	44,481
<i>Forest Grove</i>	1,379	<i>Milyeannup</i>	18,692	<i>Waychinicup</i>	3,982
François Péron	52,587	<i>Mirima</i>	2,068	Wellington	17,415
Frank Hann	67,539	<i>Mitchell River</i>	115,325	West Cape Howe	3,605
Geikie Gorge	3,136	Moore River	17,254	<i>Whicher</i>	6,343
Gloucester	878	Mount Augustus	9,168	William Bay	1,734
<i>Goldfields Woodlands</i>	64,612	Mount Frankland	37,359	Wiltshire-Butler	11,645
Goongarrie	60,397	<i>Mount Frankland North</i>	22,053	Windjana Gorge	2,050
Gooseberry Hill	33	<i>Mount Frankland South</i>	42,283	Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater	1,460
<i>Greater Beedelup</i>	19,379	<i>Mount Lindesay</i>	39,541	Yalgorup	13,141
<i>Greater Dordagup</i>	6,408	<i>Mount Roe</i>	127,726	Yanchep	2,876
<i>Greater Hawke</i>	14,004	Nambung	19,268	<i>Yelverton</i>	729

Names shown in italics are unofficial

TOTAL **6,246,675**



Conservation parks

The area of conservation parks at 30 June 2012 was 847,312 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

Nature reserves

The area of nature reserves at 30 June 2012 was 10,244,921 hectares, representing a net increase of 4,314 hectares. The major addition was the creation of two reserves in the South Coast Region with a total area of 1,887 hectares. A number of smaller reserves created in the Wheatbelt Region also contributed to the increase.

State forest

The area of State forest at 30 June 2012 was 1,304,442 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

Timber reserves

The area of timber reserves at 30 June 2012 was 123,269 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

Marine parks and reserves

The area of marine parks at 30 June 2012 was approximately 2,058,612 hectares, representing an increase of 796,000 hectares. The increase was due to the creation of the Ngari Capes and Camden Sound marine parks in June 2012.

The area of marine nature reserves at 30 June 2012 was approximately 132,000 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

Marine management areas

The area of marine management areas at 30 June 2012 was approximately 143,385 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

Marine reserves vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority at 30 June 2012

Name	Area (ha)
Barrow Island Marine Park	4,169
Barrow Island Marine Management Area	116,616
Camden Sound Marine Park	673,000
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
Ngari Capes Marine Park	123,000
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 and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park	1446
TOTAL	2,333,997

Area figures are approximate only



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 at 30 June 2012 was 392,556 hectares. This represents an increase of 3,048 hectares. The major addition was the creation of two section 5(1)(h) reserves in the Kimberley Region with a total area of 2,979 hectares.

Miscellaneous reserves

The area of miscellaneous reserves at 30 June 2012 was 580,450 hectares. This represents a decrease of one hectare.

Other land

The area of freehold land held by the Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Executive Body at 30 June 2012 was 27,079 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 approximately 6,000,470 hectares. This represents a net increase of 15,134 hectares due to the purchase of part of the Doorawarra pastoral lease.

The area of Crown land placed under the management of the department under section 33(2) of the CALM Act at 30 June 2012 totalled 118,632 hectares. There were no changes during the year. This land is 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 at 30 June 2012 amount to 37,941 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

The area of freehold land managed by the department under section 16 of the CALM Act at 30 June 2012 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 2012 was 19,410 hectares. This represents a net increase of 1,149 hectares. Reservation of these areas is dependent on the completion of administrative processes.



Conservation land acquisitions

During the year DEC purchased 10 parcels of land of high conservation value covering a combined total area of about 19,271 hectares for future addition to the formal conservation reserve system.

The department's priorities for purchases were for those areas containing ecosystems not adequately represented in existing conservation reserves, areas containing threatened species and ecological communities, or additions to existing reserves that will greatly improve their diversity or facilitate their management.

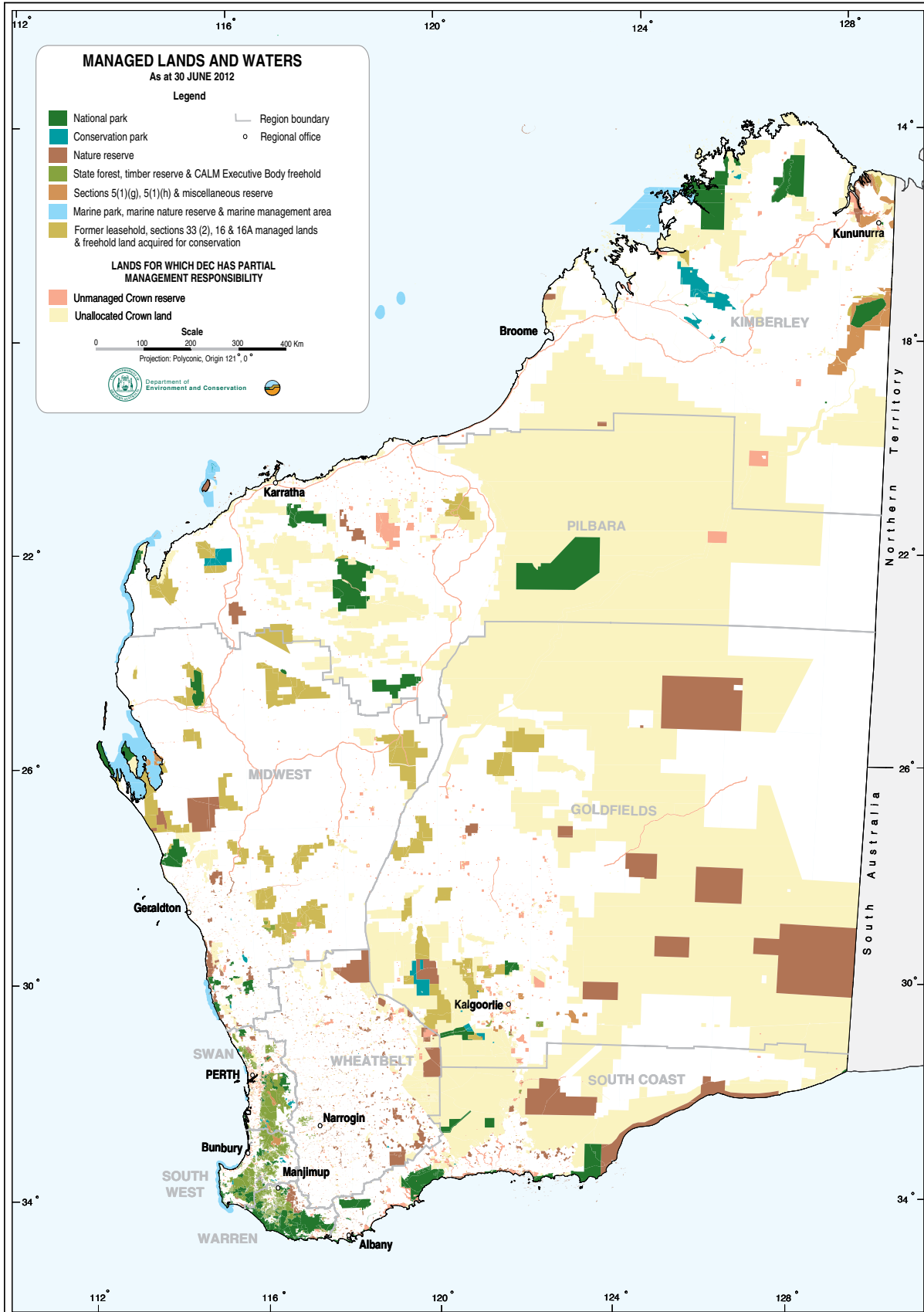
The purchases were funded from a number of sources: DEC's annual capital allocation for acquiring conservation land; proceeds of asset sales; and environmental offset funds (provided from a variety of sources including Western Power and developers, as a result of approved development projects and land clearing). The total expenditure from all funding sources for the financial year was \$3.44 million.

Purchases finalised during the year were:

- a 15,134-hectare portion of a pastoral lease east of Carnarvon in the Shire of Carnarvon
- a 950-hectare property north of Gingin in the Shire of Gingin
- a 915-hectare property south-west of Quindanning in the Shire of Williams
- a 794-hectare property south of Stirling Range National Park in the Shire of Plantagenet
- a 666-hectare property north of Gingin in the Shire of Gingin
- a 290-hectare property east of Geraldton in the City of Greater Geraldton
- a 202-hectare property south-west of Nannup in the Shire of Nannup
- a 136-hectare property north-west of Narembeen in the Shire of Narembeen
- a 120-hectare property north-west of Narembeen in the Shire of Narembeen
- a 64-hectare property north-west of Harvey in the Shire of Harvey.



DEC managed lands and waters at 30 June 2012





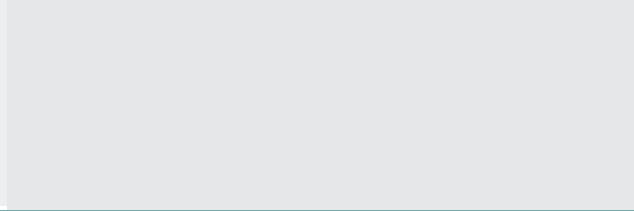
SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS





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 and reducing the impacts of *Phytophthora* dieback.
- Implementation of initiatives under the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy* is being progressed, including the establishment of two new marine parks in Camden Sound and at Eighty Mile Beach, as part of the biggest marine parks initiative in the state's history. The creation of a conservation corridor linking Prince Regent and Drysdale River national parks, and the creation of island conservation reserves will ensure the protection of the unique values of the far north of our state. This contributes to the conservation of our environment, the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage and rock art, and the development of sustainable nature-based tourism. The effectiveness of conservation efforts will be monitored through an innovative biodiversity conservation performance reporting program to be implemented from 2012.
- A new marine park has been established in the Capes area between Busselton and Augusta and work continues on the proposal to establish a new marine park in the Dampier Archipelago to protect the marine values of these regions.
- The implementation of the *Biodiversity and Cultural Conservation Strategy for the Great Western Woodlands* will advance the protection and sustainable use of this important natural area.
- The department will strengthen and expand its partnership approach to managing the state's terrestrial and marine parks with volunteers, private conservation organisations, Aboriginal communities and the private sector using a new legislative framework. Parks will continue to be a cornerstone of nature protection as well as being highly significant for recreation and tourism. The provision of improved roads and facilities in our parks will continue to be critical for public safety and appreciation of our natural areas.
- 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 public uses. This will be done under the framework of the *Forest Management Plan 2004–2013*. Further research and monitoring will be conducted and preparation of a draft and final *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* will be substantially progressed.
- The department will continue to undertake an active fire management program in an increasingly complex operating environment, exacerbated by drying conditions in the south-west of the state. Risk management measures pertaining to fire management, including prescribed burning, will be further developed. The government has acknowledged the need to improve the state's fire preparedness by providing additional recurrent funding of \$26.6 million and capital funding of \$6.3 million over four years from 2012–13.
- 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 a tight labour market presents a challenge in retaining a skilled workforce to respond to these demands. The department is implementing regulatory reforms and improved processes to manage these trends. Inspection and compliance activities have been increased to ensure emissions and discharges meet licence requirements.
- There is a community focus on ambient air quality monitoring and management in the Perth metropolitan area and industrialised regional centres. A priority will be placed on progressing regional air quality management strategies for Collie, Kalgoorlie and the Burrup Peninsula.
- The development of responses to climate change continues. The department is developing a climate change strategy for Western Australia.
- The implementation of the *Western Australian Waste Strategy: Creating the Right Environment* will be progressed, focusing on strategic objectives to improve resource recovery and reduce the amount of waste deposited in landfill.
- The strategic assessment of the impact of development on matters of national environmental significance under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* will be progressed to improve environmental outcomes and promote more efficient environmental assessment in the Perth metropolitan and Peel regions.
- The department will continue to develop environmental offset policies, guidelines and systems to promote transparency and accountability.



DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE





Certification of financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2012

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 2012 and the financial position at 30 June 2012.

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.

Mark Neilson
Chief Finance Officer

20 September 2012

Keiran McNamara
Accountable Authority

20 September 2012



AUDITOR GENERAL'S OPINION



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accounts and financial statements of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2012, 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, and Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, including Administered transactions and balances.

Director General's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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 for such internal control as the Director General determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Department's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Director General, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Department of Environment and Conservation at 30 June 2012 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions.



Report on Controls

I have audited the controls exercised by the Department of Environment and Conservation during the year ended 30 June 2012.

Controls exercised by the Department of Environment and Conservation are those policies and procedures established by the Director General to ensure 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.

Director General's Responsibility for Controls

The Director General is responsible for maintaining an adequate system of internal control to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of public and other property, and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions, and other relevant written law.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the controls exercised by the Department of Environment and Conservation based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the adequacy of controls to ensure that the Department complies with the legislative provisions. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement and include an evaluation of the design and implementation of relevant controls.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the controls exercised by the Department of Environment and Conservation are sufficiently adequate to 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 during the year ended 30 June 2012.

Report on the Key Performance Indicators

I have audited the key performance indicators of the Department of Environment and Conservation for the year ended 30 June 2012.

The key performance indicators are the key effectiveness indicators and the key efficiency indicators that provide information on outcome achievement and service provision.

Director General's Responsibility for the Key Performance Indicators

The Director General is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such controls as the Director General determines necessary to ensure that the key performance indicators fairly represent indicated performance.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards.



An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the key performance indicators. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Director General's preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and service provision.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the key performance indicators of the Department of Environment and Conservation are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Department's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2012.

Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Auditor General Act 2006 and Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, and other relevant ethical requirements.

Matters Relating to the Electronic Publication of the Audited Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Department of Environment and Conservation for the year ended 30 June 2012 included on the Department's website. The Department's management is responsible for the integrity of the Department's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Department's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these financial statements or key performance indicators. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators to confirm the information contained in this website version of the financial statements and key performance indicators.

COLIN MURPHY
AUDITOR GENERAL
FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Perth, Western Australia
21 September 2012



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	6	174,738	172,314
Supplies and services	7	87,943	80,702
Depreciation expense	8	22,778	21,624
Accommodation expenses	9	8,409	7,576
Grants and subsidies	10	9,673	11,848
Other expenses	11	31,188	27,340
Total cost of services		334,729	321,404
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	12	98,340	93,107
Commonwealth grants and contributions	13	2,811	2,975
Other grants and contributions	14	37,077	35,748
Interest revenue		4,488	4,616
Other revenue	16	10,524	12,094
Total Revenue		153,240	148,540
<i>Gains</i>			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	15	25	352
Total Gains		25	352
Total income other than income from State Government		153,265	148,892
NET COST OF SERVICES		181,464	172,512
Income from State Government	17		
Service appropriation		200,265	172,779
Assets assumed/(transferred)		0	0
Resources received free of charge		20,134	2,932
Royalties for Regions Fund		1,616	692
Total income from State Government		222,015	176,403
SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD		40,551	3,891
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(207,600)	(198,433)
Gains recognised directly in equity		-	-
Total other comprehensive income		(207,600)	(198,433)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(167,049)	(194,542)

See also the 'Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service'.

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

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	28	14,029	6,605
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18 & 28	92,051	78,411
Inventories	19	1,888	2,049
Receivables	20	24,425	21,458
Amounts receivable for services	21	9,062	13,569
Other current assets	22	852	719
Total Current Assets		142,307	122,811
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18	4,337	3,462
Amounts receivable for services	21	89,574	78,163
Property, plant and equipment	23	4,227,604	4,415,381
Total Non-Current Assets		4,321,515	4,497,006
TOTAL ASSETS		4,463,822	4,619,817
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	25	15,013	16,410
Provisions	26	27,822	32,231
Total Current liabilities		42,835	48,641
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	26	16,697	14,869
Total Non-Current liabilities		16,697	14,869
TOTAL LIABILITIES		59,532	63,510
NET ASSETS		4,404,290	4,556,307
EQUITY			
Contributed Equity		2,866,057	2,851,025
Reserves		1,450,478	1,658,078
Accumulated surplus		87,755	47,204
TOTAL EQUITY		4,404,290	4,556,307

See also the 'Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service'.

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



Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2012

	Note	Contributed Equity	Reserves	Accumulated surplus / (deficit)	Total equity
Balance at 1 July 2010	27	2,839,810	1,856,511	43,313	4,739,634
Changes in accounting policy or correction of prior period errors.		0	0	0	0
Restated balance at 1 July 2010		2,839,810	1,856,511	43,313	4,739,634
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	3,891	3,891
Other comprehensive income		0	(198,433)	0	(198,433)
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	(198,433)	3,891	(194,542)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		2,844	0	0	2,844
Other contributions by owners		9,437	0	0	9,437
Distributions to owners		(1,066)	0	0	(1,066)
Total		11,215	0	0	11,215
Balance at 30 June 2011		2,851,025	1,658,078	47,204	4,556,307
Balance at 1 July 2011		2,851,025	1,658,078	47,204	4,556,307
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	40,551	40,551
Other comprehensive income		0	(207,600)	0	(207,600)
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	(207,600)	40,551	(167,049)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		14,175	0	0	14,175
Other contributions by owners		1,078	0	0	1,078
Distributions to owners		(221)	0	0	(221)
Total		15,032	0	0	15,032
Balance at 30 June 2012		2,866,057	1,450,478	87,755	4,404,290

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

Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		179,792	152,806
Capital appropriations		8,805	2,844
Holding account drawdowns		13,569	12,871
Cash and cash equivalents distributed to owner		0	0
Royalties for Regions Fund		6,986	3,192
Net cash provided by State Government		209,152	171,713
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(177,216)	(164,615)
Supplies and services		(87,580)	(79,546)
Accommodation		(8,354)	(7,647)
Grants and subsidies		(7,481)	(11,849)
GST payments on purchases		(14,212)	(13,408)
GST payments to taxation authority		(289)	(130)
Other payments		(30,302)	(26,404)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		94,203	101,088
Commonwealth grants and contributions		3,104	837
Interest received		4,618	4,338
GST receipts on sales		6,287	6,275
GST receipts from taxation authority		8,187	8,316
Other receipts		47,327	45,932
Net cash provided by/(used) in operating activities	28	(161,708)	(136,813)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(26,178)	(24,103)
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		673	1,039
Net cash provided by/(used) used in investing activities		(25,505)	(23,064)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		21,939	11,836
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		88,478	76,642
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	28	110,417	88,478

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



Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service
For the year ended 30 June 2012

	Nature Conservation		Sustainable Forest Management		Parks and Visitor Services		Environmental Regulation		Environmental Sustainability		Coordinate the Response to Climate Change		Total	
	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES														
Expenses														
Employee benefits expense	69,260	69,778	26,361	24,692	47,387	44,697	24,779	25,687	5,253	5,687	1,688	1,773	174,738	172,314
Supplies and services	37,886	32,319	11,248	9,569	27,261	24,391	9,270	8,832	1,840	4,619	438	972	87,943	80,702
Depreciation expense	4,175	5,810	4,872	4,203	13,064	10,413	557	984	93	182	17	32	22,778	21,624
Accommodation expenses	1,782	1,595	495	405	1,374	1,335	3,926	3,498	418	373	414	370	8,409	7,576
Grants & subsidies	2,000	2,322	0	10	2,289	288	311	1,209	4,564	4,056	509	3,963	9,673	11,848
Other expenses	10,839	9,732	10,650	9,660	7,764	6,104	1,546	1,415	276	313	113	116	31,188	27,340
Total cost of services	125,942	121,556	53,626	49,539	99,149	87,228	40,389	41,625	12,444	15,230	3,179	7,226	334,729	321,404
Income														
User charges and fees	6,273	5,053	9,373	7,170	17,699	16,827	23,756	22,698	41,231	41,298	8	61	88,340	83,107
Commonwealth grants and contributions	2,645	2,734	0	13	1	63	165	165	0	0	0	0	2,811	2,975
Other grants and contributions	25,176	20,167	184	63	10,568	15,366	1,074	75	85	77	0	0	37,077	35,748
Interest revenue	2,834	2,858	26	148	554	610	232	255	842	745	0	0	4,488	4,616
Other revenue	3,229	4,705	3,324	2,377	3,639	4,739	323	270	9	3	0	0	10,524	12,094
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	25	94	0	161	0	97	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	352
Total income other than Income from State Government	40,182	35,611	12,907	9,932	32,451	37,702	25,550	23,463	42,167	42,123	8	61	153,265	148,892
NET COST OF SERVICES	85,760	85,945	40,719	39,607	66,698	49,526	14,839	18,162	(29,723)	(26,893)	3,171	7,165	181,464	172,512
Income from State Government														
Service appropriation	105,974	92,982	41,057	39,264	58,657	49,736	16,544	15,507	(24,558)	(29,562)	2,591	4,852	200,285	172,779
Assets assumed/(transferred)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Resources received free of charge	4,429	1,948	6,569	311	8,938	609	146	41	38	15	14	8	20,134	2,932
Royalties for Regions Fund	650	0	12	0	830	692	124	0	0	0	0	0	1,616	692
Total income from State Government	111,053	94,930	47,638	39,575	68,425	51,037	16,814	15,548	(24,520)	(29,547)	2,605	4,860	222,015	176,403
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the period	25,293	8,885	6,919	968	1,727	1,511	1,975	(2,614)	5,203	(2,654)	(566)	(2,305)	40,551	3,891

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



Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service
As at 30 June 2012

	Nature Conservation		Sustainable Forest Management		Parks and Visitor Services		Environmental Regulation		Environmental Sustainability		Coordinate the Response to Climate Change		Total	
	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
ASSETS														
Current assets	69,278	66,033	10,518	6,386	25,341	16,856	17,566	16,842	18,918	16,120	686	574	142,307	122,811
Non-current assets	647,665	621,770	2,675,013	2,926,842	979,597	930,093	14,109	13,118	4,598	4,262	533	921	4,321,515	4,497,006
Total assets	716,943	687,803	2,685,531	2,933,228	1,004,938	946,949	31,675	29,960	23,516	20,382	1,219	1,495	4,463,822	4,619,817
LIABILITIES														
Current liabilities	16,663	18,723	7,396	10,469	12,148	11,935	5,078	5,855	1,258	1,236	272	423	42,835	48,641
Non-current liabilities	7,150	5,993	2,180	2,129	5,047	3,945	1,808	2,177	388	476	124	149	16,697	14,869
Total liabilities	23,813	24,716	9,576	12,598	17,195	15,880	6,886	8,032	1,646	1,712	396	572	59,532	63,510
NET ASSETS	693,110	663,087	2,675,955	2,920,630	987,743	931,069	24,789	21,928	21,870	18,670	823	923	4,404,290	4,556,307

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



Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates

For the year ended 30 June 2012

	2012 Estimate \$'000	2012 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2012 Actual \$'000	2011 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 101 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	205,892	199,517	(6,375)	199,517	172,064	27,453
Royalties for Regions Fund - Regional Community Services Fund	2,600	1,616	(984)	1,616	692	924
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes						
- <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	748	748	0	748	715	33
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	209,240	201,881	(7,359)	201,881	173,471	28,410
Capital						
Item 159 Capital appropriations	8,805	8,805	0	8,805	2,844	5,961
Royalties for Regions Fund - Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund	10,215	5,370	(4,845)	5,370	2,500	2,870
Total capital	19,020	14,175	(4,845)	14,175	5,344	8,831
GRAND TOTAL	228,260	216,056	(12,204)	216,056	178,815	37,241
Details of Expenses by Service						
Nature Conservation	145,365	125,942	(19,423)	125,942	121,556	4,386
Sustainable Forest Management	50,021	53,626	3,605	53,626	48,539	5,087
Parks and Visitor Services	77,827	99,149	21,322	99,149	87,228	11,921
Environmental Regulation	39,283	40,389	1,106	40,389	41,625	(1,236)
Environmental Sustainability	17,441	12,444	(4,997)	12,444	15,230	(2,786)
Coordinate the Response to Climate Change	19,215	3,179	(16,036)	3,179	7,226	(4,047)
Total Cost of Services	349,152	334,729	(14,423)	334,729	321,404	13,325
Less Total Income	(144,048)	(153,265)	(9,217)	(153,265)	(148,892)	(4,373)
Net Cost of Services	205,104	181,464	(23,640)	181,464	172,512	8,952
Adjustments	4,136	20,417	16,281	20,417	959	19,458
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	209,240	201,881	(7,359)	201,881	173,471	28,410
Capital Expenditure						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	35,119	26,178	(8,941)	26,178	24,103	2,075
Adjustment for other funding sources	(16,099)	(12,003)	4,096	(12,003)	(18,759)	6,756
Capital appropriations	19,020	14,175	(4,845)	14,175	5,344	8,831
Details of Income Estimates						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	170	94	(76)	94	128	(34)
	170	94	(76)	94	128	(34)

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

Note 33 "Explanatory statement" provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2012 and between the actual result for 2012 and 2011.

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 2012 have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The term 'Australian Accounting Standards' includes 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*. There has been no early adoption of Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued or amended (but not operative) by DEC for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2012.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General statement

DEC is a not-for-profit reporting entity that prepares general purpose financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB 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* and the Treasurer's instructions impose legislative provisions that govern the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB.

Where modification is required and has had 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, except for land and buildings 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).

Note 3 'Judgments made by management in applying accounting policies' discloses judgments that have been made in the process of applying DEC's accounting policies resulting in the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.



Note 4 'Key sources of estimation uncertainty' discloses key assumptions made concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

(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

Developing and implementing 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

Providing 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

Managing 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 bureaux and commercial tour operators; involving Aboriginal 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 of Western Australia and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.



Service 4: Environmental Regulation

Regulation of emissions and discharges to the environment and the transport of hazardous wastes. Regulation of the investigation, classification and management of contaminated sites. Monitoring of ambient air quality and developing air quality management plans for priority airsheds (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

Developing and implementing policies and strategies that promote environmentally sustainable practices in industry, government and the community.

Service 6: Coordinate the Response to Climate Change

Providing 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 41 'Disclosures of administered income and expenses by service'.

(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 recognised and 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 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 2011–2012 Budget Statements, DEC retained \$153.265 million in 2012 (\$148.892 million in 2011) from the following:

- proceeds from fees and charges
- sale of goods
- Commonwealth specific purpose grants and contributions
- one-off gains derived from the sale of property other than real property
- 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.

Royalties for Regions funds are recognised as revenue at fair value in the period in which DEC obtains control over the funds. DEC obtains control of the funds at the time the funds are deposited into DEC's bank account.

Gains

Realised or unrealised gains 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**

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 historical cost 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.

Where market-based evidence is available, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of current market buying values determined by reference to recent market transactions.

In the absence of market-based evidence, fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of existing use. This normally applies where buildings are specialised or where land use is restricted. Fair value for existing use assets is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, ie. the depreciated replacement cost.

When buildings are revalued, the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

Land and buildings are independently valued 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 23 '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.

Depreciation 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 years
Furniture	10 years
Office equipment	6–7 years
Computer equipment	4 years
Software (a)	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

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

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

(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 the asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs.

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 (or disposal groups) classified as held for sale

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

Most Crown land holdings are vested in Conservation Commission of Western Australia by the Government. The Department of Regional Development and Lands (DRDL) is the only agency with the power to sell Crown land. The Conservation Commission of Western Australia 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 25 'Payables'*) represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at 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 18 '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 11th 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. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (holding account receivable). The accrued amount receivable is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover leave entitlements and asset replacement.

(n) Inventories

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

Publications held for distribution are measured at cost.

(o) Receivables

Receivables are recognised 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 settlement is generally 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

All annual leave and long service leave provisions are in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period.

Annual leave

The liability for annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Annual leave that is not expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.



The provision for annual leave is classified as a current liability as DEC does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Long service leave

The liability for long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

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 end of the reporting period. Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because DEC has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) and other funds administer public sector superannuation arrangements in Western Australia in accordance with legislative requirements. Eligibility criteria for membership in particular schemes for public sector employees varies according to commencement and implementation dates.

Eligible employees contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme closed to new members since 1987, or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme closed to new members since 1995.

The GSS 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 Department to GESB extinguishes the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

DEC has no liabilities under the Pension Scheme or the GSS. The liabilities for the unfunded Pension Scheme and the unfunded GSS transfer benefits attributable to members who transferred from the Pension Scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by DEC to the GESB.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who were not members of either the Pension Scheme or the GSS 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). From 30 March 2012, existing members of the WSS or GESBS and new employees became able to choose their preferred superannuation fund. DEC makes concurrent contributions to GESB or other funds on behalf of employees in compliance with the *Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee*



(Administration) Act 1992. Contributions to these accumulation schemes extinguish DEC's liability for superannuation charges in respect of employees who are not members of the Pension Scheme or GSS.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension Scheme and GSS, 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 WSS, the GESBS, or other superannuation fund. The employer contribution paid to the GESB in respect of the GSS is paid back into the Consolidated Account by the GESB.

(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 at fair value. Where the resource received represents a service that DEC would otherwise pay for, a corresponding expense is recognised. Receipts of assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position.

Assets or services received from other State Government agencies 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.

3. Judgments made by management in applying accounting policies

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgments about the application of accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements. DEC evaluates these judgments regularly.

Operating lease commitments

DEC has entered into a number of leases for buildings for branch office accommodation. Some of these leases relate to buildings of a temporary nature and it has been determined that the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Accordingly, these leases have been classified as operating leases.

4. Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Long Service Leave

Several estimations and assumptions used in calculating DEC's long service leave provision include expected future salary rates, discount rates, employee retention rates and expected future payments. Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision.

5. 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 2011 that impacted on DEC.

<i>AASB 1054</i>	<p><i>Australian Additional Disclosures</i></p> <p>This Standard, in conjunction with <i>AASB 2011 -1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project</i>, removes disclosure requirements from other Standards and incorporates them in a single Standard to achieve convergence between Australian and New Zealand Accounting Standards. There is no financial impact.</p>
<i>AASB 2009-12</i>	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 5, 8, 108, 110, 112, 119, 133, 137, 139, 1023 & 1031 and Int 2, 4, 16, 1039 & 1052]</i></p> <p>This Standard makes editorial amendments to a range of Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations. There is no financial impact.</p>
<i>AASB 2010-4</i>	<p><i>Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project [AASB 1, 7, 101 & 134 and Int 13]</i></p> <p>The amendments to <i>AASB 7</i> clarify financial instrument disclosures in relation to credit risk. The carrying amount of financial assets that would otherwise be past due or impaired whose terms have been renegotiated is no longer required to be disclosed. There is no financial impact.</p> <p>The amendments to <i>AASB 101</i> clarify the presentation of the Statement of Changes in Equity. The disaggregation of other comprehensive income reconciling the carrying amount at the beginning and the end of the period for each component of Equity can be presented in either the Statement of Changes in Equity or the Notes. There is no financial impact.</p>
<i>AASB 2010-5</i>	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 101, 107, 112, 118, 119, 121, 132, 133, 134, 137, 139, 140, 1023 & 1038 and Int 112, 115, 127, 132 & 1042]</i></p> <p>This Standard makes editorial amendments to a range of Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations. There is no financial impact.</p>



AASB 2010-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosures on Transfers of Financial Assets [AASB 1 & 7]*

This Standard introduces additional disclosures relating to transfers of financial assets in AASB 7. An entity shall disclose all transferred financial assets that are not derecognised and any continuing involvement in a transferred asset, existing at the reporting date, irrespective of when the related transfer transaction occurred. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2011-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project [AASB 1, 5, 101, 107, 108, 121, 128, 132 & 134 and Int 2, 112 & 113]*

This Standard, in conjunction with AASB 1054, removes disclosure requirements from other Standards and incorporates them in a single Standard to achieve convergence between Australian and New Zealand Accounting Standards. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2011-5 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Relief from Consolidation, the Equity Method and Proportionate Consolidation [AASB 127, 128 & 131]*

This Standard extends the relief from consolidation, the equity method and proportionate consolidation by removing the requirement for the consolidated financial statements prepared by the ultimate or any intermediate parent entity to be IFRS compliant, provided that the parent entity, investor or venturer and the ultimate or intermediate parent entity are not-for-profit non-reporting entities that comply with Australian Accounting Standards. There is no financial impact.

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 of the 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
AASB 9	<i>Financial Instruments</i>	1 Jan 2013
	This Standard supersedes AASB 139 : <i>Recognition and Measurement</i> , introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.	
	The Standard was reissued in December 2010. DEC has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.	



AASB 10	<i>Consolidated Financial Statements</i>	1 Jan 2013
	<p>This Standard supersedes requirements under AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i> and Int 112 <i>Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The Standard was issued in August 2011. DEC has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	
AASB 11	<i>Joint Arrangements</i>	1 Jan 2013
	<p>This Standard supersedes AASB 131 <i>Interests in Joint Ventures</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The Standard was issued in August 2011. DEC has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	
AASB 12	<i>Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities</i>	1 Jan 2013
	<p>This Standard supersedes disclosure requirements under AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i> and AASB 131 <i>Interests in Joint Ventures</i>.</p> <p>The Standard was issued in August 2011. DEC has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	
AASB 13	<i>Fair Value Measurement</i>	1 Jan 2013
	<p>This Standard defines fair value, sets out a framework for measuring fair value and requires disclosures about fair value measurements. There is no financial impact.</p>	
AASB 119	<i>Employee Benefits</i>	1 Jan 2013
	<p>This Standard supersedes AASB 119 (October 2010). As DEC does not operate a defined benefit plan, the impact of the change is limited to measuring annual leave as a long-term employee benefit. The resultant discounting of the annual leave benefit has an immaterial impact.</p>	
AASB 127	<i>Separate Financial Statements</i>	1 Jan 2013
	<p>This Standard supersedes requirements under AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The Standard was issued in August 2011. DEC has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	



AASB 128	<i>Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures</i>	1 Jan 2013
	This Standard supersedes AASB 128 <i>Investments in Associates</i> , introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.	
	The Standard was issued in August 2011. DEC has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.	
AASB 1053	<i>Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards</i>	1 Jul 2013
	This Standard establishes a differential financial reporting framework consisting of two tiers of reporting requirements for preparing general purpose financial statements. There is no financial impact.	
AASB 2009-11	<i>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 Int 10 & 12]</i>	1 Jul 2013
	[Modified by AASB 2010-7]	
AASB 2010-2	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 116, 117, 119, 121, 123, 124, 127, 128, 131, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138, 140, 141, 1050 & 1052 and Int 2, 4, 5, 15, 17, 127, 129 & 1052]</i>	1 Jul 2013
	This Standard makes amendments to Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations to introduce reduced disclosure requirements for certain types of entities. There is no financial impact.	
AASB 2010-7	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Int 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 & 127]</i>	1 Jan 2013
	This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010. DEC has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.	
AASB 2011-2	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project – Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 101 & 1054]</i>	1 Jul 2013
	This Standard removes disclosure requirements from other Standards and incorporates them in a single Standard to achieve convergence between Australian and New Zealand Accounting Standards for reduced disclosure reporting. There is no financial impact.	



AASB 2011-6	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Relief from Consolidation, the Equity Method and Proportionate Consolidation – Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 127, 128 & 131]</i>	1 Jul 2013
	This Standard extends the relief from consolidation, the equity method and proportionate consolidation by removing the requirement for the consolidated financial statements prepared by the ultimate or any intermediate parent entity to be IFRS compliant, provided that the parent entity, investor or venturer and the ultimate or intermediate parent entity comply with Australian Accounting Standards or Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements. There is no financial impact.	
AASB 2011-7	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Consolidation and Joint Arrangements Standards [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 2009-11, 101, 107, 112, 118, 121, 124, 132, 133, 136, 138, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Int 5, 9, 16 & 17]</i>	1 Jan 2013
	This Standard gives effect to consequential changes arising from the issuance of AASB 10, AASB 11, AASB 127 <i>Separate Financial Statements</i> and AASB 128 <i>Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures</i> . DEC has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.	
AASB 2011-8	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13 [AASB 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 2009-11, 2010-7, 101, 102, 108, 110, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 1004, 1023 & 1038 and Int 2, 4, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 131 & 132]</i>	1 Jan 2013
	This Standard replaces the existing definition and fair value guidance in other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as the result of issuing AASB 13 in September 2011. There is no financial impact.	
AASB 2011-9	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Presentation of Items of Other Comprehensive Income [AASB 1, 5, 7, 101, 112, 120, 121, 132, 133, 134, 1039 & 1049]</i>	1 Jul 2012
	This Standard requires to group items presented in other comprehensive income on the basis of whether they are potentially reclassifiable to profit or loss subsequently (reclassification adjustments). DEC has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.	



<p><i>AASB 2011-10</i></p>	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119 (September 2011) [AASB 1, 8, 101, 124, 134, 1049 & 2011-8 and Int 14]</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 119 Employee Benefits in September 2011. DEC has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	<p><i>1 Jan 2013</i></p>
<p><i>AASB 2011-11</i></p>	<p><i>Amendments to AASB 119 (September 2011) arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements for AASB 119 (September 2011). There is no financial impact.</p>	<p><i>1 Jul 2013</i></p>
<p><i>AASB 2012-1</i></p>	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement – Reduced Disclosure Requirements [AASB 3, 7, 13, 140 & 141]</i></p> <p>This Standard establishes and amends reduced disclosure requirements for additional and amended disclosures arising from AASB 13 and the consequential amendments implemented through AASB 2011-8. There is no financial impact.</p>	<p><i>1 Jul 2013</i></p>

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
6. Employee benefits expense		
Wages and salaries (a)	159,689	157,679
Superannuation – defined contribution plans (b)	15,049	14,635
	174,738	172,314
<p>(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component, leave entitlements including superannuation contribution component.</p> <p>(b) Defined contribution plans include West State, Gold State and GESB Super Scheme (contribution paid).</p> <p>Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 11 'Other expenses'.</p> <p>The employment on-costs liability is included at note 26 'Provisions'.</p>		
7. Supplies and services		
Communications	4,803	4,954
Consultants and contractors	8,797	10,867
Services and contracts	36,020	30,103
Materials	16,403	16,049
Repairs and maintenance	4,970	4,910
Travel	5,902	4,572
Regional employee housing	5,232	3,890
Other	5,816	5,357
	87,943	80,702
8. Depreciation expense		
<i>Depreciation</i>		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	15,836	15,744
Buildings	6,942	5,880
Total depreciation	22,778	21,624
9. Accommodation expenses		
Lease rentals	6,330	5,748
Electricity, power and water	2,079	1,828
	8,409	7,576



	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
10. Grants and subsidies		
<i>Recurrent</i>		
City of Canning	2,129	0
Western Australian Local Government Association	1,460	75
Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA)	1,044	1,013
Colmax Glass	585	585
Future Farm Industries Co-operative Research Centre	350	100
Landcorp	295	0
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	250	0
Conservation Council of WA Inc	215	120
Cleanaway	173	78
Kimberley Toad Busters	162	311
Munda Biddi Trail Foundation	150	249
Carnegie Wave Energy	145	2,028
Waste Management Association of Australia	136	125
City of Armadale	106	0
Motor Trade Association of WA	92	88
Printing Industries Association	74	68
Sercul	69	0
Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	67	304
Various grants under \$50,000	2,171	6,704
	9,673	11,848
11. Other expenses		
Employment on-costs (a)	1,999	722
Operating lease – motor vehicle	12,051	12,586
Other lease, rental and hire expenses	17,138	14,032
	31,188	27,340

(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 26 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.



	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
12. User charges and fees		
User charges	14,379	13,319
Fees	22,380	19,687
Landfill levy revenue	40,418	41,681
Emission and discharge licences	17,572	15,422
Waste control permits	3,591	2,998
	98,340	93,107
13. Commonwealth grants and contributions		
Capital	0	95
Recurrent	2,811	2,880
	2,811	2,975
14. Other grants and contributions		
Capital	9,428	6,789
Recurrent	27,649	28,959
	37,077	35,748
15. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets		
<i>Proceeds from Disposal of Non-Current Assets</i>		
Plant, property, equipment & vehicles	754	1,021
<i>Costs of Disposal of Non-Current Assets</i>		
Plant, property, equipment & vehicles	(729)	(669)
Net gain/(loss)	25	352
16. Other revenue		
Publications revenue	426	359
Mining compensation revenue	6,301	8,300
Other revenues	3,797	3,435
	10,524	12,094



	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
17. Income from State Government		
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service appropriation (a)	199,517	172,064
Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	748	715
Total appropriations	200,265	172,779
Resources received free of charge (b)		
Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
- Water Corporation	18,562	0
- Landgate	402	1,444
- State Solicitor's Office	587	837
- Department of Water	3	1
- Department of Finance	291	322
- Department of Corrective Services	242	328
- Department of Agriculture and Food	47	0
Total resources received free of charge	20,134	2,932
Royalties for Regions Fund:		
- Regional Community Services Account (c)	1,616	692
	1,616	692
	222,015	176,403

(a) Service appropriation fund the net cost of services delivered. 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) Assets or services received free of charge or for nominal cost are recognised as revenue at fair value of the assets and/or services that can be reliably measured and which would have been purchased if they were not donated. Contributions of assets or services in the nature of contributions by owners are recognised direct to equity.

(c) This is a sub-fund within the over-arching 'Royalties for Regions Fund'. The recurrent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas.

18. Restricted cash and cash equivalents

Current

Cash amounts in suspense account (a)	92,051	78,411
	92,051	78,411



	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Non Current</i>		
Accrued salaries suspense account (b)	4,337	3,462
	4,337	3,462

(a) Cash held in the account is to fund the four special purpose accounts disclosed at note 38 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.

19. Inventories

Current

Inventories held for resale:

Souvenirs	504	538
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Inventories held for distribution:

Publications	1,384	1,511
	1,888	2,049

20. Receivables

Current

Receivables	12,142	8,797
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(307)	(324)
GST receivable	1,499	1,574
Accrued revenue	11,091	11,411
	24,425	21,458

Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:

Balance at start of year	324	36
Doubtful debts expense	3	292
Amounts written of during the year	(20)	(4)
Amounts recovered during the year	0	0
Balance at end of year	307	324

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



	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
21. Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)		
Current	9,062	13,569
Non-current	89,574	78,163
	98,636	91,732

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.

22. Other assets

Current

Prepayments	852	719
	852	719

23. Property, plant and equipment

Land

At fair value (a)	4,002,101	4,206,382
	4,002,101	4,206,382

Buildings

At fair value (a)	108,647	98,153
	108,647	98,153

Plant and equipment

At cost	149,512	138,721
Accumulated depreciation	(64,091)	(52,400)
	85,421	86,321

Vehicles

At cost	26,890	23,890
Accumulated depreciation	(18,965)	(16,143)
	7,925	7,747

Works of art

At cost	390	388
	390	388

Assets under construction

	23,120	16,390
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	4,227,604	4,415,381
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(a) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2011 by the Western Australian Land Information Department (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2012 and recognised at 30 June 2012. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$2,015,417,050 and buildings: \$4,429,100. 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 in the table below:

	Land	Buildings	Plant and equipment	Vehicles	Works of Art	Assets under construction	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2012							
Carrying amount at start of year	4,206,382	98,153	86,321	7,747	388	16,390	4,415,381
Additions	3,442	402	6,640	3,511	2	12,190	26,187
Transfers (a)	1,078	18,562	5,254	3	0	(5,460)	19,437
Disposals	(193)	(2,536)	(261)	(33)	0	0	(3,023)
Classified as held for sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	(208,608)	1,008	0	0	0	0	(207,600)
Depreciation	0	(6,942)	(12,533)	(3,303)	0	0	(22,778)
Carrying amount at end of year	4,002,101	108,647	85,421	7,925	390	23,120	4,227,604
2011							
Carrying amount at start of year	4,396,680	74,313	85,267	8,460	190	41,815	4,606,725
Additions	2,040	2,144	7,349	2,602	133	9,245	23,513
Transfers (a)	6,937	27,345	5,964	229	65	(34,670)	5,870
Disposals	(378)	(233)	(53)	(6)	0	0	(670)
Classified as held for sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	(198,897)	464	0	0	0	0	(198,433)
Depreciation	0	(5,880)	(12,206)	(3,538)	0	0	(21,624)
Carrying amount at end of year	4,206,382	98,153	86,321	7,747	388	16,390	4,415,381

(a) The Department of Regional Development and Lands (DRDL) is the only agency with the power to sell Crown land. The land is transferred to DRDL for sale and DEC accounts for the transfer as a distribution to owner. DEC has received \$19.640 M of assets from other agencies, \$18.562 M has been accounted as resources received free of charge and \$1.078 M as contributions by owners.



24. Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment at 30 June 2012.

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 2012 have been written off.

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000

25. Payables

Current

Trade payables	5,110	4,971
Accrued expenses	2,012	2,394
Accrued salaries	3,922	3,764
Accrued superannuation	397	434
Unearned revenue	3,572	4,847
	15,013	16,410

26. Provisions

Current

Employee benefits provision

Annual leave (a)	13,757	19,181
Long service leave (b)	13,793	12,763
	27,550	31,944

Other provisions

Maternity leave	18	0
Employment on-costs (c)	254	287
	272	287
	27,822	32,231

Non-current

Employee benefits provision

Long service leave (b)	16,544	14,736
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Other provisions

Employment on-costs (c)	153	133
	16,697	14,869

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

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	<u>13,757</u>	<u>19,181</u>

(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 period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	13,793	12,763
More than 12 months after the reporting period	16,544	14,736
	<u>30,337</u>	<u>27,499</u>

(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 11 'Other expenses'.

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 period	420	363
Additional provisions recognised	2,000	722
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefits	(2,013)	(665)
Carrying amount at end of period	<u>407</u>	<u>420</u>

27. Equity

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

Contributed equity

Balance at start of period	2,851,025	2,839,810
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Contributions by owners

Capital appropriation	8,805	2,844
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Other contributions by owners

Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	5,370	2,500
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	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Transfer of net assets from other agencies</i>		
Land and Building transferred from Department of Regional Development (DRDL)	0	1,351
Land transferred from Metropolitan Public Hospitals	0	5,586
Land transferred from Western Australian Planning Commission	1,078	0
Total contributions by owners	2,866,278	2,852,091
<i>Distributions to owners</i>		
Transfer of net assets to other agencies and Government	(221)	(1,066)
Total distributions to owners	(221)	(1,066)
Balance at end of period	2,866,057	2,851,025
Reserves		
Asset revaluation surplus:		
Balance at start of period	1,658,078	1,856,511
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	(208,608)	(198,897)
Buildings	1,008	464
Balance at end of period	1,450,478	1,658,078
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Balance at start of period	47,204	43,313
Result for the period	40,551	3,891
Income and expense recognised directly in equity	0	0
Balance at end of period	87,755	47,204

28. 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 follows:

Cash and cash equivalents	14,029	6,605
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (note 18 Restricted cash and cash equivalents)	96,388	81,873
	110,417	88,478

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities		
Net cost of services	(181,464)	(172,512)
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation expense	22,778	21,624
Resources received free of charge	1,572	2,932
Gain on sale of property, plant and equipment	(25)	(352)
Adjustment of other non-cash items	2,101	0
<i>(Increase)/decrease in assets:</i>		
Current receivables (a)	(3,215)	3,094
Inventories	161	(678)
Prepayments	(133)	32
Other current assets	304	(971)
<i>Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:</i>		
Current payables (a)	(1,161)	2,670
Provisions	(2,599)	6,295
Net GST receipts/(payments) (b)	(27)	1,053
Change in GST in receivables/payables (c)		
Net cash used in operating activities	(161,708)	(136,813)

(a) Note that Australian Taxation Office (ATO) receivable/payable in respect of GST and the 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.

(b) This is the net GST paid/received, i.e. cash transactions.

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

29. Resources provided free of charge

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

Keep Australia Beautiful Council	500	150
Office of the Environmental Protection Authority	525	500
	1,025	650



30. Commitments

The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.

Capital expenditure commitments

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

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Within 1 year	260	2,548
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	41	0
	301	2,548

The capital commitments include amounts for:

Buildings	301	1,594
Plant and Equipment	0	954
	301	2,548

Non-cancellable operating lease commitments

Commitments for minimum lease payments are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	8,887	9,607
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	12,810	16,053
Later than 5 years	4,359	9,280
	26,056	34,940

DEC's fleet leases account for \$7.908 million of the non cancellable operating lease commitments for 2012. 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.

31. 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 33 pending litigation claims that may affect the financial position to the value of \$6,690,291, 18 of which are fire related totalling \$1,100,750. DEC has denied liability and any legal claim will be defended. A counter claim has been lodged in one of the claims but the amount cannot be reliably estimated at this time.



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 on land DEC owns or occupies or where its activities may have caused or contributed to contamination. 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.

DEC has 53 sites classified as *possibly contaminated – investigation required*, plus the former Waste Control site in Bellevue (an "orphan" site) classified as *contaminated - remediation required*. Although a permeable reactive barrier groundwater treatment system was installed during 2009-10 to remediate off-site groundwater contamination in Bellevue, 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 plus four others have not yet been classified under the Act.

The financial effect of these liabilities cannot be reliably estimated at this time. Funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account has been approved for DEC to undertake investigation and/or remediation at five of these sites, and DEC may apply for funding for other sites in the future.

32. Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

DEC had no adjusting or non-adjusting events after the reporting period.



33. 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 and Total income

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2012

	2012 Estimate \$'000	2012 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	209,240	201,881	(7,359)	(a)
Total income	(144,048)	(153,265)	(9,217)	(b)

(a) *Total appropriations provided to deliver services* – The variance is due principally to the deferral of expenditure for various projects from 2011–12 to the out years for the Low Emissions Energy Development Fund \$16.575 million, Capes and Dampier Marine Parks \$2.6 million, rehabilitation of the former Brookdale liquid waste treatment facility \$1.36 million, Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy \$1.203 million, Burrup Native Title \$0.85 million and the Great Western Woodlands \$0.5 million. Other adjustments are for an increase to appropriations to DEC for unbudgeted bushfire suppression costs \$13 million, enhanced district allowances \$2.023 million and compensation for a shortfall in landfill levy receipts of \$0.706 million.

(b) *Total Income* – the variance is due principally to increased funding received from grants \$5.007 million and externally funded recoupable projects \$4.177 million.

Significant variances between actual results for 2012 and 2011

	2012 Actual \$'000	2011 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	201,881	173,471	28,410

Total appropriations provided to deliver services – The variance is due principally to an increase in the appropriation for unbudgeted bushfire suppression costs \$14.25 million, payroll and general cost escalation of \$8.449 million and the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy \$4.004 million.



Service expenditure

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2012

	2012 Estimate \$'000	2012 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	
Nature Conservation	145,365	125,942	(19,423)	(a)
Parks and Visitor Services	77,827	99,149	21,322	(b)
Environmental Sustainability	17,441	12,444	(4,997)	(c)
Coordinate the Response to Climate Change	19,215	3,179	(16,036)	(d)

(a) Nature Conservation – The variance is due largely to reduced expenditure being incurred against externally funded specific purpose accounts and recoupable projects than was anticipated in the estimates.

(b) Parks and Visitor Services – The variance is due largely to increased expenditure being incurred against bushfire suppression activities and externally funded specific purpose accounts.

(c) Environmental Sustainability – The variance is due to reduced grant payments made from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account than was anticipated in the estimates.

(d) Coordinate the Response to Climate Change – The variance is due to re-cash flowing to the forward estimates of funding provided for grant payments made from the Low Emissions Energy Development (LEED) Fund.

Significant variances between actual results for 2012 and 2011

	2012 Actual \$'000	2011 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	
Parks and Visitor Services	99,149	87,228	11,921	(a)
Environmental Sustainability	12,444	15,230	(2,786)	(b)
Coordinate the Response to Climate Change	3,179	7,226	(4,047)	(c)

(a) Parks and Visitor Services – The variance is due largely to increased expenditure on bushfire suppression in national parks.

(b) Environmental Sustainability – The variance is due mainly to a reduction in payments processed from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

(c) Coordinate the Response to Climate Change – The variance is due mainly to a decrease in grant payments made from the Low Emissions Energy Development (LEED) Fund.



Capital appropriation

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2012

	2012 Estimate \$'000	2012 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	
Total capital	19,020	14,175	(4,845)	(a)
Purchase of non-current physical assets	35,119	26,178	(8,941)	(b)

(a) *Total capital* – the actual capital funding received was \$4.845 million below the estimate and this was due to delays in the commencement of projects funded from the Royalties for Regions Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund.

(b) *Purchase of non-current physical assets* – the reduction in actual expenditure of \$8.941 million compared to estimate was due mainly to delays in the commencement of projects funded from the Royalties for Regions Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund.

Significant variances between actual results for 2012 and 2011

	2012 Actual \$'000	2011 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Total capital	14,175	5,344	8,831

The increase in total capital funding was due mainly to an increase of \$5 million for fire management equipment and \$2.87 million for projects funded by the Royalties for Regions Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund.



34. 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 allowance for impairment, as shown the table at Note 34(c) 'Financial Instruments Disclosures' and Note 20 '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 34(c), DEC is not exposed to interest rate risk because DEC has no borrowings.

**(b) Categories of financial instruments**

	2012	2011
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	14,029	6,605
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	96,388	81,873
Loans and receivables (a)	121,562	111,616
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	15,013	16,410

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

(c) Financial instrument disclosures*Credit Risk*

The following table details DEC's maximum exposure to credit risk 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.



	Aged analysis of financial assets							Impaired financial assets \$'000
	Carrying Amount \$'000	Not past due and not impaired \$'000	Past due but not impaired					
			Up to 1 month \$'000	1-3 months to 1 year \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1 - 5 years \$'000		
2012								
Cash and cash equivalents	14,029	14,029	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	96,388	96,388	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables (a)	22,926	21,364	730	832	0	0	0	307
Amounts receivable for services	98,636	98,636	0	0	0	0	0	0
	231,979	230,417	730	832	0	0	0	307
2011								
Cash and cash equivalents	6,605	6,605	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	81,873	81,873	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables (a)	19,884	18,407	0	1,254	191	32	0	324
Amounts receivable for services	91,732	91,732	0	0	0	0	0	0
	200,094	198,617	0	1,254	191	32	0	324

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



Liquidity risk and interest rate exposure

The following table details the contractual maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities. The maturity analysis section includes interest and principal cash flows. The interest rate exposure section analyses only the carrying amounts of each item.

Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities

Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Interest rate exposure				Maturity dates					
	Carrying Amount \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Variable interest rate \$'000	Non-interest bearing \$'000	Nominal Amount \$'000	Up to 1 month \$'000	1-3 months to 1 year \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2012										
<i>Financial Assets</i>										
Cash and cash equivalents	14,029	0	14,029	0	14,029	14,029	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	96,388	0	96,388	0	96,388	96,388	0	0	0	0
Receivables (a)	22,926	0	0	22,926	22,926	22,926	0	0	0	0
Amounts receivable for services	98,636	0	0	98,636	98,636	0	1,000	8,062	56,924	32,650
	231,979	0	110,417	121,562	231,979	133,343	1,000	8,062	56,924	32,650
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>										
Payables	15,013	0	0	15,013	15,013	15,013	0	0	0	0
	15,013	0	0	15,013	15,013	15,013	0	0	0	0

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



Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities

	Weighted Average Interest Rate %	Interest rate exposure				Maturity dates					
		Carrying Amount \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Variable interest rate \$'000	Non-interest bearing \$'000	Nominal Amount \$'000	Up to 1 month \$'000	1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2011											
<i>Financial Assets</i>											
Cash and cash equivalents	5.0	6,605	0	6,605	0	6,605	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	5.0	81,873	0	81,873	0	81,873	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables (a)		19,884	0	0	19,884	19,884	0	0	0	0	0
Amounts receivable for services		91,732	0	0	91,732	0	0	13,569	56,432	21,731	
		200,094	0	88,478	111,616	200,094	0	13,569	56,432	21,731	
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>											
Payables		16,410	0	0	16,410	16,410	0	0	0	0	0
		16,410	0	0	16,410	16,410	0	0	0	0	0

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



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.

	Carrying amount \$000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$000	Equity \$000	Surplus \$000	Equity \$000
2012					
<i>Financial Assets</i>					
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	96,388	(964)	(964)	964	964
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(964)	(964)	964	964

	Carrying amount \$000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$000	Equity \$000	Surplus \$000	Equity \$000
2011					
<i>Financial Assets</i>					
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	81,873	(819)	(819)	819	819
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(819)	(819)	819	819

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.

35. 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, fall within the following bands are:

\$	2012	2011
	Number	
150,001 – 160,000	0	1
170,001 – 180,000	2	3
180,001 – 190,000	3	3
190,001 – 200,000	1	2
200,001 – 210,000	3	1
220,001 – 230,000	1	0
260,001 – 270,000	0	2
270,001 – 280,000	2	0
430,001 – 440,000	0	1
450,001 – 460,000	1	0

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Total remuneration of senior officers	2,935	2,802

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by DEC in respect of senior officers.

No senior officers are members of the Pension Scheme.

36. Remuneration of Auditor

Remuneration paid or 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	162	149
	162	149

37. Related bodies

DEC had no related bodies during the financial year.

38. Affiliated bodies

The following are government affiliated bodies that received administrative support from DEC, but are not subject to operational control by DEC.

Appeals Convenor	731	799
Cockburn Sound Management Council	306	322
Conservation Commission	1,080	840
Marine Parks and Reserves Authority	176	191
	2,293	2,152

39. 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 start of period	1,242	1,260
Receipts	113	514
Payments	(582)	(532)
Balance at end of period	773	1,242



	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
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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 Account is used to fund nominated programs and other waste management initiatives approved by the Minister for the Environment on the advice of the Waste Authority of Western Australia.

Balance at start of period	15,212	14,269
Receipts	12,176	11,944
Payments	(8,896)	(11,001)
Balance at end of period	18,492	15,212

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 start of period	4,666	5,702
Receipts	492	476
Payments	(706)	(1,512)
Balance at end of period	4,452	4,666

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 start of period	10,757	8,274
Receipts	2,694	2,502
Payments	(260)	(19)
Balance at end of period	13,191	10,757

National Parks Essential Works Account

The purpose of the trust account is to hold net proceeds in respect of forest produce taken or received under section 99A of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and from which moneys shall be applied only for the purposes of land to which Division 2 of VIII of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* applies.

There were no transactions through the account for the reporting period.



2012 **2011**
\$'000 **\$'000**

40. Supplementary financial information

(a) Write-offs

During the financial year \$20,318.71 was written off as bad debts, \$11,566.67 for inventories and \$35,363.87 of DEC's asset and public property register under the authority of:

The Accountable Authority	67	110
The Minister	0	0
Executive Council	0	0
	67	110

Of the \$67,249.25 approved for write off during the year \$29,781.61 relates to losses through theft, defaults and other causes disclosed at note 39(b) below.

(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

Losses of public money and, public and other property through theft or default.	30	26
Amounts recovered	0	0
	30	26

41. Indian Ocean Territories

This specific purpose Commonwealth account is for the provision of services relating to conservation biodiversity, management of natural resources and promotion of environmentally sustainable practices, prevention of pollution and remediation of contamination, maintaining community involvement and support and ancillary services for Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Balance at start of period	193	98
Receipts	318	242
Payments	(123)	(147)
Balance at end of period	388	193



42. Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service

	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	Total	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
	Nature Conservation		Sustainable Forest Management		Parks and Visitor Services		Environmental Regulation		Environmental Sustainability		Coordinate the Response to Climate Change					
COST OF SERVICES																
<i>Expenses</i>																
Transfer payments	74	87	0	0	0	0	20	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	128
Total administered expenses	74	87	0	0	0	0	20	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	128
<i>Income</i>																
For transfer:																
Regularly fees and charges	33	42	0	0	0	0	20	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	83
Other revenue	41	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	45
Total administered income	74	87	0	0	0	0	20	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	128

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 2012.



Keiran McNamara
Accountable Authority

20 September 2012



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

Developing and implementing 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 or representative ecosystems; and encouraging public awareness, understanding and support for nature conservation.

Service 2 Sustainable Forest Management

Providing 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

Managing 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 bureaux and commercial tour operators; involving Aboriginal 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 of Western Australia and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.



Outcome 3

Emissions and discharges meet acceptable criteria.

Service 4 Environmental Regulation

Regulation of emissions and discharges to the environment and the transport of hazardous wastes. Regulation of the investigation, classification and management of contaminated sites. Monitoring of ambient air quality and developing air quality management plans for priority airsheds (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

Developing and implementing policies and strategies that promote environmentally sustainable practices in industry, government and the community.

Service 6 Coordinate the Response to Climate Change

Providing 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	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Total number of listed threatened taxa and ecological communities				
Target	727	703	711	739
Actual	701	703	711	739

Note to indicator: Twenty four species of fauna and seven species of flora were added to the list of threatened species, and three species of flora were deleted, following an assessment of their conservation status.

Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with improved conservation status

Target	1	0	3	0
Actual	1	4	3	4

Note to indicator: One species of fauna and one species of flora were regraded, and two species of flora delisted, due to further survey identifying further populations demonstrating the species were less threatened.

Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with declining conservation status

Target	5	2	2	3
Actual	0	2	2	2

Note to indicator: Monitoring has indicated that two species of flora have declined in conservation status due to the effects of continuing threats.

Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan

Target	60.0%	62.2%	70.0%	70.0%
Actual	59.0%	66.0%	67.2%	69.0%

Note to indicator: Proportion of recovery plans will vary as the number of taxa and communities change.

Proportion of terrestrial sub-bioregions with greater than 15% reservation

Target	24.1%	20.4%	20.4%	20.4%
Actual	20.4%	20.4%	22.2%	22.2%

Note to indicator: Miscellaneous reserves created in the Ord River area included.

Proportion of marine bioregions with marine conservation reserves

Target	42.1%	42.1%	47.3%	63.2%
Actual	42.1%	42.1%	42.1%	47.4%

Note to indicator: The proposed Eighty Mile Beach and Roebuck Bay Marine Parks were not gazetted during the year.



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

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

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	75%	75%	78%	81%
Actual	78%	80%	73%	75%

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	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%
Actual	88.1%	87.2%	86.8%	88.8%

Park visitation (annual number of visits)

Target	12,300,000	13,340,000	15,422,000	16,085,146
Actual	13,835,443	14,619,171	15,418,169	15,649,385

Annual percentage change in park visitation

Target	0.4%	2.7%	4.3%	4.3%
Actual	11.4%	5.7%	5.5%	1.5%

Note to indicator: The actual park visitation and annual percentage change in park visitation have been restated for 2008–09, 2009–10 and 2010–11, previous reported actuals are identified below. The change is due to the live database system (VISTAT) visitation estimates being updated as errors were identified and improvements/corrections were made to data for earlier reporting periods.

Park visitation (annual number of visits)

Actual	14,179,806	14,614,117	15,751,653
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Annual percentage change in park visitation

Actual	12.9%	3.1%	7.8%
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Outcome: Emissions and discharges meet acceptable criteria

Number of exceedences of approved environment criteria by regulated activities

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

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	50	60	50	38
Actual	37	30	33	37

Note to indicator: There has been an increase in the number of licences and the level of departmental compliance activity, increasing the potential for non-compliance to be detected. However, the variation between years is not significant and industry continues to improve its environmental performance.

Number of air National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) exceedences 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 airsheds. Monitoring of air quality against criteria pollutants enables: assessment of compliance with NEPM standards and goals set to protect human health, evaluation of the effectiveness of long term air quality management strategies and tools, and evaluation of the effectiveness of industry emission controls and management strategies.

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	11	20	24	35
Actual	25	25	14	32

Note to indicator: The variation between years is dominated by the impact of meteorological conditions and forest fires. The number of Ambient Air NEPM exceedences in 2011–12 resulted from a high number of bushfires in the 2011–12 fire season in the south-west of the state. Twenty nine exceedences occurred between November 2011 and March 2012, including 14 exceedences from a single bushfire incident in February 2012.



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

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Percentage of waste in the metropolitan area diverted from landfill through recycling				
Target	25%	40%	45%	45%
Actual	31%	34%	41%	36%

Note to indicator: 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. The 2010–11 result was partially influenced by the post global financial crisis processing of stockpiled paper and cardboard that is exported for re-processing.

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

Target	100%	100%	100%	100%
Actual	75%	80%	63%	100%

Note to indicator: It is a characteristic of the LEED Fund that milestones may be rescheduled based on project experience. Rescheduled milestones must be requested in writing by proponents and approved by the Director General of DEC.



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	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	\$3.44	\$3.68	\$4.76	\$5.25
Actual	\$4.30	\$4.35	\$4.36	\$4.45

Note to indicator: The creation of two marine parks during the year significantly increased the area of wildlife habitat being managed, which reduced the anticipated cost benefit of a significant rise in the departmental expenditure on nature conservation delivery.

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	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	\$30.13	\$34.03	\$37.21	\$38.55
Actual	\$41.33	\$35.73	\$37.41	\$41.26

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	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	\$5.34	\$5.57	\$4.72	\$4.83
Actual	\$5.36	\$5.40	\$5.66	\$6.33

Note to indicator: The actual cost per visit for 2008-09 and 2010-11 have been restated, previously \$5.23 and \$5.54 respectively. Refer to page 114, park visitation for restatement reason.



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 airsheds. Monitoring of air quality against criteria pollutants enables assessment of compliance with NEPM standards and goals set to protect human health, evaluation of the effectiveness of long-term air quality management strategies and tools, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of industry emission controls and management strategies.

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	\$454,875	\$383,167	\$363,288	\$478,338
Actual	\$468,375	\$418,500	\$441,585	\$510,504

Note to indicator: Campaign air quality monitoring increases the average cost per air monitoring station. In 2011–12, significant campaign monitoring was performed. The overall number of air quality monitoring stations remained the same.

Average cost per industry licence

DEC 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	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	\$16,977	\$16,208	\$15,691	\$23,971
Actual	\$21,686	\$23,638	\$26,657	\$27,040

Note to indicator: Over the past four years there has been a 300 per cent increase in the number of works approvals issued by DEC associated with the mining activities of resource industries, this contributes to the average cost per licence. In addition, there has been an approximate 15 per cent increase in staff salaries during this period.

Average cost per contaminated site assessment

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

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	\$6,667	\$14,574	\$9,002	\$5,051
Actual	\$7,190	\$6,011	\$8,297	\$6,797

Note to indicator: The number of contaminated site assessments carried out each year varies according to the complexity of the contamination issues, with more complex sites taking longer to assess.



Average cost of remediating state sites

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

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	\$2,989,600	\$795,417	\$1,063,728	\$496,035
Actual	\$1,436,000	\$626,000	\$164,182	\$705,891

Note to indicator: The 2011–12 target assumed that six sites would receive funding from the Contaminated Sites Management Account (CSMA). Although funding from the CSMA was approved for nine state sites in 2011–12, funding transfer was only completed for one site by 30 June 2012, delaying the progression of remediation works. Funding for the remaining eight sites will be transferred early in 2012–13.

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	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	17.1%	5.0%	6.0%	6.0%
Actual	8.1%	6.1%	6.0%	8.0%

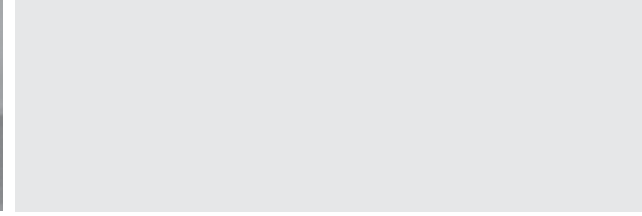
Note to indicator: A determination under Section 79 (3A) of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* was made by the Minister that an amount of \$10.5 million from the forecast levy amount of \$42 million for 2011–12 would be credited to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account in 2011–12. In 2010–11 the revenue allocation was \$11 million. The increase in the indicator is due to higher administration costs.

Service 6: Coordinate the response to climate change

Cost of administering Low Emissions Energy Development Fund as a percentage of total funds

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
Target	0.30%	0.41%	0.48%	0.52%
Actual	0.25%	0.49%	0.52%	0.58%

Note to indicator: The variation between target and actual for 2011–12 is small, and includes the additional costs of technical due diligence review, a second meeting of Independent Expert Advisory Group members in 2011–12 and a small cost increase for the probity auditor.



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 and charges are determined in accordance with guidelines on *Costing and Pricing Government Services*, published by the Department of Treasury. Fees are appropriately set and reasonably relate to the cost of providing the goods or services. Fees are reviewed annually.

Capital works: incomplete and completed

The department's planned capital works program of \$35.119 million for 2011–12 provided funds for buildings, tourism roads and park facilities, plant and equipment, conservation estate land purchase and firefighting fleet replacement. New funding for Kimberley tourism initiatives, additional firefighting capacity, establishment of marine parks and the *Pathways Regional Parks* program is included in the planned capital works program.

Summary of major capital works 2011–12

DETAILS OF MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

	Expected Year of Completion	Estimated Expenditure Remaining \$'000	Estimated Total Project Cost \$'000
WORKS IN PROGRESS			
Great Western Woodlands	2012–13	500	800
Pathways Regional Parks	2012–13	926	1,000
Camden Sound and Eighty Mile Beach marine parks	2013–14	1,040	1,040
Conservation parks infrastructure and roads	2013–14	15,203	20,000
Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy tourism initiatives	2013–14	3,080	3,115
RECURRING CAPITAL PROGRAMS			
	Expected Year of Completion	2011–12 Expenditure \$'000	
Conservation land acquisition	Ongoing	3,442	
Firefighting fleet and equipment	Ongoing	4,335	
Plant and equipment purchase and replacement	Ongoing	4,203	
Tourism road improvements	Ongoing	1,180	
Parks improvement program	Ongoing	8,536	



Employment and industrial relations

Staff profile

	2011–12	2010–11
Full-time permanent	1,335	1,327
Full-time contract	310	317
Part-time measured on a FTE basis	268	260
On secondment	11	6
Total	1,924	1,910

Industrial relations

The People Services Branch provides strategic industrial relations advice, manages employee relations issues and represents the department in industrial relations tribunals. The focus for 2011–12 was to finalise three new fire agreements with the respective unions and to continue to educate staff on the terms of the award and agreements and the responsibilities of being a public service officer.

Workforce services

Following the introduction of new legislative instruments regulating public sector employment, the focus has been to implement the changes and amendment of relevant internal policies and procedures.

DEC continued to make use of new technology to assist in the recruitment and selection of staff and to ensure the department's Human Resources Information Management System was successfully implemented.

About 2,500 employees are paid each fortnight, this includes DEC employees and employees from agencies to which DEC provides human resource services. During 2011–12, there was a significant increase in the number of fire overtime claims processed due to the number of fires DEC had attended. A new electronic form for processing fire overtime was developed and a sheet of frequently asked questions prepared to provide more information about issues such as leave, allowances and payroll timelines.

Workforce planning and performance

DEC's *Workforce Plan 2011–14* and *Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2011–14* were completed and endorsed. These plans set the agenda for meeting current and future workforce needs. They outline strategies to attract, retain and engage appropriately skilled staff, and ongoing development and motivational opportunities for organisational development.

Staff development

During 2011–12, a range of corporate training programs were provided to staff across the state. The programs were developed using the findings of an agency-wide training needs analysis conducted in 2010. An online self-paced training package is being developed for regional staff.

DEC's management and leadership strategy has been implemented, with 21 participants completing the *Executive Leadership* program and 20 staff members participating in the *Frontline Management* program. DEC offers a three-day *Effective Supervision Skills* course for new supervisors. Thirty participants successfully undertook the *Leadership Journey for Women* program designed to encourage and support women in management roles. To complete the management and leadership strategy, an *Aspiring Leaders* program is being developed for middle managers.



Nineteen employees were awarded scholarships for further tertiary studies or development opportunities in 2012. Scholarships are awarded under the categories of women, leadership, science and career development.

In 2012, one staff member was awarded financial assistance under the *Interstate-International Learning and Development* program to visit national park facilities in the United States.

DEC sponsored one Aboriginal student in tertiary studies, and work experience placements with DEC during university breaks have been arranged. Aboriginal cadetships are funded in partnership with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations as part of a federal government initiative to improve the professional employment prospects of Aboriginal people.

In January 2012, eight external and three internal graduates started a 12-month *Graduate Development* program with DEC. The Certificate IV in Government qualification forms the basis for this program, which was developed in response to a comprehensive review undertaken in 2010.

There were 4,700 enrolments for a range of internal and external programs across the state. DEC is a registered training organisation and in 2011, 421 Statements of Attainment and 97 qualifications were awarded. In addition, more than 90 staff graduated from a range of accredited qualifications in Conservation and Land Management, Frontline Management, and Government (Statutory Compliance and Investigations).

The number of trainees enrolled in the *Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES)* program has increased to more than 30. The MATES program has a strong focus on joint management agreements, with many current trainees participating as part of wider joint management agreements between DEC and Aboriginal Corporations and community groups.

Risk management

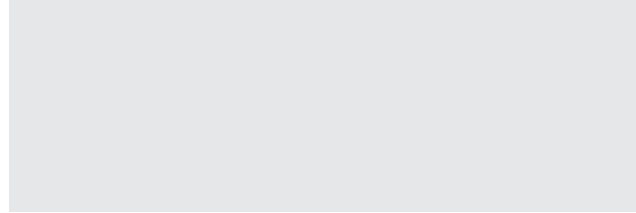
The department is committed to preventing work-related injury and illness as well as creating a working environment that maximises the effectiveness of every employee. People Services Branch staff are responsible for developing and implementing risk management policies and procedures in regard to occupational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

In 2011–12, a *Work Health and Safety Management Plan* was developed and will be applied across all work areas to ensure that safety and health are encapsulated in work processes, practices and procedures, and that identified risks and hazards are controlled in a strategic and uniform way.

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 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, there is a return on investment in implementing an effective workers' compensation and injury management system and related procedures to minimise premium and associated costs.

In 2011–12, DEC's workers' compensation contribution was \$1,054,038 compared with \$913,861 for the previous year. The number of lost time injuries in 2011–12 was 26 (down from 31 in 2010–11), with 68 medical treatment injuries (down from 76 in 2010–11).



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 has documented the following expenditure in advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising.

Total expenditure for 2011–12 was \$614,098.26.

Advertising agencies

Adcorp	\$544,439.76
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Direct mail organisations

Market research organisations

Patterson Market Research	\$19,118.00
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Media advertising organisations	\$50,540.50
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Andimaps	\$828.00
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Australia's Golden Outback	\$1,995.00
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Australia's South West Inc	\$11,082.00
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Blue Sky Media	\$544.50
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Cape Capers WA	\$570.00
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Chamber of Commerce and Industry	\$880.00
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Cooks Tours Pty Ltd	\$2,800.00
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Countrywide Publications	\$2,700.00
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Denmark Bulletin and Media Services	\$1,024.20
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Executive Media	\$2,945.00
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Department of Finance – Office of Shared Services	\$3,608.80
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Eyezon Pty Ltd	\$7,272.25
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Lizart Production	\$735.00
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Marsh Agencies Pty Ltd	\$594.00
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Northcliffe Tourist Centre Inc	\$660.00
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Scoop Publishing	\$8,283.00
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Sunday Times	\$990.00
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Touring Australia	\$750.00
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Walpole Community Resource Telecentre	\$1,455.75
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Watershed News	\$24.00
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Western 4W Driver	\$699.00
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Yanchep and Two Rocks Tourism	\$100.00
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Polling organisations	Nil
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Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes (*Disability Services Act 1993, s29*)

DEC is committed to ongoing improvements in making the department an accessible and inclusive environment for its staff and the public it serves, and continues to be a leading proponent of universal access, which is based on the principles of equal opportunity and equity, and access and inclusion.

DEC's policy is to ensure that everyone in the community can access, use, and enjoy Western Australia's natural areas and the associated facilities, services and programs provided by the department.

The department adopted its first *Disability Services Plan* in 1995 to address barriers encountered by people with disabilities wanting to access the department's services and facilities.

A review of the department's current *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2007–2012* has shown that strategies were successful in achieving improvements in access and inclusion. A notable achievement was that a significant number of recreation and tourist sites across the state now have facilities such as parking areas, toilets and walkways that are wheelchair-accessible. The plan is monitored by the Disability Access and Inclusion Committee, which meets quarterly and includes members from various divisions and three Corporate Executive representatives.

A new plan was drafted by the committee with the key focus on ensuring that DEC continues to provide a high standard of access and inclusion by meeting changing needs and providing appropriate staff and volunteer training.

As the major provider of outdoor recreation locations 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 (Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services)*.

There were a number of noteworthy access improvement works in progress or completed by the department during 2011–12.

- An accessible toilet has been built at Sugarloaf Rock, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, and plans are nearing completion for the construction of paths to link it to the new parking area, the Cape to Cape Track and a lookout.
- In the Kimberley, a boardwalk with interpretation is being built in Mirima National Park and planning has started for the construction of accessible toilets at the remote locations of Munurru, on the King Edward River near Kalumburu, and the intersection of the Gibb River and Kalumburu roads.
- An accessible toilet at Geikie Gorge National Park has been completed.
- In the Perth Hills District, work is almost complete on an interpretation shelter in Fred Jacoby Park in Beelu National Park and accessible paths providing access to existing infrastructure in the park. A new picnic area has been completed at Langford Park near Jarrahdale, providing better and more accessible facilities.
- The new campground at Baden Powell in Lane Poole Reserve near Dwellingup is almost complete and will have universal access to camp sites and facilities such as camp kitchens and toilets.
- On the South Coast, work continues on the first stage of improvements to recreation sites in the Fitzgerald River National Park. Five recreation sites are almost complete and include parking, picnic facilities, interpretation and public artwork, lookouts and campgrounds. All the sites will provide better access for people with disabilities.
- At Hangover Bay in Nambung National Park in the Midwest, work is almost complete on the redevelopment of visitor facilities, including toilets, shade shelters, lookouts and paths.
- In the Pilbara, an accessible toilet, walking trail and picnic area access were completed at Deep Reach in Millstream Chichester National Park.
- In Karijini National Park, a new day-use area and lookout at Hamersley Gorge is under construction and will offer impressive views of the geology of the gorge.



Continued initiatives and achievements from the access plan include:

- promoting the use of the Disability Services Commission's *Creating Accessible Events* checklist, which has been incorporated in DEC's events planning process
- funding of access improvements for employees and volunteers with disability
- selection panel training for staff for interviewing people with disabilities
- meeting contemporary good practice and government guidelines for website accessibility and making documents available in other formats upon request
- affiliation to the Companion Card Program
- disseminating the *Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010* for incorporation in the planning of all premises and building.

Compliance statements

Public Sector Commission reporting under s31 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* for 2011–12.

Compliance issue	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
Public sector standards	
<p>Seven breach claims were lodged in 2011–12. All breach claims were against the <i>Employment Standard</i>. Three of the claims were withdrawn. Four of the claims were referred to the Public Sector Commission (PSC); however, no breach of standard was found by the PSC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department's People Services Branch intranet site has information on the <i>Public Sector Standards</i>, including a hyperlink to the PSC's 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. • <i>Human Resources Awareness Raising</i> refresher sessions continued. • Management Audit has completed the annual internal audit of the department's compliance with the Public Sector Standards and is of the view that, '<i>The department is continuing to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with the Public Sector Standards</i>'. This was an assurance audit compliance with Public Sector Standards in Human Resources Management.
Code of Ethics	
<p>There were no reports of non-compliance with the <i>Code of Ethics</i>.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Code of Ethics</i> is contained within DEC's <i>Code of Conduct</i>. The <i>Code of Conduct</i> was revised and released in April 2011, and includes a hyperlink to the PSC internet site for the Public Sector of Western Australia and its <i>Code of Ethics</i>.
Department's Code of Conduct	
<p>Eight allegations carried over from 2010–11 were finalised in 2011–12. Eighteen allegations of breaches of the <i>Code of Conduct</i> were raised in 2011–12. Seven of the 18 allegations raised in 2011–12 were finalised in 2011–12. Eleven alleged breaches have been carried over to 2012–13.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department continues to hold <i>Conflict of Interest</i>, <i>Code of Conduct</i>, <i>Accountable and Ethical Decision Making</i> and <i>Public Interest Disclosure</i> awareness briefings for all staff.



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 Services Branch within the Corporate Services Division.

The department's recordkeeping plan specifies recordkeeping practices and ensures compliance with regulatory obligations. DEC's recordkeeping plan was approved by the State Records Commission in 2008. It was reviewed in 2009 to include the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority and is due for review in 2013.

In accordance with State Records Commission Standard 2, Principle 6, the department's induction programs address employee roles and responsibilities in regard to their compliance with the organisation's recordkeeping plan. It is mandatory for all DEC staff to complete the online Records Awareness Training course. Through this, all staff members are made aware that business records must be captured into *InfOBase*, the corporate recordkeeping system.

A presentation on recordkeeping is included in the *Welcome to DEC* program and recordkeeping roles and responsibilities are also included in the department's *Code of Conduct* and ethical and accountable decision-making training.

Recordkeeping policy and documents and the department's recordkeeping manual are reviewed regularly, and posted on the intranet.



GOVERNMENT POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Substantive equality

The department implements the state government's *Policy Framework for Substantive Equality* primarily through management planning processes associated with the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

Management plans cover a 10-year period over specific conservation 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. Public participation in management planning is achieved through public and peak stakeholder meetings, formal advisory committees and community advisory committees, newsletters and broad public invitations to comment on draft plans.

DEC's longstanding practice of involving Aboriginal groups as both stakeholders and partners in the management of conservation lands and waters was reinforced during the year after some sections of the *Conservation Legislation Amendment Act 2011* came into effect on 14 March 2012, providing a mechanism for joint management of lands and waters between DEC and other landowners, or those with a vested or other interest in the land, helping to establish joint management frameworks required for the state government to meet its legal obligations under the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement, the Ord Final Indigenous Land Use Agreement and the Yawuru Agreements. Other sections of the Act, due to come into effect later in 2012, will enable Aboriginal people to carry out traditional activities on DEC-managed lands and waters.

The department further ensures that:

- Cross-cultural training is routinely provided to DEC staff and updated regularly, and Aboriginal culture and multicultural values are promoted within the department by using Aboriginal names for parks, locations, meeting rooms and other installations.
- *Welcome to Country* is routinely part of DEC events and gatherings.
- Public participation facilitators are trained to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of age, gender, religion, cultural background and disability.

The department also seeks information on the cultural background of visitors to parks and recreation areas it manages to assist it in its efforts to provide for diverse needs and interests.

Occupational safety, health and injury management

DEC is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and hygienic working environment for its employees. Managing occupational safety and health (OSH) presents significant benefits for both employees and employers in seeking to achieve an incident or hazard-free working environment in a department that has many high-risk activities, some of which include inspection of contaminated sites and coordination of pollution incident responses. The department also has responsibilities for fire management, including bushfire suppression, and pest animal and weed control.

The objective is not only to prevent work-related injury and illness but also create a working environment that enhances the effectiveness of each employee. To achieve this, every member of the organisation needs to be actively involved.

In particular:

- the Director General, the Corporate Executive and all departmental managers accept responsibility for implementing DEC's OSH policy and monitoring its implementation through compliance with legislation, guidelines, codes of practice and industry standards
- managers and employees recognise that the achievement of high OSH standards forms an integral component of DEC's core values, and sound work and business practice.

Consultation with employees

The department places a strong emphasis on consulting with employees in safety and health matters. The department's OSH policy formalises the consultation process in conjunction with:

- health and safety representatives in each work centre
- active OSH committees
- management-appointed OSH team leaders in each work centre
- the establishment of a corporate OSH steering committee.

DEC has 67 OSH team leaders across the state who are recognised as the contact for OSH issues and initiatives. They are closely supported by elected health and safety representatives and active OSH committees in each centre. The minutes of regional and district safety meetings are required to be provided to the Director of Regional Services.

Injury management

The department recognises the importance of injured employees returning to work as soon as medically possible and approved.

Efficient and effective management of claims is assisted by:

- early intervention and consultation with medical practitioners
- early development of appropriate return-to-work (RTW) programs
- regular consultation with all parties, including medical practitioners, on all RTW programs
- monitoring a recovering employee's condition and adjusting of their RTW program if necessary
- the appointment of external injury management providers, as and when required
- close liaison with any externally appointed injury management provider
- ongoing, timely and rigorous case management
- training OSH team leaders in the principles and practices of injury management and RTW programs.

DEC's practices and procedures with respect of injury management comply with the requirements of the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*. All RTW programs comply with the *Workers' Compensation Code of Practice (Injury Management) 2005*.

Assessment of the OSH management system

An external audit concluded that the overall management system appeared robust and to facilitate compliance with the requirements of the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*. Recommendations arising out of the audit included the development of an online training course, a review of the OSH management system, and a review of the department's existing OSH policy. These recommendations have been implemented.

The department has also conducted an assessment of its OSH management system, the findings of which focus on ongoing improvement.

Other initiatives in work health and safety

In January 2012, the department introduced a *Work Health and Safety Management Plan* as an integral component of the overall OSH management system. The plan will be applied across all work areas through a consultative process to ensure that safety and health are encapsulated in work processes, practices and procedures, and that identified risks and hazards are controlled and mitigated in a strategic and uniform manner.

The plan supports the ongoing improvement of safety and health performance as part of a best-practice approach to OSH management.



An online OSH training program for managers and supervisors was also introduced. This training will raise the level of awareness and understanding in OSH. The program meets the requirements of the *Code of Practice: Occupational Safety and Health in the Western Australian Public Sector*.

The department strongly supports the state government's 'One Life' *Suicide Prevention Strategy* and is introducing it in the workplace. This includes publicising the strategy and training key officers in mental health, well-being and suicide prevention.

Prevention of injury and illness

The department recognises the value of a healthy and fit workforce.

The department's corporate health officers provide a program to increase the physical fitness of employees to match the mental and physical demands of their work, and to promote positive attitudes, behaviour and self-responsibility regarding a healthy lifestyle by offering:

- a health and fitness policy
- DEC's *Alivewire* website resource
- one-on-one confidential health consultations
- health and fitness information
- health-related workshops
- health and fitness testing
- stress management workshops.

As part of the *Corporate Health Program*, Wellness Advocates in work centres foster the well-being of individuals and positive team dynamics through initiatives that aim to reduce absenteeism and increase productivity.

Occupational safety and health performance indicators

Indicator*	Actual results		Results against target	
	2008-09	2011-12	Target	Target achieved
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	Yes
Lost time injury/disease incident rate	1.54	1.33	0 or 10% reduction	Yes
Lost time injury/disease severity rate	3.33	3.85	0 or 10% reduction	No
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:			Greater than or equal to:	
i) within 13 weeks	Not required to be reported	92%	80%	Yes
ii) within 26 weeks	100%	97%	80%	Yes
Percentage of managers trained in OSH and injury management responsibilities	>50%	>80%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Yes

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

