

# Department of Parks and Wildlife 2013–14 Annual Report



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife



## Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch of the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

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### About the logo

The design is a stylised representation of a bottlebrush, or *Callistemon*, a group of native plants including some found only in Western Australia. The orange colour also references the WA Christmas tree, or *Nuytsia*.

WA's native flora supports our diverse fauna, is central to Aboriginal people's idea of country, and attracts visitors from around the world. The leaves have been exaggerated slightly to suggest a boomerang and ocean waves. The blue background also refers to our marine parks and wildlife. The design therefore symbolises key activities of the new Department of Parks and Wildlife.

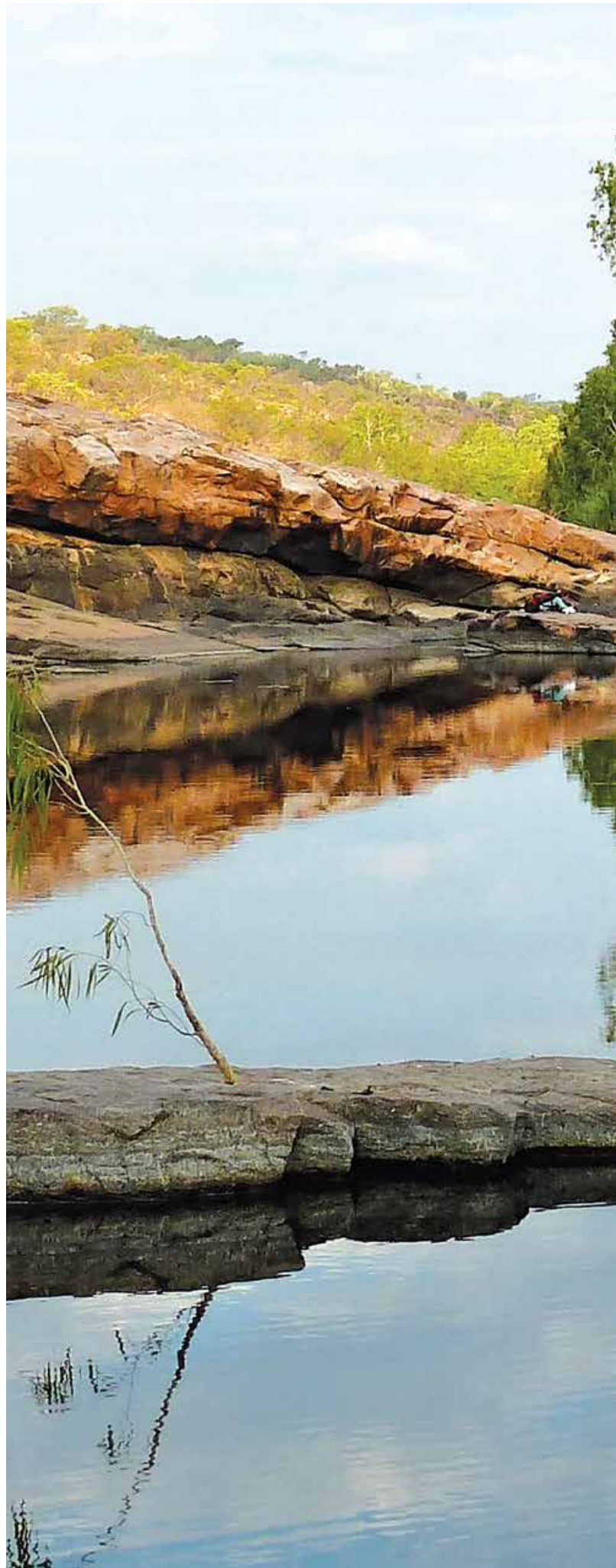
The logo was designed by the Department's senior graphic designer and production coordinator, Natalie Curtis.

**Front cover:** Wildlife officer Emma Lipianin with Mundaring Primary School students, learning about a woma python at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre, Beelu National Park. *Photo – Karla Graham /Parks and Wildlife*

**Back cover:** Mundaring Primary School students exploring the Bibbulmun Track. *Photo – Jennifer Eliot*



Department of  
**Parks and Wildlife**





# Department of Parks and Wildlife 2013–14 Annual Report

Bell Gorge, King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park.  
*Photo – Colin Ingram/Parks and Wildlife*



Stirling Range National Park. Photo – Michael Tuffin/Parks and Wildlife

# Letter to the Minister

**Hon Albert Jacob 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 Parks and Wildlife for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

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



**Jim Sharp**

Director General

Department of Parks and Wildlife



# Director General's foreword



This is the first annual report delivered by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, which was created on 1 July 2013.

A priority for the Department in its first year of operations was the development of its *Strategic Directions* document, which outlines the focus of our investment and resources into programs that result in tangible improvements to wildlife conservation, recreation and tourism facilities and landscape scale management outcomes.

Within the framework of three services – Parks Management, Wildlife Management and Forest Management – the Department successfully worked in partnership with the community, making significant progress in conserving Western Australia's unique plants and animals, and its world-class network of terrestrial and marine parks and reserves.

We saw the delivery of important outcomes including the implementation of the *Parks for People* initiative, the continuation of the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy* and the release of the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* among many other key achievements. One of these was the completion of the \$40 million, five-year improvement project for Fitzgerald River National Park, the biggest infrastructure project ever undertaken by the agency.

We made progress in our aim to establish about 450 new camp and caravan sites over the next four years, along with new and improved visitor facilities and services under the *Parks for People* initiative, rapidly progressed, with nine popular campgrounds upgraded in national parks and reserves throughout the State. These included Leeuwin-Naturaliste, D'Entrecasteaux, Millstream-Chichester, François Péron, Cape Range, Cape Le Grand and Shannon national parks and Lane Poole Reserve, among others.

Similarly, the implementation of the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy* continued, creating important conservation reserves and opportunities for sustainable nature-based tourism and Aboriginal employment in the Kimberley region. A number of milestones were reached under the strategy's *Landscape Conservation Initiative* in the areas of feral animal control, prescribed burning, biodiversity surveys and joint management agreements with traditional owners.

There were further achievements under the Department's flagship wildlife recovery program *Western Shield*, with more than 100 animal translocations carried out throughout the State since the project began in 1996, as a result of predator baiting on 3.9 million hectares. In June 2014, we carried out the largest



Mt Trafalgar, in Prince Regent National Park, overlooks Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park. *Photo – Ian Radford/Parks and Wildlife*

## In partnership with the community, significant progress was made in conserving Western Australia's unique plants and animals, and its world-class network of terrestrial and marine parks and reserves.

translocation of woylies ever undertaken in the State, and feral cat control progressed with trials being undertaken at Cape Arid and Fitzgerald River national parks as part of an integrated native animal recovery project.

Active fire management continued to be central to Parks and Wildlife operations. Additional dedicated fire management staff were employed, with a focus on targeted developmental positions, and the upgrade of infrastructure was ongoing to ensure the viability of assets such as bridges, which are vital in gaining access to bushfires. The Department continues to partner with land owners and local government agencies in implementing its prescribed burning program and in working with the community to ensure bushfire preparedness.

The 2013–14 agenda was demanding and challenging but goals were met due to the professionalism and commitment of staff members. As an agency we

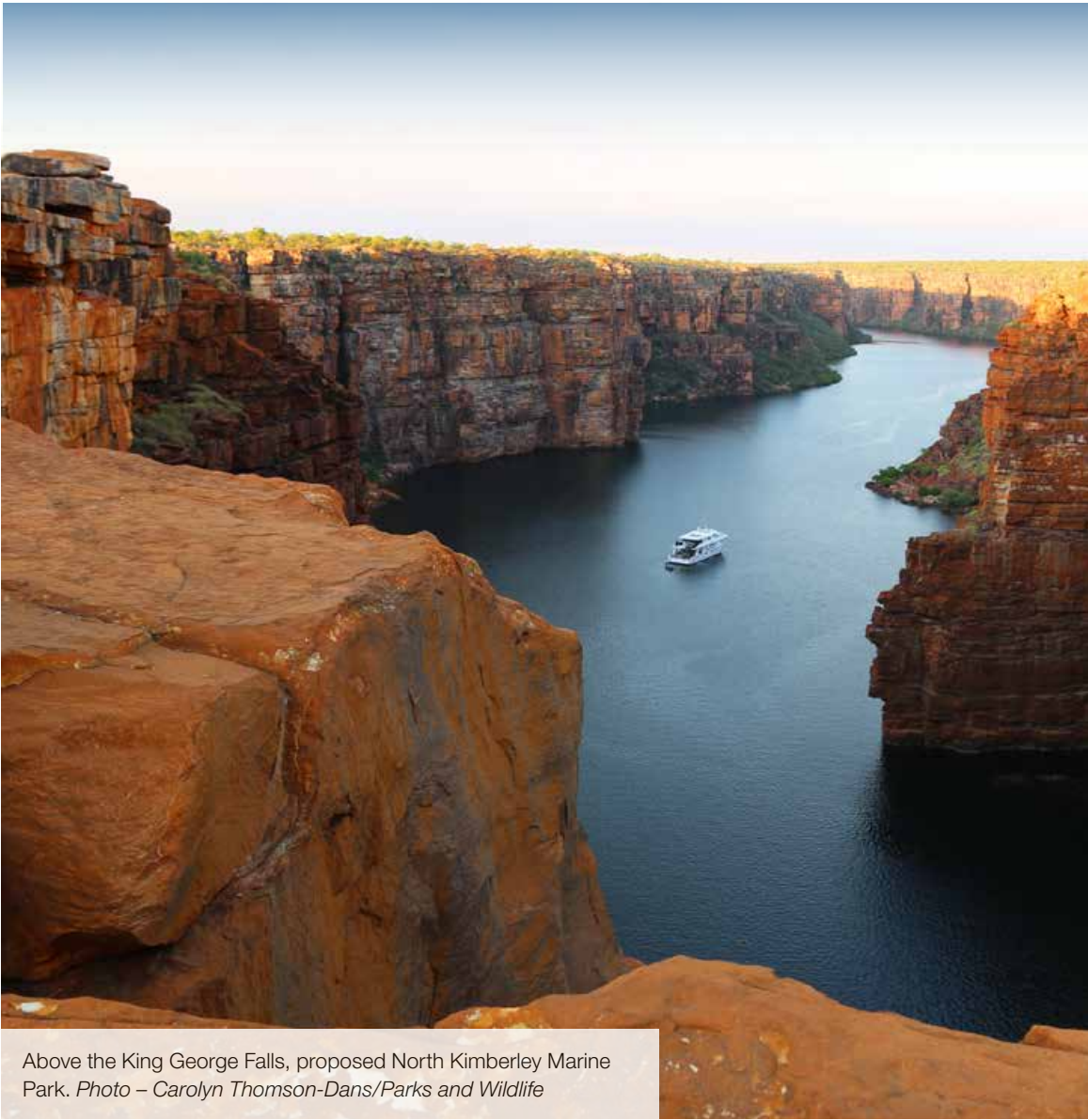
manage 100 national parks, 13 marine parks and numerous other conservation reserves that receive more than 16 million visits a year, with visitor satisfaction at a high level of 89 per cent.

The Department mourned the loss of colleague and long-serving staff member Ian 'Jock' Marshall, who tragically died in a vehicle rollover east of Manjimup on 10 June 2014. Jock had worked for the Department and its predecessors for 46 years.

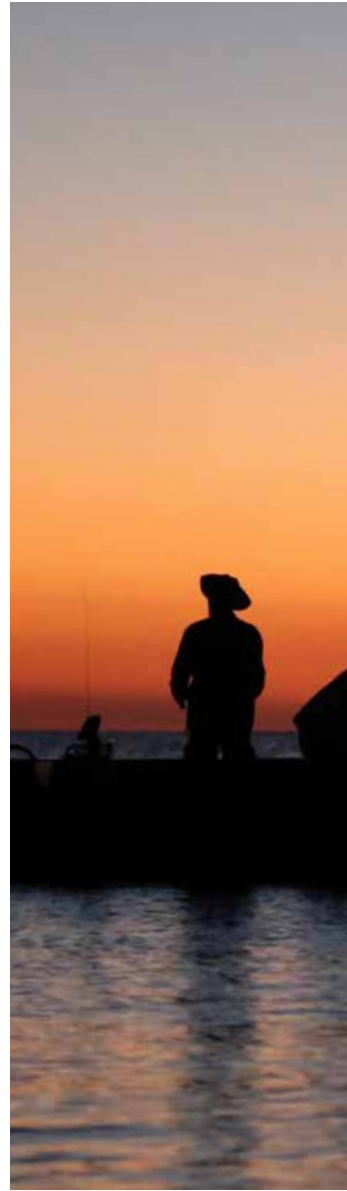
I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff members for the work they do and their input into defining the agency's strategic directions. I would also like to acknowledge the significant contribution made to conservation in the State by members of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.

My thanks also go to the agency's almost 11,000 registered volunteers and the many community based organisations that partner with Parks and Wildlife in a range of projects across the State. Without this cooperation and assistance, the agency could not have achieved what it has done in the past year. I look forward to this continued support in 2014–15 so we can surpass the benchmarks we set in our first year of operation.

**Jim Sharp**  
**Director General**  
September 2014



Above the King George Falls, proposed North Kimberley Marine Park. Photo – Carolyn Thomson-Dans/Parks and Wildlife



Yanchep National Park. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Honey possum. Photo – L Bell/Parks and Wildlife



# Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	Inside cover	
<b>Letter to the Minister</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>Director General's foreword</b>	<b>4</b>	
Overview of Agency	8	
<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>9</b>	
Operational structure	14	
Responsible Minister	14	
Legislation administered by the Department at 30 June 2014	14	
Changes made in 2013–14 to legislation administered	14	
Notices, orders and approvals	14	
Performance management framework	15	
Parks and Wildlife organisational chart	16	
Changes from the 2012–13 reporting year	17	
Shared responsibilities with other agencies	17	
Agency performance	18	
<b>Report on operations</b>	<b>19</b>	
Service 1: Parks Management	19	
Service 2: Wildlife Management	28	
Service 3: Forest Management	39	
Supporting our department	44	
<b>Public Information and Corporate Affairs</b>	<b>45</b>	
<b>Legal matters</b>	<b>46</b>	
<b>Regional and Fire Management Services</b>	<b>47</b>	
<b>Corporate Services Division</b>	<b>51</b>	
<b>Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters</b>	<b>53</b>	
Map of lands and waters	57	
Significant issues and trends	58	
Disclosures and legal compliance	60	
<b>Certification</b>	<b>61</b>	
<b>Auditor General's opinion</b>	<b>62</b>	
<b>Financial statements</b>	<b>65</b>	
<b>Certification</b>	<b>112</b>	
<b>Key performance indicators</b>	<b>113</b>	
<b>Ministerial directives</b>	<b>118</b>	
<b>Other financial disclosures</b>	<b>119</b>	
Pricing policies	119	
Capital works: incomplete and completed	119	
Employment and industrial relations	119	
<b>Governance disclosures</b>	<b>122</b>	
Enabling legislation	122	
Contracts with senior officers	122	
Board and committee remuneration	122	
<b>Other legal requirements</b>	<b>123</b>	
Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail	123	
Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes	124	
Compliance statements	125	
<b>Government policy requirements</b>	<b>126</b>	
Substantive equality	126	
Occupational safety, health and injury management	126	



Fishing will remain an important recreational activity in the proposed North Kimberley Marine Park.  
Photo – Carolyn Thomson-Dans /Parks and Wildlife



Pink summer calytrix. Photo – Kevin Thiele/Parks and Wildlife

# Overview of agency



Christmas tree worms in the proposed Kimberley Marine Park.  
*Photo – John Huismann/Parks and Wildlife*



# Executive summary

## The Department of Parks and Wildlife was created on 1 July 2013.

The new Department provided an opportunity to bring a new focus to nature conservation and the promotion of WA's parks across the State in line with the government goal of social and environmental responsibility through ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State.

The Department's priorities in the first year of operations were to:

- implement government policies and commitments including plans for new terrestrial and marine parks and development of a modern Biodiversity Conservation Act to strengthen conservation of Western Australia's world-renowned plants and animals
- review priorities and programs to identify management successes and those that needed refocussing
- set new directions to ensure staff and resources were focused on delivering high value outcomes
- improve business practices to create a vibrant, energetic and respected modern department, positively engaged with and responsive to stakeholders.

Parks and Wildlife pursues its goal of delivering tangible on-ground outcomes through five key areas. There were a number of significant initiatives, challenges and highlights in each of these areas for 2013–14.

### Parks

*Parks for People* was a major initiative launched during the year. The \$21.05 million four-year initiative, part funded through *Royalties for Regions*, was developed as part of the government's *Western Australian Caravan and Camping Action Plan 2013–18* and about 450 new camp and caravan sites will be established. Eight new campgrounds will be developed and at least nine existing campgrounds will be upgraded, as will other visitor facilities.

The opening of upgraded facilities in Fitzgerald River National Park in June 2014 marked the completion of a five-year, \$40 million project to improve roads, campgrounds, and picnic sites and to develop new walking trails. The project was initiated to boost tourism to the south coast and is an excellent example of work undertaken by the Department to manage parks both for community enjoyment and conservation. The 300,000ha park contains about 20 per cent of the State's described plant species and the improvements provide practical and environmentally sensitive infrastructure so people can visit and enjoy the park while protecting the natural environment. As part of efforts to make it possible for people with disabilities to visit the park, wheelchair access has been provided to facilities at a number of sites.

# Executive summary

The safety of visitors is a priority for the Department and the statewide *Visitor Risk Program* continued to ensure risk assessments of sites are undertaken regularly. Work started on developing a new hazard sign manual to ensure hazard signs used by the Department are in line with latest Australian Standards and industry best practice. Rock fishing remained a particular concern and during the year six rock anchor points, two angel rings (life buoys) and new signs were installed at Salmon Holes in Torndirrup National Park.

Work continued on establishing the Kimberley wilderness parks, which will be the State's largest interconnected system of marine and national parks covering more than five million hectares. The State Government committed an additional \$18.5 million for the establishment of the proposed Kimberley National Park as well as marine and national parks at Horizontal Falls and the extension of the North Kimberley Marine Park to the WA/Northern Territory border.

Parks and Wildlife continued to make progress toward increasing the involvement of Aboriginal people in the management of parks and reserves.

This is being achieved through a variety of initiatives, including formal joint management arrangements, engagement with local Aboriginal communities and corporations, employment and training opportunities and fee-for-service arrangements.

During 2013–14, an indigenous land use agreement was signed with the Nyangumarta people to enable the creation and joint management of Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park and Walyarta and Kujungurru Warrarn conservation reserves, and the first joint management agreement for a marine park in the State was signed with the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation for the Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park.

## Wildlife

Developing new biodiversity conservation legislation is a priority for the Department and work was undertaken during 2013–14 in preparation for the formal drafting of a proposed Biodiversity Conservation Act. This included consultation across government on the content of the proposed Act and its interaction with other legislation and programs.



Trekking the Bibbulmun Track, Mandalay Beach, D'entrecasteaux National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

# 100

national parks

# 13

marine parks

# 16M

visits to lands and waters managed by the Department

# 10,910

volunteers registered with the Department

# 89%

visitor satisfaction

# \$21.05M

invested via *Parks for People* to improve and expand camping opportunities

The landmark *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy* continued to be implemented. During 2013–14, the performance report of the first two years of implementation of the *Landscape Conservation Initiative* was published. This collaborative initiative is the largest conservation project ever undertaken in WA and aims to protect biodiversity values across property boundaries. The report shows that work undertaken to manage fire, pest animals and weeds is producing measurable improvements, with increases in the number and distribution of key threatened mammals to parts of the Mitchell Plateau.

Work continued on the *Operation Rangelands Restoration* project at Lorna Glen, with populations of species reintroduced from Barrow Island steadily increasing in number. Preparation continued for the reintroduction of native species to Dirk Hartog Island National Park in an ambitious project that aims to restore the island to its former state. Invasive plant species and pest animals are being progressively removed.

Across the State, broadscale fox baiting for native animal conservation continued under the *Western Shield* program with almost four million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest

baited. Experimental cat baiting is showing very promising results. Work also continued to reduce the threat of *Phytophthora* dieback and to manage environmental weeds, with science and conservation programs working together to ensure conservation management is based on best practice science.

To assist in this, research and survey work continued. In particular, floristic and vegetation surveys of the Fortescue Marsh started, with 65 permanent plots established and sampled and at least one species new to science being documented.

Efforts to protect our internationally significant threatened plant species included 16 translocations of 11 threatened flora species to improve their conservation status in the wild. In addition, 49 established translocation sites for 32 flora species and subspecies were monitored and maintained.

## Fire

The Department manages lands under its care to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage, and also uses planned fire to achieve land, forest and wildlife management objectives.

During 2013–14, Departmental staff attended and monitored 607 bushfires that burnt about 2,209,619ha. The most serious bushfire managed by Parks and Wildlife occurred north of Denmark. Significant assistance was also provided to local government authorities and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. There was also a major fire at Karijini National Park where key infrastructure was under threat.

The Department's prescribed burning program in the south-west forest regions continued to be affected by a combination of unsuitable weather conditions, fuels remaining dry due to summer conditions extending into autumn, and the introduction of new and enhanced requirements in prescribed burn planning and risk management. These conditions contributed to a reduction of the area able to be prescribed burnt this year when compared to the long term average. The indicative burn target for 2013–14 in the south-west forest regions was 200,000ha and the Department achieved 78,234ha. A further 3,392,050ha was burnt in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast regions.



Dingo. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Triggerplant. Photo – Greg Keighery /Parks and Wildlife



Parks and Wildlife employee and Wunambal Gaambera Traditional Owner Gregory Goonack conducts burning on the Mitchell Plateau. Photo – Parks and Wildlife

# Executive summary



Prescribed burn, John Forrest National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas /Parks and Wildlife

In the Kimberley, the Department works closely with up to 90 traditional owners and Indigenous rangers from four Native Title claim groups, the Kimberley Land Council and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to undertake prescribed early dry season burning. Better management of fire, through the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy's Landscape Conservation Initiative*, has more than halved the amount of country burnt by destructive late dry season bushfires from 36 per cent to 17 per cent and improved habitat for wildlife, such as threatened small mammals and finches, that are susceptible to the catastrophic effects of late dry season bushfires.

During 2013–14, further work was undertaken to improve risk management and prescribed burn planning and to fully satisfy the recommendations arising from the Report of the Special Inquiry into the Margaret River Bushfire of November 2011. The Department continued to work with the Office of Bushfire Risk Management in the pursuit of continual improvement.

There was also a special focus on training following the work previously done to comply with the WorkSafe Improvement Notices arising from the events of the Black Cat Creek bushfire in October 2012. A new annual mandatory pre-season training package for staff filling operational and non-operational roles was developed and introduced. A total of 960 Parks and Wildlife, Department of Environment Regulation and Forest Products Commission staff members attended training that included the use of two-way radios, storage and use of fire blankets and burn-over drills.



Prescribed burn, John Forrest National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas /Parks and Wildlife

## Managed use

One of the key roles of the Department is ecologically sustainable forest management. This means providing economic, social and cultural benefits from State forest and timber reserves while, at the same time, conserving biodiversity, maintaining soil and water values, and sustaining the health, vitality and productive capacity of the forest for current and future generations.

During 2013–14, the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* was finalised and released by the Minister for Environment on 6 December 2013 and it came into effect on 1 January 2014. The plan is the key policy framework for protecting and managing the State's forests in the south-west.

Work undertaken in managing forests includes acquiring and analysing wood inventory data, to assist in planning, managing and monitoring wood production in State forest and timber reserves. During 2013–14, the jarrah forest inventory was updated and a review of historical forest growth data was completed and used to develop projections of future timber yields under a drying climate.

Other work includes mapping vegetation and monitoring the yields and silvicultural standards realised in timber harvest operations as well as monitoring areas subject to timber harvesting and associated treatments. During 2013–14, 91 disturbance operations, covering 8,120ha of State forest and timber reserves, were evaluated and monitored for compliance, with the environmental outcomes sought in the approved Forest Management Plan.

Also under the Forest Management Plan, the development of guidelines and policies continued and included the updating of the silviculture guidelines for karri, jarrah and wandoo forest and approval of the regulation of the forests products industry policy.

In the area of tourism and recreation the Department aimed to provide increased opportunities for people to safely enjoy a range of activities. In Ningaloo Marine Park, 10 kayak moorings were installed in four sanctuary zones to facilitate day-use activities such as kayaking and snorkelling.

The Department also continued to work with a range of stakeholders on the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Bididi Trail as well as a number of recreation initiatives including the *WA State Mountain Bike Strategy*, a horse trail strategy, the development of an umbrella outdoor recreation strategy and in providing for the needs of four-wheel drive enthusiasts and trailbike riders.

During the year the *Naturebank* program continued to foster the development of ecotourism in the State. In January 2014, Wharncliffe Mill Bush Retreat in Bramley National Park was officially opened. Progress was made on three more sites, with final assessments being undertaken for the proposed *Naturebank*

sites in Millstream Chichester National Park and Lane Poole Reserve and a site prospectus being developed by Tourism WA for the proposed site at Ngamoowalem Conservation Park.

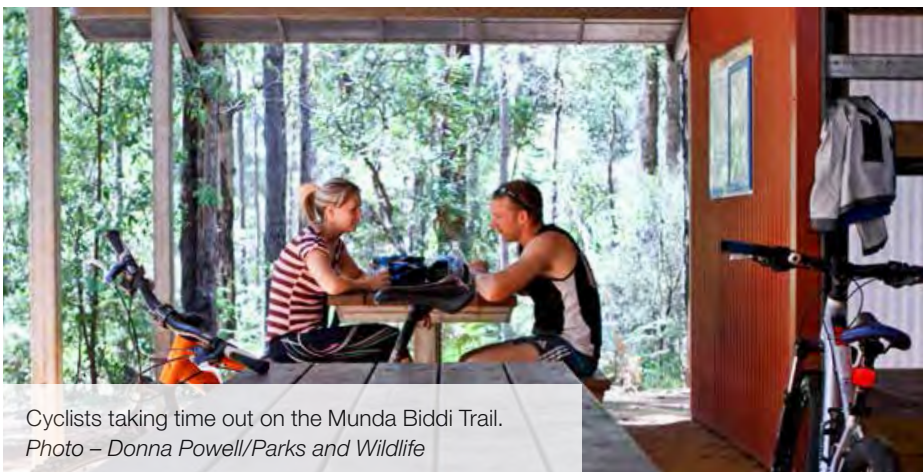
## People

The Department aims to inspire, engage, collaborate and work with people individually, in communities and in organisations. We seek to inspire and motivate our staff and the people it works with by setting clear goals and expectations and creating a culture that values discovery, innovation, creative achievement, responsibility and accountability.

Training is a key element in developing and motivating staff and during 2013–14 Parks and Wildlife received 480 enrolments for a range of nationally recognised qualifications including certificates in Conservation and Land Management, Visitor Risk Management and Bushfire Awareness. The Department also offered 25 corporate programs, with 418 people enrolled in training that covered a range of subjects including project management and career development. The Department also provided well-being support through its *Peer Support Program* and access to a fulltime chaplain, and continued to raise awareness of the importance of physical fitness.

Volunteers make a significant contribution to the State through their involvement with Parks and Wildlife projects. At 30 June 2014, 10,910 volunteers were registered with the Department, 4,345 of whom contributed more than 506,285 hours in a wide range of activities including staffing the Wildcare Helpline, collecting seeds, clearing weeds, taking part in native animal surveys and trail maintenance.

Working with Aboriginal people continued to be a priority for the Department to ensure connection to country, heritage protection and customary use. As well as promoting joint management, the Department introduced a new cultural awareness training program during 2013–14. The one-day program focussed on Aboriginal culture and the Department's operations including partnerships and engagement, amendments to legislation and shared values.



Cyclists taking time out on the Munda Bididi Trail.  
Photo – Donna Powell/Parks and Wildlife



Lauren Brown and Lesley Moore measuring animals during a biodiversity survey in the Kimberley.  
Photo – Parks and Wildlife.

# Operational structure

The Department of Parks and Wildlife is responsible for protecting and conserving the State's natural environment on behalf of the people of Western Australia.

This includes conserving biodiversity and managing the State's national parks, marine parks and other reserves, which cover more than 28 million hectares. WA has 100 national parks and 13 marine parks with a diverse array of landscapes and seascapes, from coral reefs and tall forests to deep gorges and open plains of wildflowers. Parks and Wildlife also manages two of the world's greatest long distance trails: the 1,000km Bibbulmun Track for walkers, and the 1,000km Munda Biddi Trail for cyclists.

The Department is also responsible for fire preparedness and pest animal and weed control on more than 89 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves.

It employs more than 1,500 people, many with world-class skills in areas including park management, scientific research, policy development, land and marine management and visitor services.

## Responsible Minister

The Department of Parks and Wildlife reported to the Minister for Environment, Hon Albert Jacob MLA for the entire reporting period. The Minister and Department exercised authority under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act), the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (WC Act), the *Sandalwood Act 1929* and the other legislation administered by the Department.

## Legislation administered by the Department at 30 June 2014

### Acts

- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *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

- Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002
- Forest Management Regulations 1993
- Sandalwood Regulations 1993
- Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970
- Wildlife Conservation (Reptiles and Amphibians) Regulations 2002

## Changes made in 2013–14 to legislation administered

On 27 September 2013, the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No. 3) 2013 were gazetted revising parking fees, park entry fees and camping fees prescribed in Schedule 1 of the regulations.

## Notices, orders and approvals

During the 2013–14 reporting year, the following management plans were approved by the Minister for Environment under section 60 of the CALM Act:

- *Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park Management Plan*, gazetted on 5 November 2013.
- *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*, gazetted on 6 December 2013.

On 25 October 2013, the CALM Act Change of Name Notice was gazetted, changing the name of Camden Sound Marine Park to Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park.

On 19 November 2013, the Conservation and Land Management (Excision from Timber Reserve) Order (No. 1) 2013 excised an area of about 0.9ha from Timber Reserve No. 159/25 in the Shire of Manjimup under section 17 of the CALM Act to rationalise management of Appadene Road.

On 24 January 2014, the Conservation and Land Management (Revocation of State Forest) Order (No. 1) 2013 excised four areas from State forest under section 9 of the CALM Act. These areas include:

- 9.3ha from State Forest No. 7 in the Shire of Mundaring to rationalise tenure of Mundaring Water Treatment Plant;
- 1.8ha from State Forest No. 14 in the Shire of Murray to allow for the dedication of Holmes Road;
- 3.5ha from State Forest No. 20 in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes to facilitate the widening of South Western Highway; and
- 18.3ha from State Forest No. 56 in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River to facilitate the widening of Bussell Highway.

On 28 February 2014, the Conservation and Land Management (Revocation of State Forest) Order (No. 1) 2013 corrected an error in the order published on 24 January 2014.



On 12 November 2013, the Public Firewood Areas Order (No. 2) 2013 was gazetted, which set aside a specified area in the Kennedy and Pindalup State forest blocks in the Perth Hills District where members of the public who hold a firewood permit may collect firewood for domestic use.

On 13 May 2014, the Public Firewood Areas Order 2014 was gazetted, which set aside an area in Chandler forest block in the Perth Hills District as a further public firewood collection area.

The Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2013, gazetted on 17 September 2013, lists taxa of flora that are declared to be rare flora under section 23F of the WC Act and in need of special protection. Declared rare flora is considered likely to become extinct or rare, or presumed to be extinct in the wild.

The Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2013, gazetted on 17 September 2013, lists taxa of fauna that are rare or likely to become extinct, taxa that are presumed to be extinct, birds that are subject to an agreement between the Government of Australia and the governments of Japan, China and the Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds, and taxa otherwise needing special protection, which are declared by the notice to be fauna in need of special protection.

The Wildlife Conservation (Reptiles and Amphibians) (Pet Herpetofauna) Notice, gazetted on 3 September 2013, added five new species to the list of herpetofauna that may be kept in captivity as pets, namely water python (*Liasis mackloti/Liasis fuscus*), rough-scaled python (*Morelia carinata*), northwest carpet python (*Morelia spilota variegata*), pygmy python (*Antaresia perthensis*) and brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*).

## Performance management framework

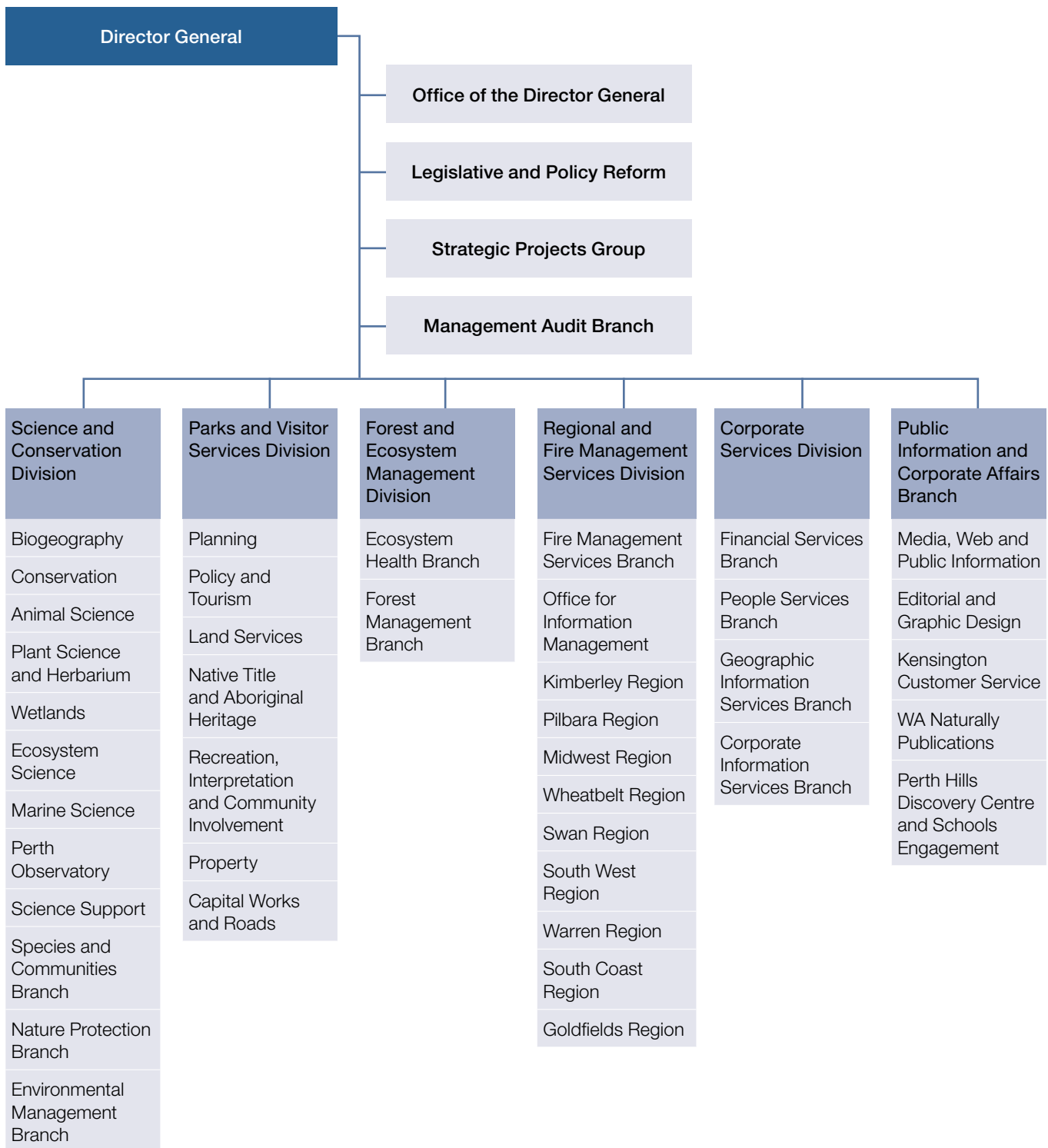
Parks and Wildlife supports government goals with more specific desired outcomes, achieved via delivery across three services.

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

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services and performance indicators
Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the state	<b>Outcome 1</b> Community enjoyment of park facilities and services, wildlife and the natural environment displayed in parks	<b>Service 1: Parks Management</b> <b>Key effectiveness indicators</b> Outcome 1 KPI 1. Average level of visitor satisfaction with their visit <b>Key efficiency indicator</b> Average cost per hectare of managing parks
Social and environmental responsibility	<b>Outcome 2</b> Conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity	<b>Service 2: Wildlife Management</b> <b>Key effectiveness indicators</b> Outcome 2 KPI 1. Total number of listed threatened taxa and ecological communities KPI 2. Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with improved conservation status KPI 3. Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with declining conservation status KPI 4. Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan KPI 5. Proportion of terrestrial sub-bioregions with a greater than 15% reservation KPI 6. Proportion of marine bioregions with marine conservation reserves <b>Key efficiency indicator</b> Average cost per hectare of managing wildlife habitat <b>Service 3: Forest Management</b> <b>Key effectiveness indicators</b> Outcome 2 KPI 7. Cumulative removal of Jarrah sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan KPI 8. Cumulative removal of Karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan <b>Key efficiency indicators</b> Average cost per hectare of managing forest

# Operational structure

Parks and Wildlife organisational chart



Correct at 30 June 2014

## Changes from the 2012–13 reporting year

The former Department of Environment and Conservation was separated on 1 July 2013 into the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Environment Regulation. Following the separation the Department of Parks and Wildlife renamed its services and reordered its service presentation, and at the same time made changes to effectiveness and efficiency indicators in the Parks Management and Forest Management services.

## Shared responsibilities with other agencies

During the year, Parks and Wildlife contributed to whole-of-government reform initiatives including implementation of efficiency and other targeted savings. The Department also contributed to the following key cross-agency initiatives.

Initiative	Contributing agencies	Result for 2013–14
Responding to climate change	Department of Environment Regulation, Department of Planning, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Transport, Department of Treasury, Public Utilities Office, Parks and Wildlife	Whole-of-government integrated response to climate change
Salinity	Department of Agriculture and Food (lead agency), Parks and Wildlife	Continuing amelioration of the impacts of salinity



Flatback turtle. Photo – Ali McCathy /Parks and Wildlife



Rainbow bee-eater. Photo – L-A Shibish

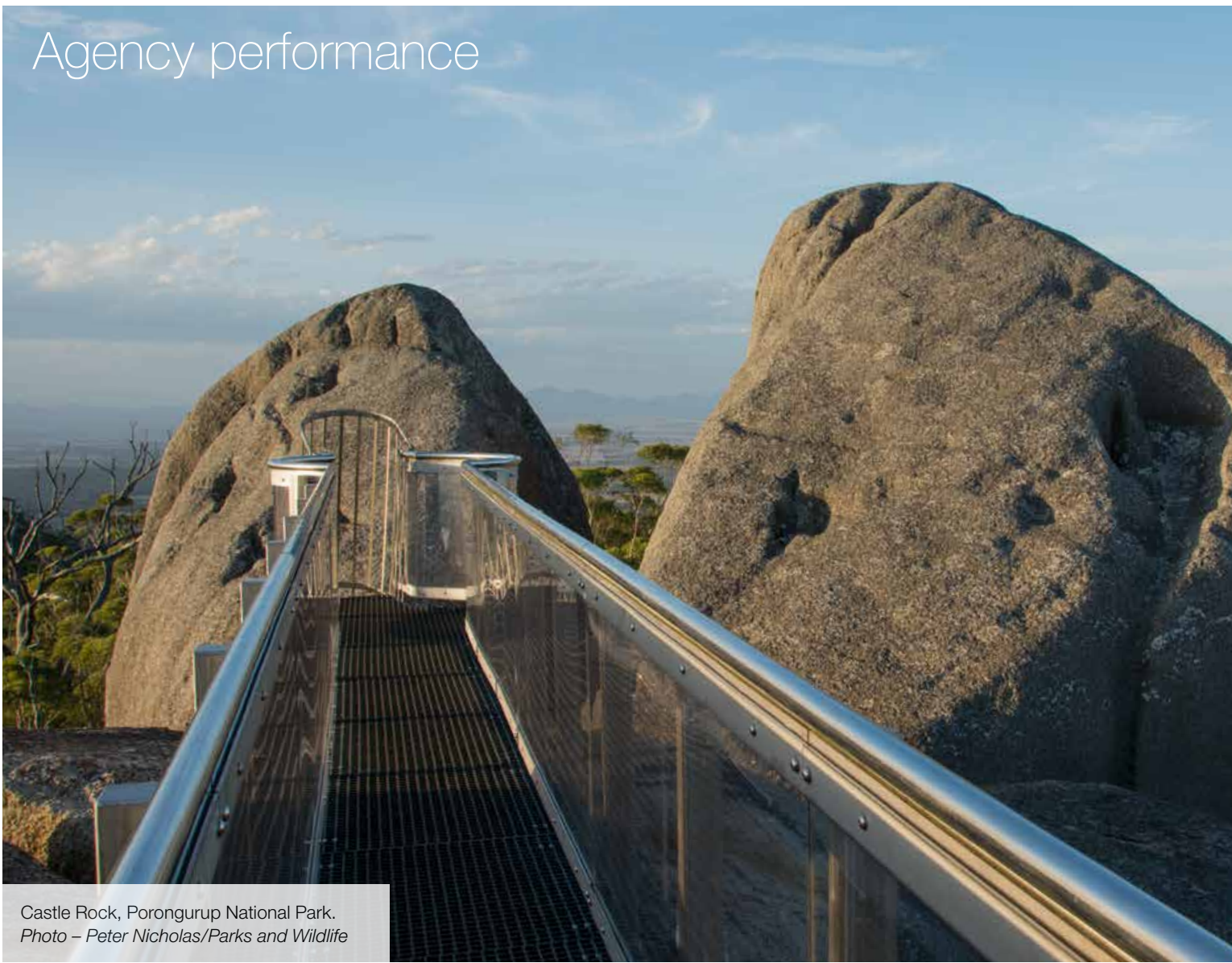


Mitchell's hopping mouse, Fitzgerald River National Park. Photo – Alan Burbridge/Parks and Wildlife



Dryandra moth. Photo – Parks and Wildlife

# Agency performance



Castle Rock, Porongurup National Park.  
*Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife*



The Loop day-use area, Kalbarri National Park. *Photo – Parks and Wildlife*



# Report on operations



Mount Frankland National Park.  
Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks  
and Wildlife

## Service 1: Parks Management

This service is responsible for developing a world-class parks system in terms of ecosystem management, visitor facilities and services, community appreciation of the State's natural environment and biodiversity and promoting community support for its conservation.

The desired outcome of this service is strong community awareness and appreciation of wildlife and the natural environment, and visitor enjoyment of park facilities and services. The Parks Management service priorities in 2013–14 to deliver this outcome were:

- continuing to establish a world-class parks system by improving the management of parks and developing a range of recreation opportunities including trails, visitor facilities and campgrounds through capital investments
- expanding the level of Aboriginal engagement and involvement through the use of customary practices and, where resourced, joint management
- continuing to implement the *Parks for People* initiative, which complements the State Government's *Western Australian Caravan and Camping Action Plan 2013–2018* to improve visitor experiences by providing visitor facilities and services including establishing affordable camping and caravan accommodation
- building and strengthening community connections through the continued use of volunteers and by working with recreation and other community user groups

- working with the tourism industry and associations to expand commercial opportunities to deliver high-quality visitor experiences that contribute direct expenditure in regional communities.

The desired outcome is delivered through a number of strategies:

### 1. Plan and advocate for a world-class park system that maintains or enhances WA's natural environment by:

- preparing marine and terrestrial management plans under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act), especially those associated with the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*
- incorporating in management plans the new CALM Act objective to protect and conserve the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons
- undertaking visitor planning in selected areas
- undertaking recreation and interpretation master planning at high priority sites identified for development or improvement
- planning for the establishment of *Naturebank* sites and commercial activity opportunities
- assisting in the preparation of statewide and regional mountain bike trail strategies
- undertaking parks and visitor services strategic planning
- continuing to improve alignment of Parks Management strategic plans with operational plans and works programming.

# Report on operations

## 2. Design and build recreation facilities and services while retaining distinctive social, cultural, physical and natural attributes by:

- preparing designs and specifications for recreation sites and facilities
- renovating and redeveloping existing recreation sites and park facilities
- completing infrastructure projects already started
- investing in key visitor sites that have potential to capture revenue to assist with conservation and park management
- offering a spectrum of high-quality visitor experiences
- developing opportunities to provide a range of trails for kayaking, walking, mountain biking, four-wheel driving, trail biking, snorkelling and scuba diving
- developing and improving the spectrum of camping experiences and capacity in parks
- investing in roads used to access parks with a focus on protecting high value road assets
- developing and implementing a bridge replacement program.

## 3. Manage parks, recreation areas, facilities and services to a high quality in order to protect the environment and provide quality visitor experiences by:

- managing leases and licences
- undertaking visitor risk management assessment and protection works (for more details see page 50)
- developing emergency response plans
- maintaining recreation assets with a focus on renovating visitor facilities
- managing and maintaining high value visitor centres
- developing and implementing a road maintenance program for each district
- developing and implementing a bridge maintenance program for the south-west forest regions

- undertaking works to protect recreation assets from bushfires
- undertaking compliance and law enforcement activities as required.

## 4. Enrich visitor experiences by providing opportunities to learn, explore and interact with the natural and cultural environment by:

- providing high-quality information and interpretation for visitors that promote awareness and appreciation of the natural environment
- developing and implementing park sign plans in accordance with approved design guidelines
- developing the Explore Parks WA and Park Stay WA websites
- using social media and applying new technology to enrich the visitor experience.

## 5. Involve Aboriginal people in managing conservation lands in order to protect the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people by:

- promoting the new CALM Act management objective to protect and conserve the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons through training and other opportunities
- developing an Aboriginal cultural planning framework and methodology
- protecting Aboriginal cultural sites when undertaking works
- developing and implementing Aboriginal customary activities policy, protocols and procedures
- developing and implementing joint management arrangements with Aboriginal working parties and other organisations where resourced
- developing local area access arrangements including policy, protocols and procedures
- building and strengthening working relationships with Aboriginal communities, native title representative bodies and Aboriginal working parties

- promoting commercial tourism and event opportunities with Aboriginal people.

## 6. Develop and nurture lifelong connections between the community and parks in order to conserve and protect natural areas by:

- building and strengthening relationships with volunteers
- working with recreation user groups with a focus on mountain bike and off-road vehicle groups
- building and strengthening relationships with partner groups, key stakeholders and State Government agencies
- developing and implementing the *Parks for People* initiative
- promoting parks management objectives and outcomes.

## 7. Provide organisational support to ensure financial, administrative and staff management is appropriate to delivering parks and visitor services by:

- undertaking financial and administrative management as required
- implementing the remote parks housing replacement and renovation program
- exploring opportunities to generate revenue to assist with conservation and park management
- promoting and exploring opportunities for implementation of the Department's Aboriginal employment strategy and Reconciliation Action Plan
- progressing workforce planning in association with Parks and Visitor Services Division strategic planning
- providing opportunities for staff professional development and networking opportunities
- pursuing initiatives that promote staff attraction and retention
- improving technology management and information connectivity.

## Performance summary

	2013–14 Target \$'000	2013–14 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	\$95,342	\$97,808	\$2,466
<b>Key Efficiency Indicator</b>	<b>2013–14 Target</b>	<b>2013–14 Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Average cost per hectare of managing parks	\$3.34	\$3.43	\$0.09

## Key Effectiveness Indicator

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

KPI 1. Average level of visitor satisfaction with their visit.

Target 2013–14: 85 per cent

Actual 2013–14: 89.1 per cent

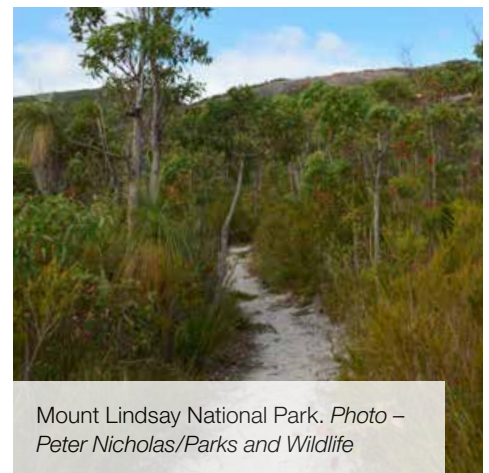
Further details regarding the key efficiency and key effectiveness indicators can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 113 to 117.

## Performance highlights

- During 2013–14, the final management plan was gazetted for Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park. A total of 15 management plans were being prepared including Kalbarri National Park and Swan Coastal Plain South draft management plans, which were released for public comment.
- Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Fisheries completed the *Guidelines for Collaborative Management of Marine Reserves*. The guidelines focus on maximising efficiencies between the agencies in achieving a whole-of-government approach to delivering effective management in the State's marine parks and reserves where there are shared, or there is an overlap in, management responsibilities.
- Through the *Naturebank* program, Wharncliffe Mill Bush Retreat in Bramley National Park was officially opened by the Minister for Environment on 16 January 2014. The final assessments are being completed for the proposed *Naturebank* sites in Millstream Chichester National Park and Lane Poole Reserve, and a site prospectus is being developed by Tourism WA for the proposed site at Ngamooowalem Conservation Park prior to releasing these three sites for private investment.
- The Department continued to work with the Department of Sport and Recreation, Outdoors WA, Nature Play WA, WestCycle and the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association on a number of recreation initiatives, including the *WA State Mountain Bike Strategy*, a horse trail strategy, and the development of an umbrella outdoor recreation strategy for WA.
- The Department continued to work with and support its key stakeholders, including the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, Munda Biddi Trail Foundation, Friends of the Cape to Cape Track, WA Mountain Bike Association, WA 4WD Association, Track Care WA, the Recreational Trailbike Riders' Association of WA and Motorcycling Western Australia.



Marine park patrol in Roebuck Bay. Photo – Darren Stevens /Parks and Wildlife



Mount Lindsay National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife



Mount Frankland National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

# Report on operations

- Parks and Wildlife continued to make progress toward increasing the involvement of Aboriginal people in the management of parks and reserves. This is being achieved through a variety of initiatives, including formal joint management arrangements, engagement with local Aboriginal communities and corporations, employment and training opportunities and fee-for-service arrangements.
- On 19 May 2014, the State Government signed an indigenous land use agreement with the Nyangumarta people to enable the creation and joint management of Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park and Walyarta and Kujunguru Warram conservation reserves.
- On 7 November 2013 Parks and Wildlife signed a joint management agreement for the Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park with the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation. This is the first joint management agreement for a marine park in the State.
- The joint management project with the Wiluna Native Title claimants and the local community continued at Lorna Glen (Matuwa) and Earahedy (Kurrara Kurrara) and included fence maintenance, erosion control, road maintenance and fire management contract work. Additional work was undertaken in the adjacent Birrilburu native title determined area and Indigenous Protected Area.
- The 250m long *Walking with Plants* boardwalk was completed in Mirima National Park. This included interpretive signs in the Miriwoong language with explanations of traditional uses of plants and animals.
- The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee held its inaugural meeting in February 2014. The advisory committee was established to provide advice relating to protection, conservation, presentation and management of the area's properties in accordance with the *World Heritage Convention* and *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.
- Maintenance continued on Parks and Wildlife's 37,000km road network and significant road works were completed at John Forrest, Nambung and Lesueur national parks.
- The \$7.7 million upgrade of Kalbarri National Park, mainly funded under the *Royalties for Regions* infrastructure and roads initiative, was completed and, on 17 April 2014, officially opened by the Minister for Environment.
- The upgrade included sealing 12km of Loop-Z Bend Road and the construction of new visitor facilities at the Loop and West Loop at the Murchison Gorge.
- The Explore Parks WA website was launched in July 2013, making it easier for visitors to find information about places to visit and things to do in parks and reserves across WA.
- The campground booking system was relaunched as Park Stay WA, offering an improved search function and compatibility with tablets and smartphones. During 2013–14, 11,592 camp site bookings were made in Cape Range, Purnululu and Beelu national parks and Lane Poole Reserve.
- Eleven new downloadable *EveryTrail* guides were developed. This takes the total number of guides to 44. The Parks and Wildlife Alerts application was developed providing up-to-date park safety information for visitors and a Parkfinder mobile application is being developed.
- The Trails WA website, a central, searchable portal for information about trails across the State, was launched with the assistance of Parks and Wildlife.



Kalbarri National Park, Minister Albert Jacob with Parks and Wildlife staff. Photo – Sue Handcock/Parks and Wildlife



The Mt Matilda Walk is a 5km return trail in Wongan Hills Nature Reserve. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



## Fitzgerald River National Park

# 300,000ha

managed land within the park

# 1,883

plant species identified  
within the park

# 75

plant species in the park  
found nowhere else in the world

# \$40M

invested in upgrading  
visitor facilities

# 5yrs

conception to completion  
for park improvement project

# 80km

roads upgraded within the park

- The \$1.3 million redevelopment at Martins Tank campground in Yalgorup National Park was completed and opened by the Minister for Environment on 16 January 2014. The redevelopment was mainly funded through the *Royalties for Regions* infrastructure and roads initiative, and included the development of 18 additional camp sites, new toilets, a barbeque shelter, walk trails and interpretation signs.
- The \$1.82 million redevelopment of Hamersley Gorge day-use area in Karijini National Park was completed. The work was funded through *Royalties for Regions* with contributions from Parks and Wildlife and Rio Tinto and included improved road access, new signage, and construction of a shade shelter and toilet.
- The \$40 million Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project was completed and opened by the Premier and the Minister for Environment on 7 June 2014. The upgrades included 40km of sealed road and 40km of gravel road to improve access in the park. Sites that have been redeveloped include the eastern and western entry stations, Four Mile campground, Hamersley Inlet campground, and day-use sites at Four Mile Beach, West Beach, Mylies Beach, Point Ann, Cave Point and Barrens Beach. Two new class 4 walk trails have been developed: the Mamang Trail (31km return) in the west; and the Hakea Trail (46km return) in the east, with an overnight walk trail hut at Whalebone Creek.
- In the Shark Bay area, a new section of boardwalk was completed at Skipjack Point Lookout in François Péron National Park and new stairs were installed at Monkey Mia.
- In Ningaloo Marine Park, 10 kayak moorings were installed in Bundegi, Tantabiddi, Osprey and Maud sanctuary zones to facilitate day-use activities such as kayaking and snorkeling. All sites cater for all levels of kayaking and snorkeling.
- As part of the State Government rock fishing safety initiative and in collaboration with Recfishwest, six anchor points, two angel rings (life buoys) and additional signs were installed at Salmon Holes in Torndirrup National Park.
- Work started on replacing the Jane Brook bridge and the southern bridge on the Railway Heritage Trail in John Forrest National Park.
- In Porongurup National Park, work undertaken as part of the Castle Rock day-use area upgrade included the development of an improved visitor meeting area and interpretation node.
- In conjunction with the Shire of Roebourne, Parks and Wildlife continued to oversee improvements to recreational shacks in the Dampier Archipelago. These included structural improvements to meet Australian standards and waste water treatment system improvements. In addition, work was done to raise environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage awareness in the Dampier Archipelago.
- Under the *Parks for People* initiative, work started on a new campground in Dryandra Woodland that will provide up to 30 camp sites, an access road, toilets and a barbeque shelter.
- In Lane Poole Reserve, redevelopment of the Nanga Brook campground started. This *Parks for People* project will provide 29 sites for caravans and campervans, 12 new tent camp sites, a sealed access road, toilets, paths and picnic tables.

# Report on operations

- Development of a new campground at Logue Brook Dam in Clarke forest block started. Also funded under the *Parks for People* initiative, the project will provide at least 110 new camp sites, toilets, paths and barbeque shelters.
- In Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, expansion of Conto Field campground started. This *Parks for People* project will provide at least 30 new camp sites, toilets and a barbeque shelter and camp shelter.
- Work started on several other campground projects under the *Parks for People* initiative including: establishing a new campground at Potters Gorge in Wellington National Park; upgrading of the Shannon campground in Shannon National Park, and the Black Point and Banksia campgrounds in D'Entrecasteaux National Park; providing new visitor facilities at Baden Powell day-use site in Lane Poole Reserve; and improving visitor facilities at Karara and Credo former pastoral leases.
- In Cape Range National Park, work started on repairing the significant damage caused by severe flooding in April 2014. Assets damaged included the Milyering Discovery Centre, accommodation, roads, campgrounds and other visitor facilities.
- Under the *Caring for our Country*-funded Shark Bay World Heritage Area Communication Strategy several projects were completed including the installation of interpretive and orientation signs and shelters at various sites in Monkey Mia Reserve, the proposed Edel Land National Park and Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve.
- Interactive safe snorkelling videos were developed for visitors to Milyering Discovery Centre and are available in 19 languages and on the internet.
- *Nearer to Nature* school programs continued to be delivered at Wellington Discovery Forest and Wharnccliffe Mill near Margaret River. Sustainable forestry and fire excursions were also conducted at the Dwellingup Forest Heritage Centre and incursions were conducted in schools. A total of 2,481 students participated in 110 excursions and incursions.
- At Yalgorup National Park, Parks and Wildlife introduced QR codes that link to educational videos as part of the visitor interpretation experience.
- In November 2013, the new Whale Shark Management Plan was released. The plan replaced the previous plan and focusses on whale shark interaction in WA, in particular, the activities of whale shark tour operators in Ningaloo Marine Park.
- Work continued on the rehabilitation of land in Beeliar Regional Park and community-based conservation programs associated with the Fiona Stanley Hospital and Health Precinct. Parks and Wildlife now manages the seven rehabilitation sites in the park.
- Working partnerships continued with the Mitsubishi 4WD Club at Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park and with the South West 4WD Club in Wellington National Park. Under Parks and Wildlife's track adoption scheme, the South West 4WD Club is working with park rangers to repair erosion, collect rubbish, and rehabilitate damaged areas along Lennard Track in Wellington National Park.
- Yanchep National Park received a Gold Award in the Tourist Attractions category in the 2013 Perth Airport Western Australian Tourism Awards.



D'Entrecasteaux National Park.  
Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Canoeing the Murray River, Lane Poole Reserve.  
Photo – Rod Annear/Parks and Wildlife

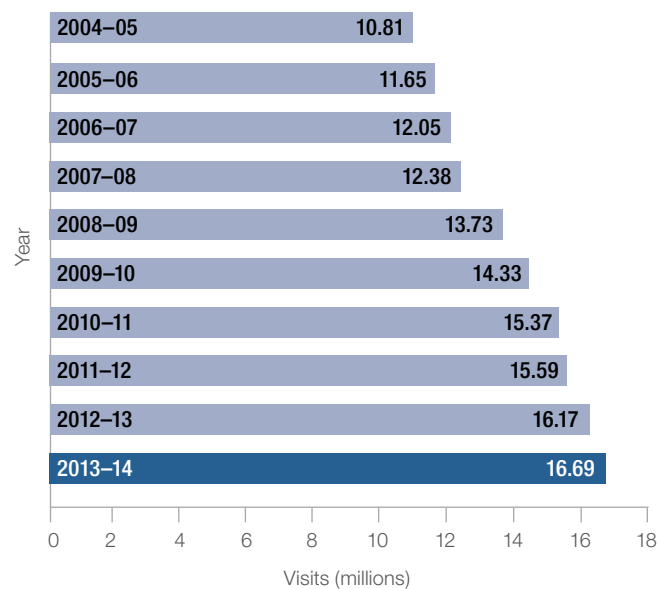
- On 26 March 2014, the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk in Walpole-Nornalup National Park welcomed its three millionth visitor. The popular tourist attraction opened on 6 August 1996.
- At 30 June 2014, the number of Parks and Wildlife-registered volunteers was 10,910, of whom 4,345 contributed more than 506,285 hours to projects across the State. Volunteers took part in a wide range of activities including staffing the Wildcare Helpline, collecting seeds, clearing weeds, taking part in native animal surveys and trail maintenance.
- The 2013–14 visitor satisfaction index, averaged from visitor responses to surveys at selected parks, reserves and forest areas around the State, was 89.1 per cent. This outcome, with results from previous years of the survey program, is illustrated in Figure 1.
- The total number of visits to Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters increased to 16.69 million from 16.17 million last year (Figure 2).

**Figure 1. A comparison of annual visitor satisfaction levels within Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters**



**Figure 2. Total visits to Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters**

**Visits to Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters**



Note: Data in this graph is taken from the Department's VISTAT (Visitor Statistics) database and is a true and correct record of best available data from the VISTAT database at the time of preparing the visitation figure for the annual report. The VISTAT database is the true source of visitation. As the database is a live database, corrections and amendments are made in the database on an ongoing basis so figures presented here may differ from those presented in previous reports.



Nearer to Nature, Sharing the Dreaming.  
Photo – Parks and Wildlife

## New look Fitzgerald River National Park

As one of Australia's largest and most diverse national parks, Fitzgerald River National Park spans nearly 300,000ha on Western Australia's south coast, 420km south-east of Perth. A popular tourist attraction, the world-renowned park boasts scenic landscapes and is a haven for native plants and animals.

More species of native animals are found in the park than in any other reserve in south-western Australia. The park is home to 22 species of mammals, 41 reptiles, 12 frogs and more than 200 bird species, including the rare western ground parrot. It contains about 20 per cent of the State's described plant species, with 75 of the 1,883 plant species identified found nowhere else in the world.

The park features a variety of landforms, from rolling plains to colourful breakaways, and rugged peaks and headlands to stunning bays. Dolphins, seals, humpback whales and southern right whales can also be seen along the spectacular coastline.

### Park gets \$40 million upgrade

A major \$40 million upgrade to enhance visitors' experiences at the park has been completed, with the new-look park facilities re-opening to the public in June 2014. Under the Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project, about \$30 million has been spent on reconstructing and sealing 40km of roads and upgrading a further 40km of gravel roads. For the first time in the park's history, all main recreational sites and campgrounds on the eastern side of the park can now be accessed by a sealed all-weather bitumen arterial road from Hopetoun to Hamersley Inlet.

A further \$10 million was spent on the planning, design and construction of recreation sites at Barrens Beach, Barrens Lookout, Four Mile Beach, East Mt Barren, Point Ann, Hamersley Inlet, Cave Point, West Beach and Mylies Beach. This involved the development of world-class facilities, including lookout platforms, barbecues, picnic tables, shelters, toilets and parking. Two new campgrounds were developed at Four Mile Beach and Hamersley Inlet and provide a range of accommodation options including tent, campervan and caravan sites.

Two new remote walk trails were also developed. The Mamang Trail in the west of the park is a 31km return walk that has outstanding views overlooking the Fitzgerald River mouth and mountain peaks. The Hakea Trail in the east is a rugged 46km return walk along the eastern coastline from Cave Point to Quoin Head and features a new overnight trail hut at Whalebone Creek. Both trails have been built to the highest environmental trail standards and include lookout platforms and benches.

The project was funded jointly by the State and Federal governments, with road works done in partnership with Main Roads WA. It was launched in 2008 as part of the State Government's response to socio-economic issues created by the closure of the BHP Billiton nickel mine in Ravensthorpe. The community was extensively consulted in planning and implementing the project.

### Helping build a prosperous community

The increased access and facilities in Fitzgerald River National Park have made the region a major drawcard for tourists, boosting the local economies of the Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun communities. The project provided bridging employment between the time of the nickel mine closing in 2008 and First Quantum Minerals re-commencing production in 2011. During construction, Parks and Wildlife used the services of 72 small businesses. The upgraded road access to the park and development of new world class facilities has already seen a 25 per cent increase in tourism numbers. This will generate greater opportunities for the development of new tourism operations with direct economic and social flow-on benefits for local communities.

### Managing dieback risk

Fitzgerald River National Park is one of the parks least affected by dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) in south-western Australia. Great care was taken during the road construction to prevent the spread of the disease. The improvement project has included the provision of shoe cleaning stations at each trail head and other key access points. Parks and Wildlife will also continue to manage roads and tracks in targeted areas to minimise the disease risk. Intensive dieback monitoring protocols have been implemented for both the Mamang and Hakea trails.



Royal hakea. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Cave Point lookout.  
Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Mamang Walk Trail.  
Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Quoin Head lookout. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Approaching East Hamersley Beach from Edwards Point. Photo – Parks and Wildlife

# Report on operations



Elephant seal at Sorrento Beach. Photo – Matt Swan/Parks and Wildlife



Carnaby's cockatoo.  
Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Parks and Wildlife botanist Ryonen Butcher. Photo – Peter Nicholas /Parks and Wildlife



Darwinia hortiorum. Photo – Kevin Thiele/Parks and Wildlife

## Service 2: Wildlife Management

This service is responsible for developing and implementing programs to conserve, protect and manage the State's wildlife including plants, animals, genes and ecosystems, based on best practice science.

The desired outcome of the service is the conservation and sustainable use of WA's wildlife. The Wildlife Management service priorities in 2013–14 to deliver this outcome were:

- maintain viable ecological communities and populations of species, especially those that are threatened
- support the sustainable use of native plants and animals
- manage threatening processes, such as pest animals, weeds, plant diseases, bushfires, salinity and altered hydrology
- continue to acquire priority biodiversity knowledge to improve conservation and management of species and ecological communities
- improve information and data management
- promote public and stakeholder awareness, understanding and involvement in wildlife conservation.

The desired outcome is delivered through a number of strategies:

### 1. Developing and implementing legislation, key policies and strategic plans to support wildlife conservation, management and protection, through:

- developing and implementing state legislation and policy, including a new Biodiversity Conservation Act
- participating in developing national policies and procedures
- developing and implementing five-year plans to guide wildlife management in each Parks and Wildlife region.

**2. Establishing and effectively managing the conservation reserve system, including:**

- providing advice to the Minister for Environment, the Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority
- contributing to the development and effective implementation of management plans for terrestrial and marine conservation reserves
- delivering other operational and scientific programs, as required.

**3. Maintaining viable ecological communities and populations of species, especially those that are threatened, while facilitating the sustainable use of natural resources, through:**

- recommending 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* (EPBC Act)
- maintaining a state list of threatened ecological communities, and developing and implementing recovery plans for threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities
- taking a lead role in conserving WA's wetlands, including through the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)
- coordinating responses to whale and dolphin strandings and other incidents of injury or harm to marine wildlife
- managing and regulating commercial activities, including the issuing of licences and enforcing compliance under the WC Act.

**4. Managing system-wide threatening processes by:**

- working in partnership with stakeholders to research and implement management measures to contain and counteract the effects of dieback
- implementing strategies to manage pest animals and environmental weeds
- carrying out targeted fire preparedness and pest animal and weed control on unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves
- addressing impacts of altered hydrology, including salinity, through the management of wetlands in natural diversity recovery catchments.

**5. Continuing to acquire priority biodiversity knowledge to improve wildlife conservation, protection and management, including:**

- implementing science programs that address the gaps in knowledge and reflect the applied nature of advice required to deliver effective conservation, protection and management of plants, animals, ecological communities and conservation reserves
- undertaking terrestrial and marine biological surveys to systematically address gaps in knowledge and increase understanding of biodiversity components and patterns
- managing the Western Australian Herbarium, to improve representation of rare and poorly known taxa and of the conservation estate, and to support taxonomic research
- undertaking research on population genetics, demography, eco-physiology and reproductive biology to improve management and conservation of threatened plants and animals
- undertaking research to support and improve implementation of pest animal and weed management programs.

**6. Improving information and data management for effective wildlife management, including:**

- developing and maintaining information management systems to support effective use of knowledge for implementation of regional and wildlife management plans and programs
- providing core services and information such as identifications, the Census of Western Australian Plants, *FloraBase*, *NatureMap* and other information.

**7. Promoting public and stakeholder awareness and understanding of wildlife conservation issues, and engaging and encouraging people to be involved in conservation, management and protection of wildlife, through:**

- providing biodiversity conservation support and advice for private land owners through a range of programs, including *Land for Wildlife* and the *Nature Conservation Covenant* program
- supporting private landholders on the Swan Coastal Plain by providing 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 advice and support to stakeholders and land managers through the *Urban Nature* program.

# Report on operations

## Performance summary

	2013–14 Target \$'000	2013–14 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	142,175	134,342	(7,833)
<b>Key Efficiency Indicator</b>	<b>2013–14 Target</b>	<b>2013–14 Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Average cost per hectare of managing wildlife habitat	\$4.94	\$4.71	(\$0.23)

## Key Effectiveness Indicators

**Outcome:** Conservation and sustainable use of Western Australia's wildlife.

**KPI 1.** Total number of listed threatened taxa and ecological communities

Target 2013–14: 763

Actual 2013–14: 763

**KPI 2.** Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with improved conservation status

Target 2013–14: 0

Actual 2013–14: 2

**KPI 3.** Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with declining conservation status

Target 2013–14: 3

Actual 2013–14: 3

**KPI 4.** Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan

Target 2013–14: 69 per cent

Actual 2013–14: 69.4 per cent

**KPI 5.** Proportion of terrestrial sub-bioregions with a greater than 15 per cent reservation

Target 2013–14: 22.2 per cent

Actual 2013–14: 22.2 per cent

**KPI 6.** Proportion of marine bioregions with marine conservation reserves

Target 2013–14: 53 per cent

Actual 2013–14: 53 per cent

Further details regarding the key efficiency and key effectiveness indicators can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 113 to 117.

## Performance highlights

- Work was undertaken in preparation for the formal drafting of a proposed Biodiversity Conservation Act, including a regulatory impact statement and extensive consultation across government on the specifics to be covered within the proposed act and its interaction with other legislation and programs.
- A range of programs and strategies for biodiversity conservation continued to be implemented across the State, including those in keeping with the national framework set out in *Australia's Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity 2010–2030*.
- Technical information was provided by the Department on species, ecosystems and landscapes to facilitate environmental impact assessment, regulation of land clearing and land use planning across government.
- The Department continued to implement the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*, which was released in June 2011 with an initial implementation budget of \$63 million over five years and a commitment to ongoing funding for key initiatives. The State Government committed an additional \$18.5 million in 2013 to create the proposed Kimberley National Park, marine and national parks at Horizontal Falls and to extend the North Kimberley Marine Park to the WA/Northern Territory border.
- The *Landscape Conservation Initiative* continued to be implemented in the north Kimberley under the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*. The collaborative initiative has demonstrated measurable improvements in the management of fire regimes, pest animals and threatened mammals (for more details see page 36). During 2013–14, more than 16,000 feral cattle were removed.



- Work continued on the *Kimberley Marine Research Program*. The State Government committed \$12 million over six years, starting in 2011–12, to the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) to inform and support the planning and creation of new marine parks in the Kimberley. The program is led by the Department and supported by \$18 million in co-investment from WAMSI partners. By 30 June 2014, work had started on 24 of the 25 integrated science projects, which will provide new information on biodiversity, habitats, ecological processes and human use across the Kimberley.
- Substantial progress was made towards completion of the Kimberley islands and Pilbara Bioregion biological surveys with manuscripts nearing completion. Through the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*, additional surveys of two further island and adjacent mainland sites will be undertaken.
- Collaboration continued with the Birriliburu Native Title holders on another inventory survey at Katjarra (Carnarvon Range) in the Birriliburu Indigenous Protected Area. Twenty permanent plant and animal survey sites and three AusPlot survey sites have been established. Funding for this program was provided by the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (for the AusPlot sites) and Central Desert Native Title Services (for both AusPlot and other sites).
- Fortescue Marsh floristic and vegetation surveys commenced with support from Fortescue Metals Group and BHP Billiton Iron Ore. During 2013–14, 65 permanent plots were established and sampled with many new records being documented, including at least one taxon that is new to science.
- A biodiversity audit continued to document the state of WA's biodiversity through a detailed bioregional analysis to update *A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Bioregional Subregions*. During 2013–14, data collection and analysis were undertaken for threatened and priority plants and animals, threatened and priority ecological communities, and internationally and nationally significant wetlands.
- During 2013–14, significant progress continued to be made on the Dirk Hartog Island National Park ecological restoration project, which is substantially funded through the Gorgon Barrow Island *Net Conservation Benefits* (NCB) program. The \$11.54 million of NCB funding is supporting the progressive removal of invasive pest animals, including goats, sheep and cats, before native fauna is reintroduced in an ambitious and ground-breaking project to restore Dirk Hartog Island to its former state. The launch of the fit-for-purpose vessel Wirruwana, the local Aboriginal name for Dirk Hartog Island, in May 2014, was an important milestone. The vessel transports vehicles, equipment and machinery to the island.
- The monitoring of translocated animals on the Montebello Islands continued under Gorgon Gas Project offset funding. Golden bandicoots, spectacled hare-wallabies, black and white fairy-wrens and spinifexbirds translocated from Barrow Island to Hermite Island are breeding and continuing to spread to occupy all available habitats. The boodies translocated to Alpha Island are also breeding.



**\$18.5M**

committed by the State Government in 2013 to create and extend marine and national parks in the Kimberley



**65**

permanent plots established and sampled at Fortescue Marsh as part of a vegetation survey



**\$11.54M**

from the Gorgon Barrow Island Net Conservation Benefits program to support the progressive removal of invasive pest animals in Dirk Hartog Island National Park



**4M hectares**

of conservation reserves and State forest baited for feral animal control

# Report on operations



A planigale with an introduced cane toad.  
Photo – Jonathan Webb/Parks and Wildlife



Releasing a woylie into Perup Sanctuary.  
Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

- The North West Shelf Marine Turtle Conservation Program, also funded through an offset to the Gorgon Gas Project on Barrow Island, aims to increase the conservation and protection of the North West Shelf flatback turtle population. Work has begun on surveys, monitoring and research as well as on information and education programs.
- The report *Priority threat management for Pilbara species of conservation significance* was published. This was the culmination of a two-year collaboration between Parks and Wildlife, CSIRO, the Federal Department of the Environment and a range of State and national partners, including industry representatives. The report provides biodiversity management strategies for threatened species of the Pilbara.
- Marine park and threatened marine fauna monitoring, evaluation and reporting produced new and historical time-series information for 14 of the State's 16 marine parks and reserves. Individual status reports, including information about asset condition, pressure and management response, were provided to enable adaptive management planning and auditing. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks were developed for the two new marine parks at Eighty Mile Beach and Lalang-garram / Camden Sound.
- The *Western Shield* program continued to implement broad scale fox and feral cat baiting for native animal conservation. Almost four million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest were baited, using about one million baits (about 665,000 fox baits and 335,000 feral cat baits). A major internal review to improve the focus, integration and cost-effectiveness of native animal conservation outcomes of the program is underway. The program continued to be supported by corporate sponsors Alcoa World Alumina, BHP Billiton Worsley Alumina and Tronox.
- The Department continued to implement the *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia*. The revised version was released in June 2014. The strategy was revised to ensure that action focusses on preventing the establishment of new satellite populations and protecting native wildlife from the impacts of this pest animal.
- A new Management of Pest Animals policy was approved in June 2014.
- The *Operation Rangelands Restoration* project continued at Lorna Glen. Reintroduced populations of bilby, brushtail possum, mala, golden bandicoot, boodie and Shark Bay mice were monitored, as well as the effectiveness of feral cat control. The golden bandicoots and boodies translocated from Barrow Island to the introduced predator free enclosure have increased about three-fold and are now able to supply animals for proposed translocations outside the enclosure where feral cats are being controlled.
- The Perup Sanctuary, established with State Natural Resource Management Program funding, is now supporting more than 400 woylies, after 41 critically endangered mammals were first introduced in 2010. A further 41 animals were introduced during 2013–14 for genetic management, and 268 were relocated to other sites.
- Work continued to reduce the threat of *Phytophthora* dieback to biodiversity, including phosphite spraying to protect threatened plant populations in the Stirling Range and eradication trials for spot infestations in areas largely free of disease, such as Fitzgerald River National Park. A revised Management of *Phytophthora* disease policy was approved in January 2014. The Department also continued to liaise with key industries and community groups to minimise risks of further

disease introduction and spread. A number of these activities are being undertaken in cooperation with the South Coast Natural Resource Management Group and Murdoch University.

- Operations to manage environmental weeds continued in the Department's nine regions. The species-based prioritisation process was refined and further developed, resulting in 14 species being identified for eradication and a further 164 species identified as a priority for control due to their high environmental impact and rapid invasiveness. A revised Weed Management policy, with an updated framework for managing weeds on lands and waters managed by the Department, was finalised in April 2014.
- Four new species of plants were added to the WC Act list of specially protected (threatened) flora: *Caladenia* sp. Collie (E. Bennett s.n.), *Commersonia apella*, *Synaphea* sp. Pinjarra Plain (A.S. George 17182) and *Synaphea* sp. Serpentine (G.R. Brand 103). The Dandaragan wattle (*Acacia splendens*) and Chiddarcooping myriophyllum (*Myriophyllum lapidicola*) were upgraded to higher threat rankings. *Banksia mucronulata* subsp. *retrorsa* and *Verticordia plumosa* var. *pleiobotrya* were removed from the list following taxonomic reviews. At 30 June 2014, there were 415 extant threatened flora species (157 critically endangered, 118 endangered and 140 vulnerable), 14 listed as presumed to be extinct and 2,999 taxa on the Department's priority flora list.
- A total of 402 populations, comprising 265 species of threatened and priority plants, was surveyed or monitored, and 21 new populations of threatened flora and 114 new populations of priority flora were located. Of the 362 records added to the *Threatened and Priority Flora* database, 146 were for new populations.
- Five new threatened flora interim recovery plans (*Androclava perlaria*, *Caladenia lodgeana*, *Daviesia dielsii*, *Grevillea murex* and *Kunzea acicularis*), and six updated plans (*Banksia anatona*, *Drakaea confluens*, *Gastrolobium papillio*, *Grevillea calliantha*, *Isopogon uncinatus* and *Lambertia echinata* subsp. *echinata*), were approved.
- Sixteen translocations of 11 threatened plant species were undertaken to improve their conservation status in the wild. Forty-nine established translocation sites for 32 plant taxa were monitored and maintained and infill planting was undertaken at 14 previously established translocation sites.
- The number of plant specimens held at the Western Australian Herbarium increased by 1.09 per cent (8,078 specimens), bringing the total number of specimens held to 751,129.
- A total of 250 vascular plant names were added to the Western Australian Plant Census, representing a net increase of 93 in the number of taxa recognised as occurring in the State, and 106 new names were formally published. WA's vascular flora (flowering plants, ferns, cycads and conifers) now comprises 13,632 species, subspecies and varieties (12,392 native and 1,240 introduced).

## 400 woylies

thriving in the Perup Sanctuary

# 8,078

plant specimens added to the Western Australian Herbarium, bringing the total to 751,129

# 164

weed species identified as a priority for control due to their high environmental impact

# 223

seed collections representing 147 species were banked at the Threatened Flora Seed Centre

# 31,729

records of sightings, captures or evidence of threatened and priority fauna added to the *Threatened and Priority Fauna* database

# Report on operations

- A total of 223 seed collections representing 147 species were banked at the Threatened Flora Seed Centre of which 61 were critically endangered taxa. Departmental staff provided technical advice and assistance to projects involving seed collection and use, including the Swan Region *Banksia Woodland Restoration Project*. Collections of five critically endangered species were withdrawn from the seed bank and germinated for use in Departmental translocation projects.
- Six species of native animals were added to the WC Act list of specially protected (threatened) fauna, including four species of assassin spider (*Zephyrarchaea* species) found on the south coast. Also listed was the *Banksia montana* mealybug (*Pseudococcus markharveyi*), which is restricted to a species of threatened flora, and the Barrow cave gudgeon (*Milyeringa justitia*), which has been formally separated from the listed cave gudgeon (*Milyeringa veritas*) found on North West Cape. One species, the western long-beaked echidna (*Zaglossus bruijnii*), was added to the list as presumed extinct fauna as it has only been collected once in WA, in 1901, and has not been sighted alive in this State. The whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) was added to Schedule 4 – otherwise specially protected fauna, to provide an appropriate level of protection for this internationally significant migratory species, which is managed in Ningaloo Marine Park for tourism interaction. The woylie (*Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*) was upgraded from endangered to critically endangered following further monitoring that demonstrated an ongoing decline in this species.
- At 30 June 2014, there were 246 threatened fauna species (49 critically endangered, 43 endangered and 154 vulnerable), 19 listed as presumed to be extinct, 13 listed as otherwise specially protected, and 197 species on the Department's priority fauna list.
- There were 31,729 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 fauna recovery plans were approved for the western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) and the white-bellied and orange-bellied frogs (*Geocrinia vitellina* and *Geocrinia alba*), and five threatened fauna recovery plans were adopted by the Federal Government under the EPBC Act: quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*), western swamp tortoise (*Pseudemydura umbrina*), white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) and five species of the black-flanked rock-wallaby (*Petrogale* spp.).
- New occurrence information was added to the *Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities* database for 12,394 occurrences of 17 threatened ecological communities (TECs) and 144 priority ecological communities (PECs), helping resolve the status of the PECs and providing improved information for land use planning.
- Surveys were completed in 81 occurrences of TECs and PECs throughout the State. Data collected about habitat, composition, condition, threats and recommended recovery actions were added to the database and will help guide future management. Forty-four floristic quadrats were resurveyed to investigate changes in species composition over the previous 20 years and determine management needs of the TECs. Eleven new quadrats were established and eight quadrats were statistically analysed to verify the TECs or PECs present.
- Two interim recovery plans were approved for TECs: 'Heath dominated by one or more of *Regelia megacephala*, *Kunzea praestans* and *Allocasuarina campestris* on ridges and slopes of the chert hills of the Coomberdale Floristic Region' and '*Callitris preissii* (or *Melaleuca lanceolata*) forests and woodlands, Swan Coastal Plain'.
- Wetland conservation work continued with the Ecological Character Descriptions of a further two Ramsar sites endorsed at State and Federal level in 2013–14, bringing the total number of sites in WA with endorsed descriptions to 11. The Ecological Character Description for the final Ramsar site is in preparation.
- The *South West Wetlands Monitoring Program* completed a report on depth, salinity and pH trends from 1977 to 2012 of 103 wetlands. The Department continued to monitor the biological responses of a selection of Wheatbelt wetlands to threats such as salinisation and climate change. Baseline data were collected for wetlands in the Goldfields region following good rains in January and February 2014.
- Collaboration continued with the Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) to further develop new planning and decision tools as part of the *Natural Diversity Recovery Catchment Program*. Thirty-eight weed risk assessments and two genetic risk assessments were undertaken and four species management guides produced under the CRC's Environmental Risk Strategy that aims to prevent negative impacts on native vegetation.
- Genetic analysis of eucalypt and acacia species in the Pilbara, in collaboration with Rio Tinto, provided information for the development of seed collection zones for restoration of disturbed sites.
- During 2013–14, the *Land for Wildlife* program registered 59 new properties, bringing the total area of registered sites managed privately for conservation to 331,911ha.

- Under the voluntary *Nature Conservation Covenant Program*, covenants have been established on 229 titles covering a total of 18,901ha, including habitat for several threatened species and ecological communities.
- *Urban Nature* undertook coordination of the *Perth Banksia Woodland Community Restoration Grants* program to assist community efforts to restore and manage banksia woodland, which supports species including the threatened Carnaby's cockatoo. In May 2014, \$300 000 was awarded to 20 community conservation projects that will continue until September 2016.
- Management of the sandalwood industry and the detection of illegal or unsustainable harvest of sandalwood from the wild continued during 2013–14. In November 2013, a major illegal sandalwood harvesting and processing operation was closed down with assistance from WA Police.
- The Roadside Conservation Committee undertook a range of activities to raise awareness of roadside conservation and engage with stakeholders, including presenting a display at the Western Australian Local Government Association's Roads and Transport Forum.

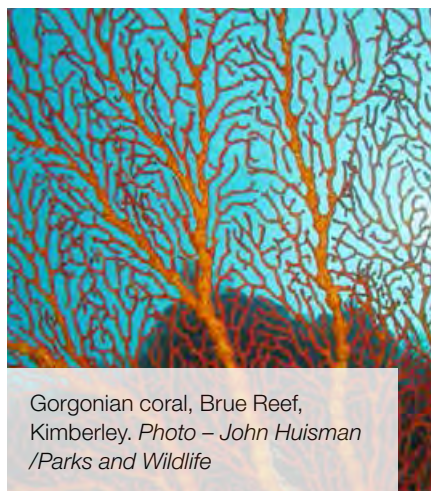
### Licensing

To support the sustainable use of wildlife, in 2013–14, the Department issued 8,536 licences under the WC Act to take, collect, keep and breed, deal in, trap or export native animals, and 1,877 licences to collect native plants. A further 461 licences were issued to scare, destroy, or trap and relocate nuisance wildlife and wildlife that was causing damage.

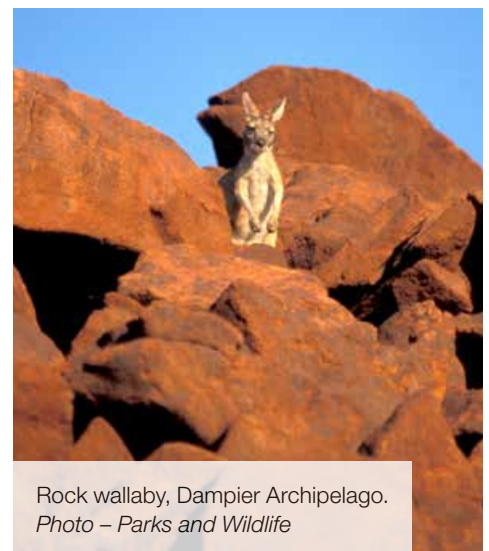
For information about prosecutions under the WC Act, the CALM Act and associated regulations please see page 46.



Pseudoscorpion. Photo – Michael Curren/Parks and Wildlife



Gorgonian coral, Brue Reef, Kimberley. Photo – John Huisman /Parks and Wildlife



Rock wallaby, Dampier Archipelago. Photo – Parks and Wildlife

# Western Australia's biggest conservation project

Western Australia's vast, wild and beautiful Kimberley is one of the world's last great wilderness areas and a national biodiversity hotspot.

The *Landscape Conservation Initiative*—the largest conservation project ever undertaken in Western Australia—was established in 2011 as part of the State Government's \$81.5 million *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*, to retain and enhance current natural biodiversity and landscape values in the north Kimberley.

This visionary project is being implemented by the Department of Parks and Wildlife in collaboration with native title holders and Indigenous ranger groups, government agencies, non-government organisations and pastoralists to protect biodiversity values across property boundaries in the north Kimberley. Together, these partners are managing fire; the impacts of feral animals; and the impacts of invasive plants over an area of more than 65,000 square kilometres (6.5 million hectares) that includes pastoral properties, Aboriginal Lands Trust reserves, private conservation areas and parks and reserves managed by Parks and Wildlife.

## Protecting the nature of the Kimberley

Parks and Wildlife works closely with up to 90 traditional owners and Indigenous rangers from four native title claim groups, the Kimberley Land Council and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to undertake prescribed early dry season burning across the north Kimberley.

Each year since 2011 an average of 24,000km has been flown over the north Kimberley, involving (on average) 273 hours in fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, to drop 60,000 incendiaries, creating mosaics of burnt and unburnt vegetation to mimic fire practices employed by Indigenous land managers for millennia.

The expanded early dry season prescribed burning programs created a mosaic of burnt and unburnt patches of vegetation to provide refuges for wildlife across more than 6.5 million hectares of the Kimberley and greatly reduced the number of destructive late season bushfires.

## Measuring success

Parks and Wildlife and its partners are monitoring the implementation of the initiative. In January 2014, the performance report on the first two years of implementation of the project was published.

Since 2011, almost 600 monitoring plots have been established across the north Kimberley to evaluate and improve land management programs. This has included mapping nearly 100 rainforest patches that provide vital habitat for threatened wildlife and quantifying vegetation condition at almost 400 sites.

More than 15,000 nights have been spent trapping small to medium sized mammals, across 66 sites with Indigenous rangers and traditional owners.

## Measurable conservation improvements

So far, the results have been dramatic. Better management of fire has already halved the amount of country burnt by destructive late dry season bushfires from 36 per cent to 17 per cent and improved habitat for wildlife, such as threatened small mammals and finches, that are susceptible to the catastrophic effects of late dry season bushfires.

More than 16,000 feral cattle have been removed, reducing cattle numbers by up to 44 per cent in areas of high biodiversity value, and improving habitat condition. Feral donkeys, horses and pigs have been kept at very low numbers in the north Kimberley.

The project has already been successful in increasing the number and distribution of key threatened mammals in parts of the Mitchell Plateau, including golden bandicoots, koorrawal (golden-backed tree-rats), and pakooma (brush-tailed rabbit rats).

Weed control programs have reduced infestations of serious and damaging weed species in the high biodiversity Mitchell Plateau and ensured new weeds were not introduced to the area.

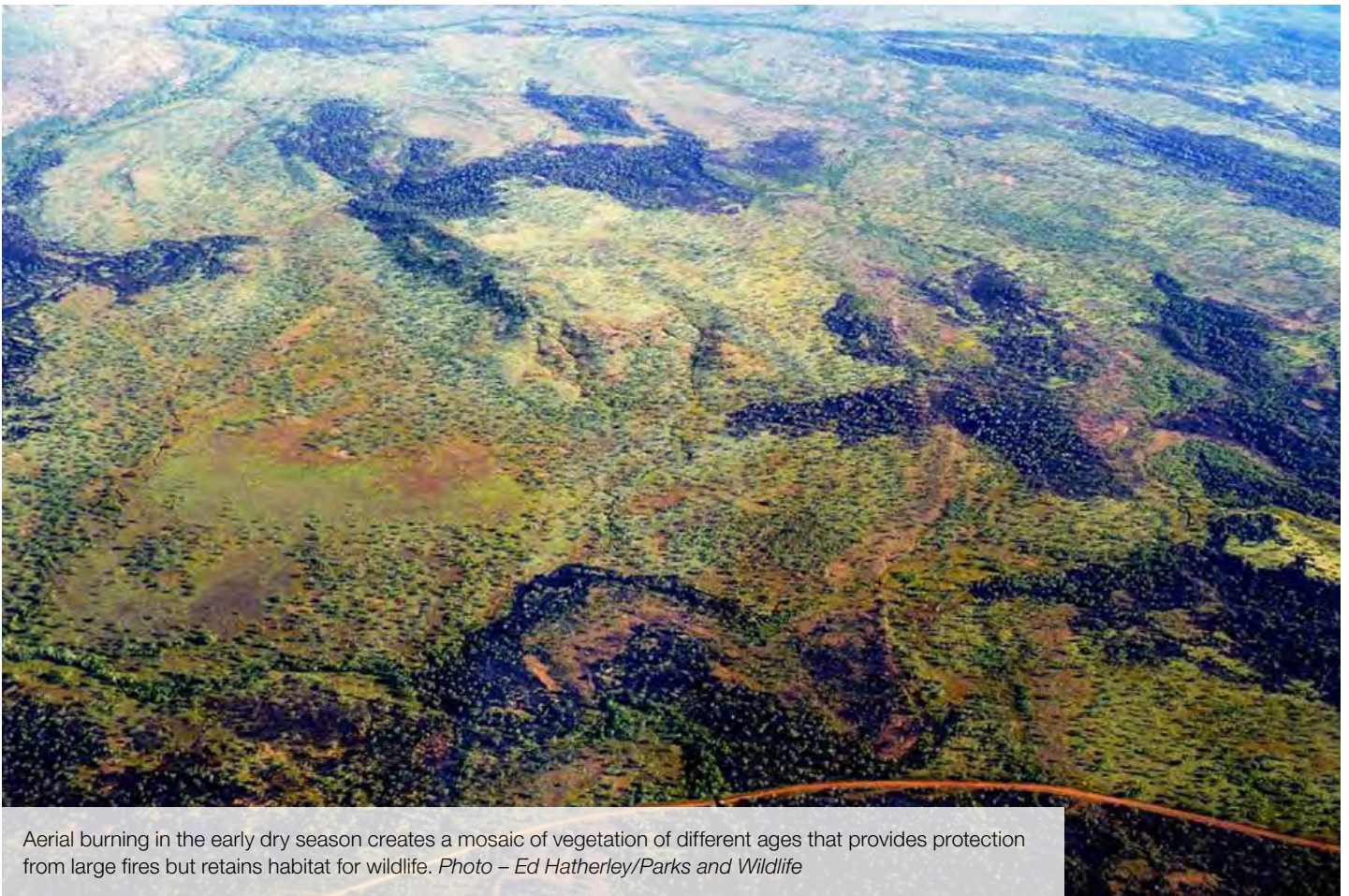
## Aboriginal partnerships and employment

More than 200 traditional owners from groups including Dambimangari, Wunambal Gaambera, Wilinggin, Bunuba and Balangarra have been engaged in activities with Parks and Wildlife to help protect country and manage threats such as bushfire and weeds.

Under the *Landscape Conservation Initiative* there have been 46 fee-for-service contracts for feral animals and weed control programs between 2011–13, involving the Dambimangari, Unguu, Wilinggin and Balangarra native title groups.

The Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation has entered into an agreement with Parks and Wildlife that will provide conservation, tourism and cultural management outcomes and employment opportunities for traditional owners on Carson River Station, a 313,155ha pastoral property.

For more information on the *Landscape Conservation Initiative*, including the performance report, go to the Parks and Wildlife website [www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/kimberley-strategy/conserving-the-unique-kimberley-environment/164-the-landscape-conservation-initiative](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/kimberley-strategy/conserving-the-unique-kimberley-environment/164-the-landscape-conservation-initiative).



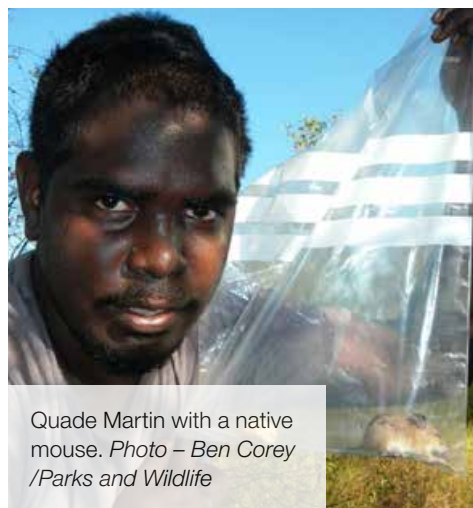
Aerial burning in the early dry season creates a mosaic of vegetation of different ages that provides protection from large fires but retains habitat for wildlife. *Photo – Ed Hatherley/Parks and Wildlife*



Indigenous ranger groups conduct aerial burning with Parks and Wildlife staff. *Photo – Ed Hatherley/Parks and Wildlife*



Parks and Wildlife employee and Wunambal Gaambera Traditional Owner Gregory Goonack conducts burning on the Mitchell Plateau. *Photo – Parks and Wildlife*



Quade Martin with a native mouse. *Photo – Ben Corey /Parks and Wildlife*

# Report on operations



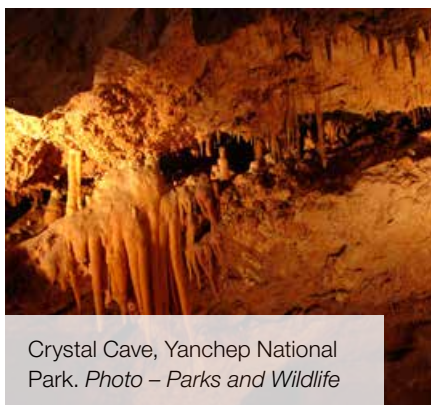
Porongurup National Park. *Photo – Parks and Wildlife*



Prescribed burn in the Perth Hills.  
*Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife*



Mount Frankland National Park. *Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife*



Crystal Cave, Yanchep National Park. *Photo – Parks and Wildlife*



## Service 3: Forest Management

This service is responsible for developing and implementing programs that provide for 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.

The desired outcome of the service is the conservation and sustainable use of WA's south-west forests. The overall priorities for 2013–14 for the Forest Management Service in delivering this outcome were:

- focusing resources on addressing the requirements of the approved Forest Management Plan for issues that pose the greatest threat to ecological sustainability
- implementing prescribed fire, bushfire suppression and associated programs that provide strategic protection to life and property, and forest values
- effectively implementing a conditional authorisation system, hand-over procedure, monitoring and compliance management system, and hand-back procedure for proponents of operations on State forests and timber reserves
- finalising the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* following assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), for approval by the Minister for Environment, and release and implementation from 1 January 2014
- activities associated with the introduction and initial implementation of new management requirements of the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*.

The desired outcome is delivered through a number of strategies:

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

- including implementing actions outlined in the *Forest Management Plan 2004–2013* and planning for the implementation of the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*, which came into effect on 1 January 2014.

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

- acquiring and analysing wood inventory data to help Parks and Wildlife and the Forest Products Commission in planning, managing and monitoring wood production in State forest and timber reserves
- mapping vegetation to inform silvicultural decisions, old-growth forest assessments, dieback disease presence and 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 harvest removals and silvicultural standards in timber harvest operations
- providing specialist services, including aerial photography, photo-interpretation, photogrammetry, vegetation and *Phytophthora* dieback disease-mapping surveys and database design and development, to other Parks and Wildlife 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 licensed plant harvesting areas; monitoring areas burnt by bushfire and prescribed burning to support fire planning and reporting; and helping evaluate biodiversity assets at risk from effects of infrastructure construction or threatening processes
- delivering information about and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback and evaluating disease hygiene standards to minimise spread through planned disturbance operations
- establishing and implementing an approvals, monitoring and compliance-management system, and setting standards for the management of a range of forest values in State forest
- undertaking research to enhance management of biodiversity, productive capacity, ecosystem health and vitality, and soil and water values
- implementing fauna habitat zones
- assessing impacts on forest biodiversity through *FORESTCHECK* monitoring
- 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 silviculture guidance documents and conducting training for silvicultural practices
- monitoring areas subject to timber harvesting and associated silvicultural treatments
- preparing three-year regional timber harvest plans, and reviewing annual regional timber harvest plans submitted by the Forest Products Commission.

# Report on operations



Perup Sanctuary. Photo – Bron Anderson/Parks and Wildlife

## 5. Maintaining partnerships, including with:

- the community and key stakeholder groups (including volunteer projects)
- other State agencies and authorities
- Federal government agencies.

### Performance summary

	2013–14 Target \$'000	2013–14 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	53,247	58,164	4,917
Key Efficiency Indicator	2013–14 Target	2013–14 Actual	Variance
Average cost per hectare of managing forest	\$41.10	\$45.02	\$3.92

### Key Effectiveness Indicators

**Outcome:** Conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity

**KPI 7.** Cumulative removal of jarrah sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan

Target 2013–14: 1.31 million cubic metres

Actual 2013–14: 1.16 million cubic metres

**KPI 8.** Cumulative removal of karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan

Target 2013–14: 540,000 cubic metres

Actual 2013–14: 539,540 cubic metres

Further details regarding the key efficiency indicator and key effectiveness indicators can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 113 to 117.

## Performance highlights

- The *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* was finalised and released by the Minister for Environment on 6 December 2013.
- Work undertaken as part of the development of the final *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* included preparing and publishing supporting documents for the release of the EPA's assessment report on the *Proposed Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*.
- The *Forest Management Plan 2004–2013* continued to be implemented to its completion date of 31 December 2013 and from 1 January 2014 the subsequent *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* was implemented.
- The jarrah forest inventory was updated to improve estimates of standing timber resources and contribute to carbon stock estimation.
- A review of historical forest growth data was completed and used to develop projections of future timber yields under a drying climate.
- Silviculture guidelines for karri, jarrah and wandoo forest were updated.
- The regulation of the forests products industry policy was approved in August 2013.
- Work continued on improving the modelling of the rate of spread of *Phytophthora* dieback to predict impact on sustained yields of wood product for the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*.
- Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) remote sensing technology was used to trial a new approach to forest inventory and vegetation stratification for tree volume and biomass in regrowth karri forest.
- The detection and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback was carried out on 21,130ha of land managed by Parks and Wildlife to inform the planning and management of disturbance operations and the prioritisation of disease treatments.
- Ninety-one disturbance operations, covering 8,120ha of State forest and timber reserves, were evaluated and monitored for compliance with the environmental outcomes sought in the approved Forest Management Plan.
- The *FORESTCHECK* program continued to monitor the effects of timber harvesting on biodiversity in jarrah forest. Nine *FORESTCHECK* sites in Donnelly District were sampled in spring 2013 to complete the annual monitoring cycle. During autumn 2014, monitoring was also undertaken at seven new sites established in the eastern part of the Blackwood District, and at one existing and two new sites in Perth Hills District.
- Progress was made on the analysis of the *FORESTCHECK* data from the 10-year monitoring period 2002–12 and associated scientific papers are being prepared.
- Fire management was implemented to protect the values of State forest and timber reserves within the south-west forests. A total of 41,622ha of State forest and timber reserves were subject to prescribed burns.
- A community forest inspection was undertaken in the Warren Region.
- In July 2013, a progress report was released on the implementation of the *Regional Forest Agreement for the South-West Forest Region of Western Australia*.
- The Department participated in the preparation of *Australia's State of the Forest Report 2013* that was released by the Australian Government on 28 March 2014.
- Genetic analysis of jarrah forest species provided information for the development of seed collection zones for forest management.



Marri flower. Photo – Peter Nicholas /Parks and Wildlife

## New Forest Management Plan released

### Western Australia has close to 18 million hectares of forests and woodlands.

The State Government is responsible for managing much of the State's native forests and woodlands, from the jarrah and karri of the south-west, to the remnant areas of rainforest in the Kimberley, and the Great Western Woodlands which represents the largest and most intact eucalypt woodland remaining in southern Australia.

February 2001 saw a turning point in managing WA's south-west native forests, with an end to timber harvesting in all old-growth forests vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia.

Since 2001, more than 500,000ha have been added to the system of national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, including 30 national parks promised under the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023*.

About 2.5 million hectares of native forest in our State's south-west region is on lands managed by the Department. About 1.3 million hectares of south-west forest is in national parks, conservation parks and nature reserves, with the greater part of old-growth forests protected in this way or in informal reserves, and about 1.2 million hectares is in State forest and timber reserves. The south-west forest area represents a significant investment in protecting the diversity of Western Australian's unique landscapes, plants and animals.

These forests are also a major economic contributor to regional communities. They support mining, the native forest timber industry, tourism, recreation, water production and other uses such as beekeeping and wildflower harvesting. Parks and Wildlife is the largest provider of outdoor recreation opportunities in the State.

The *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* is the key policy framework for protecting and managing the State's south-west forests. The plan was released by Environment Minister Albert Jacob on 6 December 2013 and came into effect on 1 January 2014.

Covering about 2.5 million hectares of south-west forests from Lancelin to Denmark, Mr Jacob said the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* struck the right balance between conservation and other activities.

"This new plan incorporates a number of management activities to ensure biodiversity and water catchments are protected, while at the same time allowing for recreation and a sustainable native forest products industry," he said.

"The plan is based on scientific knowledge, and the potential impact of climate change has been taken into account.

"It builds on the previous 10-year plan to provide clear policy direction for the south-west forests and their diverse values and uses."

Key features of the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* include:

- continued protection of all old-growth forest, totalling more than 334,000ha
- enhanced protection for large marri trees, which provide nesting and food for black cockatoos
- an increase in protected areas by adding 4,000ha to Whicher National Park near Busselton
- increased retention of habitat logs for native animals
- improved monitoring and reporting on the health and diversity of the forest
- a new objective to protect and conserve the value of the land to Noongar culture and heritage.

Following an extensive and comprehensive development, including a two-year consultation and review process and assessment by the EPA and appeals under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the plan includes timelines for completion of some key management activities.

In addition, the Environment Minister must approve any industry request to access maximum sustainable timber harvesting limits, known as the 'upper limit allowable cut'. The timber volumes available for harvesting under the plan are similar to the 2004-13 plan.

The *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* is available at [www.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au).



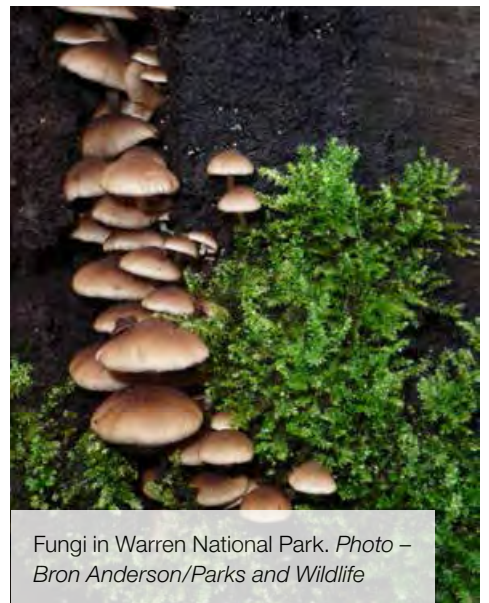
Boranup State Forest. Photo – Tourism WA



Rowels Pool. Photo – Peter Nicholas /Parks and Wildlife



Waychinicup River. Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife



Fungi in Warren National Park. Photo – Bron Anderson/Parks and Wildlife

# Supporting our Department

The collage features a variety of publications and guides:

- Discovering Caves of Western Australia** (Department of Environment and Conservation)
- Discovering Nambung National Park and the Pinnacles Desert** (Department of Environment and Conservation)
- Discovering Shark Bay Marine Park and Monkey Mia** (Department of Conservation and Land Management)
- Beneath Busselton Jetty** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Guide to the Great Western Woodlands** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Mammals of the Kimberley** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Kimberley Plants of the Kimberley** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Kalbarri** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- HAKEA walk trail Fitzgerald River National Park** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Kimberley Science and Conservation News June 2014** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Carson River joins Kimberley conservation corridor** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Marine turtles of the Kimberley Coast** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- BARNA MIA** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- D'Entrecasteaux National Park** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Munda Biddi Trail** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- LANDSCOPE** (Department of Parks, Wildlife and Conservation Magazine)
- Northern quoll Dasyurus hallucatus** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Karijini National Park** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Karri Forest Explorer** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Denmark to Albany** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Kimberley flora** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Troublesome toads** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Rediscovering an old favourite** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- WA Cane Toad Update** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Nearer to Nature News** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- More Family Walks in Perth Outdoors** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Shark Bay marine reserves** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- New detector dog takes on quarantine role** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Welcome to 2014!** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)
- Recover to Nature staff walking the talk...** (Department of Parks and Wildlife)

## Public Information and Corporate Affairs

The Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch delivers efficient and effective services to Parks and Wildlife's external customers and stakeholders as well as internal partners, consistent with the Department's *Strategic Directions*. This is achieved through public information coordination, media relations, websites, photography and video production, customer service, publications and graphic design, outdoor education activities for youth, public participation planning, events coordination, advertising and a variety of corporate programs.

The branch's media unit provided communications support across the Department through the preparation and delivery of communication plans, speeches, media statements and events covering the full spectrum of the Department's activities; public information training for incident management, support for the Minister's office, as well as responding to media enquiries. Unit staff performed a vital role in providing public information for incident management during the 2013–14 fire season and once again worked closely with colleagues from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services as well as the emergency broadcasting team from ABC Local Radio.

The branch's education officers continued to deliver programs that enable thousands of young Western Australians to connect with nature. Operating from the Perth Hills Discovery Centre in the Beelu National Park, *Nearer to Nature* introduced participants to aspects of Western Australia's vibrant natural environment through programs focussing on wildlife, fire, bush skills and Aboriginal culture. During 2013–14, 18,442 children and teachers took part in *Nearer to Nature* school programs and more than 2,000 children and adults participated in *Nearer to Nature* holiday programs.

The *Bush Rangers WA* program continued to support the social and educational development of young cadets drawn from high schools across WA. During 2013–14, the number of cadets increased from 2,104 to 2,199, with more than 20 per cent of Bush Rangers coming from Aboriginal backgrounds.

In 2013–14, the branch developed and managed the Department's online presence through its various websites and intranet in accordance with the State Government's Website Governance Framework. This included the ongoing migration of relevant material from now inactive websites of predecessor agencies to the new Parks and Wildlife website ([dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://dpaw.wa.gov.au)). Corporate social media activity, including Facebook groups, Twitter accounts, YouTube information videos and blogs, is coordinated by the branch and at 30 June 2014, 29 social media activities from various Parks and Wildlife operational areas were registered.

During 2013–14, the Webcontent team rebuilt the Department's online campground booking system using open source website software Joomla and the e-commerce system Jomre. The redeveloped site, Park Stay WA ([parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au/](http://parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au/)), which integrates with the Department's financial services, allows users to book 14 of the State's most popular campgrounds, with other campgrounds scheduled to be added. The site also caters for smartphone and tablet users.

Branch customer service staff answered tens of thousands of phone calls and emails while also assisting with visitor enquiries via the Department's Kensington point-of-sale presence.

The branch also coordinated publishing for the Department and external stakeholders including the production of more than 400 reports, periodicals, management plans, books, brochures, magazines, manuals, field guides, newsletters and other information products. Of note was the launch of the redesigned parks, wildlife and conservation magazine *LANDSCOPE*. Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, the new-look *LANDSCOPE* was designed to appeal to a broader audience and reflect the priorities of the newly formed Department of Parks and Wildlife. It contains shorter features highlighting what people can see and do in parks and reserves as well as stunning photographs and scientific articles about WA's plants and animals.

The Department produced four issues of *LANDSCOPE* and 11 issues of *Parks and Wildlife News*, a monthly online newsletter for staff and volunteers.

The Department's saleable publishing program, *WA Naturally*, released its first saleable e-book, *Snakes of WA*, to complement the existing print range. The online shop ([shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au)) was also upgraded to improve ease-of-use and increase security. In addition, social media connectivity enables shoppers to register via existing social media accounts such as Facebook and Google.



# Supporting our Department

## Legal matters

### Freedom of Information

The Office of the Director General managed the processes for the Department under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The Department's *Information Statement 2011–12* (available on the Parks and Wildlife website [www.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au)) 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 that is made available to the public.

Parks and Wildlife received 34 valid applications for access to information, one of which was subsequently withdrawn. The Department received one application requesting an internal review of the Department's decision. No applicants requested an external review.

### Litigation

During 2013–14, no new writs were issued against the Department in respect of public liability claims. Currently there are 15 claims in progress against the Department that are being administered through the various stages of the litigation process.

### Prosecutions

The Department initiated 96 prosecutions during 2013–14, involving a broad range of charges including the illegal taking or possession of protected fauna or flora, illegal importation or selling of fauna, use of illegal devices, failure to comply with licence conditions, offences relating to disease risk areas and offences relating to activities on State forest, nature reserves and national parks.

### Finalised prosecutions for 2013–14

Of the 96 prosecutions commenced, 26 were subject to final court determination during 2013–14, including cases relating to the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, *Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2000* and the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970*.

These matters resulted in the imposition of fines totalling \$18,300 and costs to the value of \$1,565.40.

In addition to the 96 prosecutions commenced during this period a further 74 were carried forward and finalised from 2012–13.

### Prosecutions currently before the courts

As at 30 June 2014, 70 prosecutions were yet to be concluded and remained before the courts. A further five cases were pending, subject to the evidentiary standard being met, and could result in either prosecution or a letter of warning.

### Total reported offences

Between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014, a total of 1,232 offences were reported, of which 26 were dealt with by way of prosecution, 70 were pending, 591 were dealt with by infringement notice, 15 resulted in letters of warning, 521 were dealt with by caution notices, one required no further action and eight were withdrawn.



Prescribed aerial burn in the Warren Region. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Perup Sanctuary. Photo – Bron Anderson/Parks and Wildlife



Numbat. Photo – Bron Anderson/Parks and Wildlife



## Regional and Fire Management Services

Staff in the Regional and Fire Management Services Division are responsible for planning and undertaking on-ground work required for the Department to fulfil its responsibilities in national parks, nature reserves, marine parks, State forests and other lands and waters throughout the state. Integrated works programs are undertaken on behalf of the Department's three service divisions (the Science and Conservation, Forest and Ecosystem Management, and Parks and Visitor Services divisions) and the Forest Products Commission. There are nine Parks and Wildlife regions across the State comprising 16 districts.

In addition to carrying out the work required to manage the lands and waters vested in the Conservation Commission and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, and the plants and animals of the state, the division also:

- provides information and communications technologies, information and knowledge management systems, and radio communications systems through the Office for Information Management
- provides fire management services across a range of tenures
- manages the risks posed to visitors of Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters through an integrated risk management program.

### Office for Information Management

The Office for Information Management (OIM) works across the Department and with the Department's bureau services clients in providing information and related technologies for all business areas. The OIM also oversees the development of information and technology-related policy, strategies and standards.

In 2013–14, the OIM continued to improve the Department's information management practices and its information and telecommunication technology services with a specific focus on:

- open standard-based systems that strengthen interoperability, security and scalability to ensure information is reliable, easily located, readily usable, and accessible whenever and wherever it is needed
- governance and change management practices to optimise the cost of information management services and technology
- facilitating the reliable and efficient application of technology to enable operational excellence
- strategies to strengthen the security and integrity of the Department's digital information
- expanding, upgrading and improving the Department's radio and satellite communication systems and services to support terrestrial, aviation and marine operations.

Major achievements for 2013–14 include:

- improving the Department's information security systems to reduce cyber intrusions
- contributing to the Department's people management processes to improve IT asset management and information security awareness
- supporting the development of a metadata and data catalogue system to streamline the publishing, sharing, finding and use of the Department's spatial and non-spatial datasets for science and conservation.
- expanding research and development work on cloud computing and open source software to promote optimum solutions for seamless digital information access and moderate IT costs

- strengthening the standard operating environment and procurement process for end user digital devices
- continuing to migrate Departmental telephone systems to Voice over Internet Protocol, which is more cost effective.
- continuing interagency collaboration on infrastructure upgrades across WA to advance compatibility and interoperability between emergency service organisations
- assisting with whole-of-government advice on the alignment of government radio communications services including the 400 MHz UHF band plan
- finalising the Department's migration to a common set of VHF high-band frequencies to support emergency services radio communications interoperability for WA.

### Fire Management Services Branch

Parks and Wildlife 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. The Department's Fire Management Services Branch has developed comprehensive fire management systems and maintains state-of-the-art fire management equipment and technologies.

The Department has numerous well-trained professional fire managers and undertakes scientific studies into fire-related topics to constantly expand the knowledge available to fire practitioners.

# Supporting our Department

## Fire management 2013–14

Departmental staff attended and monitored 607 bushfires that burnt about 2,209,619ha in 2013–14, including:

- 507,831ha in the Pilbara Region
- 35,430ha in the Goldfields Region
- 1,587,490ha in the Kimberley Region
- 5,823ha in the South Coast Region
- 47,774ha in the Midwest Region
- 8,153ha in the Wheatbelt Region
- 17,118ha in the three south-west forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren regions).

The causes of these fires were:

- lightning—23 per cent (below the 10-year average of about 24 per cent)
- deliberately lit or arson-caused fires—37 per cent (below the 10-year average of about 43 per cent)
- accidental fires—21 per cent
- escapes from private burns—4 per cent
- escapes from Departmental burns—1 per cent
- other causes—4 per cent
- unknown—10 per cent.

During 2013–14, the most serious bushfire managed by Parks and Wildlife occurred north of Denmark, in the Warren Region. Significant assistance was also provided to local government authorities and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) at fires in Parkerville and Jandakot. There was also a significant fire at Karijini National Park where key infrastructure came under threat.

Agency pre-formed incident management teams were deployed as a full unit to one fire during the 2013–14 fire season, the fire north of Denmark.

## Prescribed burning

The indicative burn target for 2013–14 in the south-west forest regions was 200,000ha. The Department achieved 78,234ha, including about 8,184ha that were burnt for pine plantation protection.

The combination of unsuitable weather conditions, fuels remaining dry due to summer conditions extending into autumn, and the introduction of new and enhanced requirements in prescribed burn planning and risk management contributed to a reduction of the area able to be prescribed burnt this year when compared to the long term average.

A further 3,392,050ha was burnt in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast regions. The burns were carried out on Department-managed lands as well as on unallocated Crown lands and unmanaged reserves within these regions.

## Aerial bushfire suppression operations

The Department contracted eight fixed-wing water bombers in the forest regions from November 2013 to mid-April 2014. Two Air Tractor 802 aircraft were also on contract and based at Manjimup, Albany, Bunbury or Jandakot for periods of severe bushfire weather or periods of high demand. The aircraft 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 704 operational hours in attending 178 bushfires, and dropped 1,297 loads, delivering 3.9 million litres of product. By comparison, in 2012–13, the aircraft flew 757 hours and dropped 1,396 loads.

# 607

bushfires attended and monitored by Parks and Wildlife staff

# 4,291 hrs

aerial surveillance by 10 bushfire 'spotter' aircraft

# 23%

bushfires caused by lightning strike

# 78,234ha

prescribed burnt in the south-west forest region

# 3.4M ha

prescribed burnt in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast regions

### **Bushfire detection**

Parks and Wildlife provided an effective fire-detection system in the high bushfire risk zones of the south-west forest regions using single-engine aircraft and 11 fixed lookout towers. The Department's fleet of 10 'spotter' aircraft flew 4,291 hours for aerial surveillance in pre-determined circuits. Flight schedules varied according to bushfire danger levels and fire activity. The aircraft also flew 334 hours in support of aerial suppression operations during 2013–14. The detection aircraft were flown by two permanent pilots and 13 pilots filling seasonal positions.

### **Bushfire training and development**

Fire Management Services Branch development and training staff conducted 15 formal fire training courses involving 177 participants. Course participants were predominantly from Parks and Wildlife, including campground host volunteers, but also included personnel from the Forest Products Commission (FPC), DFES and local governments.

A new annual mandatory pre-season training package for staff filling operational and non-operational roles was developed and introduced across the Department in September 2013. This followed on from the work previously done to comply with the WorkSafe Improvement Notices arising from the events of the Black Cat Creek bushfire in October 2012. A total of 960 Parks and Wildlife, Department of Environment Regulation and FPC staff members attended training that included the use of two-way radios, storage and use of fire blankets and burn-over drills.

Aviation Section personnel provided training for more than 120 Parks and Wildlife aerial operations personnel. These courses included:

- Air Attack Supervisor Qualification
- Air Attack Supervisor Currency
- Air Observer
- Helitorch Ground Crew
- Incendiary Operations Supervisor

- Aerial Incendiary Bombardier
- Air Base Manager
- Aerial Drip Torch Operator

Air attack supervisor and air base manager training was also provided to DFES staff.

In addition, water bomber reloading training was provided to more than 300 participants across 40 operational bases, with the majority of these participants from volunteer bushfire brigades and local State Emergency Service units. This training was also provided to Royal Australian Air Force staff at RAAF bases Pearce and Gingin.

Incendiary operations supervisor, aerial incendiary bombardier and aerial drip-torch operator training was provided to the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources in South Australia. Aerial incendiary bombardier training was provided to staff from the Kimberley Land Council and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

Parks and Wildlife and DFES continued to develop and promote common fire training programs and course materials under the auspices of the Interagency Bushfire Management Committee (IBMC) and with other agencies in Australia and New Zealand.

### **Bushfire preparedness on unallocated Crown lands**

Since 1 July 2003, the Department has been responsible for the coordination and on-ground management of bushfire risk prevention and bushfire preparedness works on 89 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves outside the Perth metropolitan area and town sites.

Work undertaken by the Department in 2013–14 included the construction and maintenance of firebreaks, modification of vegetation in strategic buffers, open-edge prescribed burning and large-scale aerial ignition.

In the Kimberley, Pilbara and Goldfields regions, Parks and Wildlife continued to engage and build partnerships with other stakeholders, including Aboriginal communities and neighbouring pastoralists. The use of planned fire for developing landscape-scale 'mosaic' patterns of burnt and unburnt patches continued to yield benefits for mitigating large bushfires, protecting biodiversity and cultural values and achieving designated nature conservation outcomes.

### **Prescribed fire planning and risk management**

During 2013–14, further work was undertaken to fully satisfy the recommendations relating to risk management and prescribed burn planning arising from the Report of the Special Inquiry into the Margaret River Bushfire of November 2011 by Mr Mick Keelty AO. An electronic web-based application for preparing and approving prescribed burn plans in accordance with ISO 31000, the international standard for risk management, was finalised and adopted statewide. This new tool provides rigour, consistency and transparency to prescribed fire planning and approvals and incorporates learnings from the initial implementation of *ISO 31000:2009 Risk management – Principles and guidelines* in the previous year.

The Department continued to engage and collaborate with the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) in the pursuit of continual improvement. Through its assurance program, OBRM scrutinised Parks and Wildlife's prescribed fire planning processes throughout the year in a number of regions. OBRM has acknowledged the significant reforms made and the adoption of the international risk management standard and the assurance program has shifted from the initial scrutiny of new procedures to an operational arrangement.

# Supporting our Department

## Interagency bushfire management

During 2013–14, significant Departmental fire management resources were dedicated to improving interagency bushfire management arrangements through the IBMC and associated sub-committees.

The sub-committees servicing the IBMC include:

- Bushfire Research (chaired by Parks and Wildlife)
- Public Information (chaired by DFES)
- Training (chaired by DFES)
- Fire Operations (chaired by Parks and Wildlife)
- Aerial Fire Suppression (chaired by DFES).

Outside the IBMC, Parks and Wildlife initiated and participated in substantial interagency liaison with DFES, local government and other Departments on fire-management related matters.

## Fire ecology education programs

Fire Management Services Branch continued to work with the *Nearer to Nature* team from Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch to provide a fire education program. A total of 8,119 students, teachers and parents took part in fire-related education programs at Perth Hills Discovery Centre, Henderson Centre, Wellington Discovery Forest and Margaret River Eco-Discovery Centre. The Department also continues to update the *Fire—a force of life* program to meet geography and biology curriculum requirements as changes are introduced.

A new *Living with Fire* program for Year 5–6 students was developed by *Nearer to Nature* in direct response to an Australian Curriculum geography requirement.

## Visitor Risk Management

The Department has a responsibility to consider the personal safety and welfare of visitors to Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters. The Department aims to manage the potential for misadventure and injuries to visitors in a manner that does not unnecessarily diminish visitor use and enjoyment. The Department manages the risk presented to visitors by implementing a statewide *Visitor Risk Management* program. This includes conducting reviews of fatal and major incidents and implementing the key recommendations of those reviews.

Tragically, during 2013–14, four visitors died in the extensive areas managed by Parks and Wildlife. Three of those deaths were due to drowning.

During 2013–14:

- Parks and Wildlife continued to work on a broad range of issues regarding visitor safety including remote camping, walk trail classifications and redevelopments and improvements to recreational sites and facilities.
- Fifty two staff members completed a nationally accredited course provided by the Department as part of the *Visitor Risk Management* program.
- Parks and Wildlife contributed to the statewide approach to reduce the number of injuries and deaths associated with rock fishing in WA in conjunction with Recfishwest and other stakeholders.
- In partnership with the local fishing community and Recfishwest, six rock anchor points, two angel rings (life buoys) and new signs were installed at Salmon Holes in Torndirrup National Park.

- Risk assessments and safety device plans were progressed for coastal rock fishing areas in Cape Arid, Cape Le Grand and Stokes national parks in the Esperance area, and Dirk Hartog Island National Park and the proposed Edel Land (Steep Point) National Park in the Shark Bay area.
- Work continued on implementing the recommendations of a coronial inquest into the tragic drowning deaths of two visitors to Penguin Island in 2010. A coastal risk assessment of Mersey Point and Penguin Island sandbar areas commenced. In conjunction with Surf Life Saving WA, the Department provided lifesaver patrols at Mersey Point during peak visitor periods.
- Work started on the development of a new hazard sign manual to ensure hazard signs used by the Department are in line with latest Australian standards and industry best practice.

## Corporate Services Division

The Corporate Services Division provided corporate services to the Department and other agencies including the Department of Environment Regulation, the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, the Swan River Trust, the Forest Products Commission and the Waste Authority of Western Australia

### Financial Services Branch

The Department's central Financial Services Branch continued to maintain core financial software and managed accounts payable, accounts receivable, asset records, tax reporting and remote area housing. The branch also managed the Department's light and heavy vehicle fleet and produced a range of statutory and management financial reports.

### People Services Branch

The People Services Branch continued to provide 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 employees.

### Corporate Information Services Branch

The Corporate Information Services Branch continued to provide recordkeeping services and improve business recordkeeping processes, particularly in regards to recordkeeping training and of the electronic document and records management system *InfOBase*. Comprehensive training was undertaken to ensure staff understand and fulfil their recordkeeping responsibilities as well as gain the necessary skills to create and manage electronic documents in the system, including version control and document approvals. A ministerial workflow using *InfOBase* was introduced and successfully implemented during the year.

## Geographic Information Services Branch

The Geographic Information Services Branch continued to provide services to support the Department's mission of protecting and conserving the nature of WA, and promoting the use and enjoyment of the natural environment by:

- monitoring of the Earth's surface using remote sensing to provide information on the current and historical attributes of WA's natural resources
- using spatial analysis of geospatial information to assist in natural resource management
- maintaining corporate geospatial databases
- producing information products to meet operational and public needs
- developing standards for the use of geospatial data and information within the Department.

During 2013–14:

- Further progress was made in developing remote sensing and spatial analysis capacities. Long-term historical sequences of imagery is providing a form of operational monitoring of the Earth's surface to locate, navigate to, and investigate changes (natural or deliberate) to the environment. Together with the associated analysis of other spatial data and knowledge, methods have been established to meet the Department's needs for monitoring and reporting. Information products such as vegetation-cover trends, graphs and statistics are now produced as standard outputs.



Aerial photograph of Mitchell River National Park. Photo – Parks and Wildlife

## Supporting our Department

- Two staff were part of an Australian delegation to China to the Satellite Surveying and Mapping Application Centre, and the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geo-information. The delegation was supported by Australia-China Science and Research Fund. During the trip they gave presentations on the current use of satellite data within the Department; examined the potential of new Chinese satellites, such as ZY-3, to provide geographic datasets. Benefits that followed the trip included:
  - developing, in collaboration with CSIRO, a high resolution perennial vegetation map over the south-west of WA using the ZY-3 satellite
  - access to ZY-3 data over key areas within the State, including Shark Bay and the Lake Bryde Recovery Catchment area
  - increased collaboration on fire-scar mapping techniques with Landgate and the Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts.
- The branch's core database infrastructure was upgraded and will be used to provide customised applications for specific business units in the Parks and Visitor Services Division. The upgraded infrastructure will also support a database replication project with Landgate that will allow changes to the State's topographic database to be automatically available to Departmental staff. This completes the integration of the Department's road management data into the State topographic database and ensures the most current data are available to meet Departmental and wider government needs.
- The branch's processes and procedures documentation was integrated into the Department's electronic document and records management system. A new process was implemented to track project work and enable the branch to minimise excess data storage on the network.
- The Great Southern Inland Emergency Services Directory (ESD) was completed during the year. This was the final ESD to be produced by this program that was partly funded through the *Federal Natural Disaster Resilience Program*. A new digital State map base was created as an alternative to the ESD to provide an operations map base for the 2014–15 fire season. Demonstrations of the digital map base were given to Parks and Wildlife and Department of Fire and Emergency Services staff.
- Significant geographic information systems (GIS) analysis work was done to assist with the biodiversity audit. The statewide vegetation statistics (formerly known as the CAR reserve analysis) and the Threatened Ecological Communities data management tool were updated.
- The Kimberley fire scar analysis was completed and statistics were extracted relating to burnt and unburnt areas and age class fire patterns in the Kimberley as part of the *Landscape Conservation Initiative*.
- Analysis of geospatial information and the preparation of maps and reports continued for the Perth and Peel Strategic Assessment project.
- A tool that captures fire boundaries on a tablet used in aircraft at large fire incidents was built during the year.
- The branch was reorganised to meet the demands of the new agency including increased emphasis on geospatial information analysis and an increase in demand for map information products resulting from CALM Act changes and the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*.

## Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters

At 30 June 2014, the total area under Parks and Wildlife's care was 28,543,064ha, representing a net increase of 11,077ha during 2013–14. The majority of the increase was 4,797ha due to the creation of a 5(1)(h) reserve in the Shire of Broome.

The land area managed by the Department is about 10.3 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 2014

Tenure Classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total
National park	153,177	1,406,089	568,869	2,432,132	861,419	143,987	117,219	562,459	1,292	6,246,643
Conservation park	183,020	459,942	15,755	149,348	677	13,560	24,407	76	1,559	848,344
Nature reserve	6,299,182	174,653	740,140	251,019	1,569,486	12,967	53,278	87,267	1,057,862	10,245,854
State forest	781	-	-	-	4,055	542,367	466,498	262,642	28,066	1,304,409
Timber reserve	28,509	-	26,224	-	5,231	26,474	28,501	8,215	-	123,154
Marine park	-	866,700	868,860	330,215	-	123,000	16,391	1,446	-	2,206,612
Marine nature reserve	-	-	132,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,000
Marine management area	-	-	-	143,385	-	-	-	-	-	143,385
Sections 5(1)(G) & 5(1)(H) reserve	81,566	281,376	1,976	7,810	644	31,203	28,497	1,600	1,448	436,120
Miscellaneous reserve	<1	568,010	508	1,779	3,767	124	6,006	244	15	580,453
Freehold (CALM Exec Body)	-	<1	1,550	<1	91	20,822	50	4,658	<1	27,171
Leasehold (CALM Exec Body)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Former leasehold	1,846,091	80,748	3,287,128	786,503	-	-	-	-	41,623	6,042,093
Section 33(2) managed land	28,514	-	90,118	-	-	-	-	-	-	118,632
Sections 8 & 8A managed land	-	-	-	4,851	-	-	-	-	-	4,851
Sections 16 & 16A managed land	-	37,941	-	-	-	121	7,903	40	-	46,005
Freehold land acquired for conservation	-	-	10,354	-	6,201	3,629	12,091	1,662	3,401	37,338
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,620,840</b>	<b>3,875,459</b>	<b>5,743,482</b>	<b>4,107,042</b>	<b>2,451,571</b>	<b>918,254</b>	<b>760,841</b>	<b>930,309</b>	<b>1,135,266</b>	<b>28,543,064</b>

# Supporting our Department

## National parks

The area of the national parks vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia at 30 June 2014 was 6,246,643ha, a net decrease of 49ha. The majority of this decrease was due to a road survey being excised from Kalbarri National Park.

### Area of national parks vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia at 30 June 2014

NAME	AREA (ha)	NAME	AREA (ha)	NAME	AREA (ha)
Alexander Morrison	8,500	<i>Greater Preston</i>	12,665	Peak Charles	39,959
Avon Valley	4,366	Greenmount	202	Porongurup	2,621
Badgingarra	13,108	<i>Gull Rock</i>	2,104	<i>Prince Regent National Park</i>	576,400
Beelu	4,617	Hassell	1,265	Purnululu	239,723
<i>Blackwood River</i>	20,477	<i>Helena</i>	12,255	Scott	3,273
Boorabbin	28,153	Hilliger	16,962	Serpentine	4,387
<i>Boorara-Gardner</i>	11,008	<i>Jane</i>	6,863	Shannon	52,598
<i>Boyndaminup</i>	5,439	John Forrest	2,700	Sir James Mitchell	247
<i>Bramley</i>	3,892	Kalamunda	375	Stirling Range	115,921
Brockman	52	Kalbarri	182,931	Stokes	9,726
Cape Arid	279,449	Karijini	627,442	Tathra	4,322
Cape Le Grand	31,801	Karlamilyi	1,283,706	Torndirrup	3,936
Cape Range	47,655	Kennedy Range	141,660	Tuart Forest	2,049
Collier Range	235,162	Korung	6,344	<i>Tunnel Creek</i>	91
D'Entrecasteaux	118,779	<i>Lake Muir</i>	9,625	<i>Un-named</i>	1,571
<i>Dalgarup</i>	2,377	<i>Lawley River</i>	17,572	<i>Un-named</i>	79
<i>Dirk Hartog Island</i>	62,928	Leeuwin-Naturaliste	21,284	Walpole-Nornalup	19,448
Drovers Cave	2,681	Lesmurdie Falls	56	<i>Walyunga</i>	1,814
Drysdale River	448,264	Lesueur	27,235	<i>Wandoo</i>	46,493
<i>Easter</i>	2,985	Midgegooroo	2,492	Warren	2,981
<i>Eucla</i>	3,560	Millstream Chichester	238,167	Watheroo	44,481
Fitzgerald River	297,244	<i>Milyeannup</i>	18,692	<i>Waychinicup</i>	3,982
<i>Forest Grove</i>	1,379	<i>Mirima</i>	2,068	Wellington	17,415
François Péron	52,587	<i>Mitchell River</i>	115,325	West Cape Howe	3,605
Frank Hann	67,539	Moore River	17,254	<i>Whicher</i>	6,343
Geikie Gorge	3,136	Mount Augustus	9,168	William Bay	1,734
Gloucester	878	Mount Frankland	37,359	Wiltshire-Butler	11,645
<i>Goldfields Woodlands</i>	64,628	<i>Mount Frankland North</i>	22,053	Windjana Gorge	2,050
Goongarrie	60,397	<i>Mount Frankland South</i>	42,283	Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater	1,460
Gooseberry Hill	33	<i>Mount Lindesay</i>	39,541	Yalgorup	13,141
<i>Greater Beedelup</i>	19,379	<i>Mount Roe</i>	127,726	Yanchep	2,876
<i>Greater Dordagup</i>	6,408	Murujuga*	0	<i>Yelverton</i>	729
<i>Greater Hawke</i>	14,004	Nambung	19,268		
<i>Greater Kingston</i>	21,092	Neerabup	944	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,246,643</b>

\* Murujuga National Park is managed as a national park under section 8A of the CALM Act with an area of 4,851ha. Names in italics are unofficial.



## Section 8A

Section 8A was introduced into the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) on 8 December 2012.

This section of the CALM Act empowers the Department to enter into agreements to jointly manage land with another party or parties, on land not vested in either the Conservation Commission or the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, for example, private land, pastoral lease land and other Crown land. A section 8A agreement is managed in accordance with the CALM Act as if the land was State forest, timber reserve, national park, conservation park, nature reserve or managed for a public purpose consistent with that Act.

Murujuga National Park is jointly managed as a national park under section 8A of the CALM Act by the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation and Parks and Wildlife. Murujuga National Park was proclaimed the State's 100th national park on 17 January 2013. The area of the national park is 4,851ha and is recorded in the section 8A tenure category in the tenure table.

## Conservation parks

The area of conservation parks at 30 June 2014 was 848,344ha, a net increase of 766ha. The majority of the increase was due to a new conservation park being created in the Shire of Chapman Valley.

## Nature reserves

The area of nature reserves at 30 June 2014 was 10,245,854ha, representing a net increase of 1,687ha. The majority of the increase was due to a new nature reserve in the Shire of Kondinin.

## State forest

The area of State forest at 30 June 2014 was 1,304,409ha, representing a net decrease of 33ha. The majority of the decrease was due to upgrades to the Bussell Highway in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

## Timber reserves

The area of timber reserves at 30 June 2014 was 123,154ha, representing a net decrease of 1ha.

## Marine parks and reserves

The area of marine parks at 30 June 2014 was approximately 2,206,612ha. There were no changes during the year.

The area of marine nature reserves at 30 June 2014 was approximately 132,000ha. There were no changes during the year.

## Marine reserves vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority at 30 June 2014

Name	Area (ha) approx
Barrow Island Marine Park	4,169
Barrow Island Marine Management Area	116,616
Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park	673,000
Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park	148,000
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,481,997</b>

Area figures are approximate only. Improved mapping of watermark boundaries and historical boundaries may result in revised area figures in the future.

## Marine management areas

The area of marine management areas at 30 June 2014 was approximately 143,385ha. There were no changes during the year.

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

The area of CALM Act sections 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves at 30 June 2014 was 436,120ha. This represents an increase of 5,495ha. The major addition was the creation of a section 5(1)(h) reserve in the Shire of Broome for the purpose of conservation, recreation and traditional and customary Aboriginal use and enjoyment with a total area of 4,797ha.

## Miscellaneous reserves

The area of miscellaneous reserves at 30 June 2014 was 580,453ha. There were no changes during the year.

# Supporting our Department

## Other land

The area of freehold land held by the Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Executive Body at 30 June 2014 is 27,171ha. This represents an increase of 1ha.

The area of former pastoral lease land being held under an interim management arrangement prior to formal reservation was 6,042,093ha. There were no changes during the year.

The area of Crown land placed under the management of the Department under section 33(2) of the CALM Act at 30 June 2014 totalled 118,632ha. 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 2014 was 37,941ha. 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 2014 was 8,064ha. 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 2014 was 37,338ha. This represents a net increase of 3,211ha. An audit was conducted during the year which added 394ha of freehold land in addition to purchases made during the year. Reservation of these areas pends the completion of administrative processes.

## Conservation land acquisitions

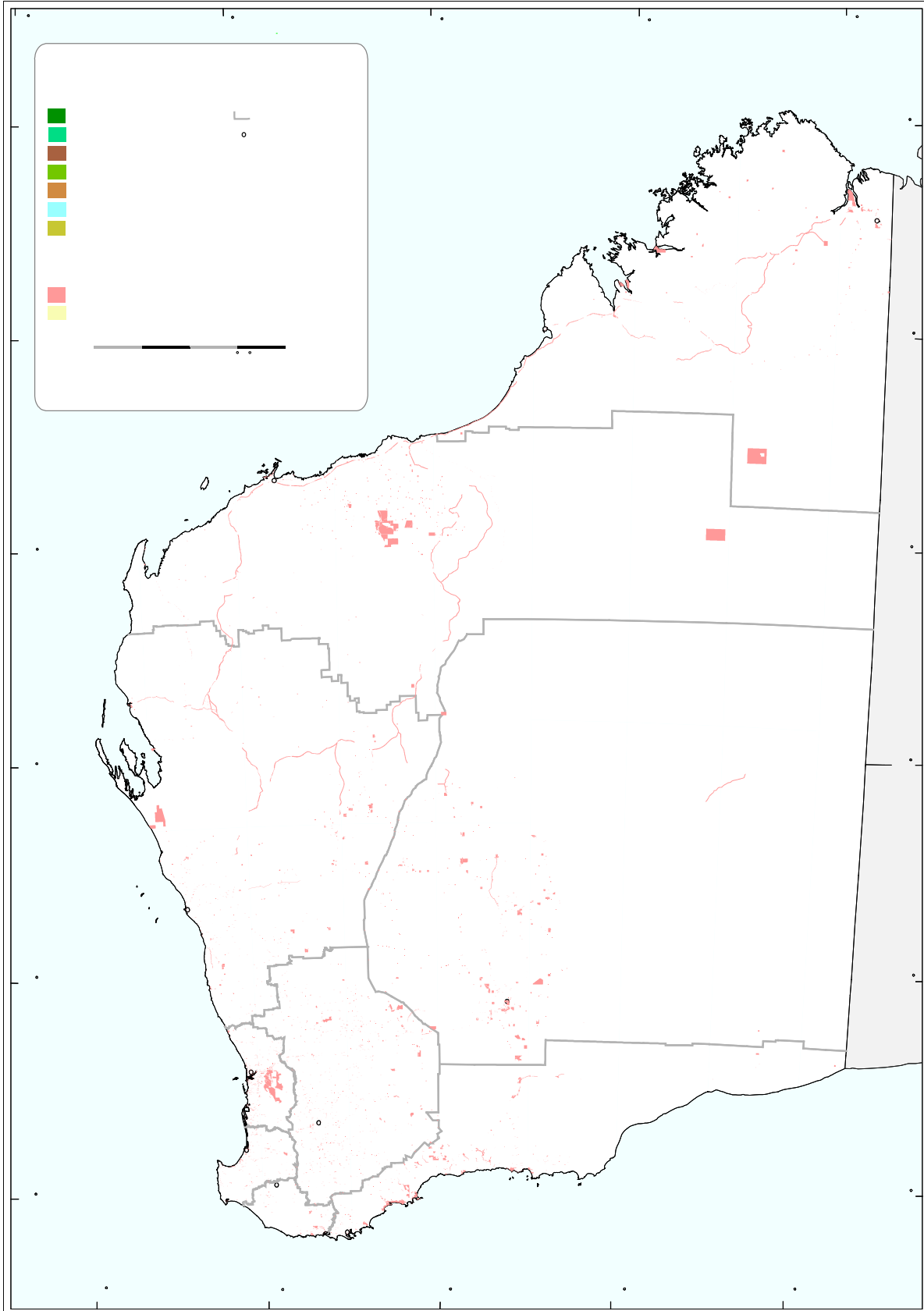
During the year Parks and Wildlife purchased nine parcels of freehold land of high conservation value covering a combined total area of about 3,800ha for future addition to the formal conservation reserve system.

The Department's priorities for purchases are 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, including Parks and Wildlife's annual capital allocation for acquiring conservation land, and environmental offset funds (provided from a variety of sources as a result of approved development projects and land clearing). The total expenditure from all funding sources for the financial year was \$14.019 million.

Purchases finalised during the year were:

- a 108ha property west of Northam in the Shire of Northam
- a 23ha property west of Northam in the Shire of Northam
- a 47ha property west of Northam in the Shire of Northam
- a 1,206ha property north-east of Gingin in the Shire of Gingin
- a 98ha property north-west of Serpentine in the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
- a 1,214ha property north-west of Serpentine in the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
- a 5ha property east of Ellenbrook in the City of Swan
- a 984ha property south-west of Bindoon in the Shire of Chittering
- a 98ha property south-west of Yarloop in the Shire of Harvey.



# Significant issues and trends



Green turtle hatchlings, Barrow Island. *Photo – Parks and Wildlife*



## Significant issues and trends

- The *Parks for People* initiative will increase the number of low-cost camping and caravanning facilities, promote the State's world-class parks system, and help people enjoy WA's parks safely by providing a range of facilities and services. With \$2.6 million allocated in 2013–14 and \$18.5 million over the period 2014–15 to 2016–17, the initiative will provide better facilities for regional communities, boost regional tourism and recreation, and improve access to low-cost caravan and camping opportunities in natural areas. The *Parks for People* initiative will also deliver upgrades to the Department's electronic information about camping and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- The Department will continue to strengthen and expand its partnership approach to managing the State's terrestrial and marine parks and reserves with volunteers, private conservation organisations, Aboriginal communities and the private sector using a new legislative framework.
- The Department will continue to prepare management plans and implement conservation actions for terrestrial and marine reserves across the State. This includes continuing to implement the expanded *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy* (KSCS) to provide the largest ever targeted investment in conservation of the Kimberley's natural assets, the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage and rock art, and the development of sustainable nature-based tourism.
- New marine parks will be established under the KSCS at Horizontal Falls and in the North Kimberley, along with an extension to the proposed North Kimberley Marine Park to the Northern Territory border. Also under the KSCS, a new Horizontal Falls National Park will be established and a proposed additional national park, stretching over two million hectares, will be progressed in consultation with native title holders.
- Priority will be given to preparatory work for the proposed new Biodiversity Conservation Act to replace the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.
- 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. Planning and implementation of prescribed burning has been overhauled to ensure alignment with the international risk management standard. There will continue to be a focus on enhancing training and operational delivery in this area.
- WA has a unique and highly significant biodiversity that faces constant threats and complex challenges, requiring integrated multi-disciplinary approaches to conservation and management.
- The *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* came into effect on 1 January 2014. The plan proposes a number of new initiatives to be implemented by the Department.
- The Department will continue its work with other State agencies in the completion of the strategic assessment of the impact of development on matters of national environmental significance under the *Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to improve environmental outcomes and promote more efficient environmental assessment in the Perth metropolitan and Peel regions.

# Disclosures and legal compliance



Elephant Rocks, William Bay National Park. *Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife*

# Certification

## **Certification of Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2014**

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of Parks and Wildlife 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 2014 and the financial position as at 30 June 2014.

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



**John Byrne**  
Chief Financial Officer  
8 September 2014



**Jim Sharp**  
Accountable Authority  
8 September 2014





## Auditor General

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Parliament of Western Australia

### DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

#### Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accounts and financial statements of the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2014, 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 Parks and Wildlife at 30 June 2014 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.



# Auditor General's opinion

## **Report on Controls**

I have audited the controls exercised by the Department of Parks and Wildlife during the year ended 30 June 2014.

Controls exercised by the Department of Parks and Wildlife 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 Parks and Wildlife 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 Parks and Wildlife 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 2014.

## **Report on the Key Performance Indicators**

I have audited the key performance indicators of the Department of Parks and Wildlife for the year ended 30 June 2014.

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.

# Auditor General's opinion

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 Parks and Wildlife are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Department's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2014.

## **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 Parks and Wildlife for the year ended 30 June 2014 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  
12 September 2014

# Financial statements



Greater Kingston National Park. Photo – Bron Anderson/Parks and Wildlife

# Financial statements

## Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014 \$'000
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Employee benefits expense	6	156,058
Supplies and services	7	79,877
Depreciation expense	8	23,170
Accommodation expenses	9	4,229
Grants and subsidies	10	390
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	15	188
Other expenses	11	26,402
<b>Total cost of services</b>		<b>290,314</b>
<b>Income</b>		
<i>Revenue</i>		
User charges and fees	12	35,228
Commonwealth grants and contributions	13	1,477
Other grants and contributions	14	36,353
Interest revenue		2,412
Other revenue	16	9,864
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>85,334</b>
<b>Total income other than income from State Government</b>		<b>85,334</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<b>204,980</b>
<b>Income from State Government</b>	17	
Service appropriation		213,168
Services received free of charge		1,570
Assets not previously recognised		573
Royalties for Regions Fund		2,114
<b>Total income from State Government</b>		<b>217,425</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>12,445</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		
<b>Items not reclassified subsequently to profit and loss</b>		
Changes in Asset Revaluation Surplus		22,938
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>22,938</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>35,383</b>

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

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

# Financial statements

## Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	29	3,244
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18 & 29	69,706
Inventories	19	1,284
Receivables	20	11,229
Amounts receivable for services	21	9,404
Other current assets	22	1,489
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>96,356</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18	5,820
Amounts receivable for services	21	111,050
Property, plant and equipment	23	3,678,182
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>3,795,052</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>3,891,408</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Payables	25	10,874
Provisions	26	26,486
Other current liabilities	27	5,439
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>42,799</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Provisions	26	9,375
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>9,375</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>52,174</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>3,839,234</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
	28	
Contributed Equity		2,950,430
Reserves		876,359
Accumulated surplus		12,445
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>3,839,234</b>

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

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

# Financial statements

## Statement of Changes in Equity For the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note 28	Contributed Equity \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Accumulated surplus \$'000	Total equity \$'000
<b>Balance at 1 July 2013 belonging to the Department of Environment and Conservation</b>		2,963,577	853,421	0	3,816,998
Surplus		0	0	12,445	12,445
Other comprehensive income		0	22,938		22,938
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	22,938	12,445	35,383
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		16,964	0	0	16,964
Other contributions by owners		1,366	0	0	1,366
Distributions to owners - Department of Environment Regulation		(31,477)	0	0	(31,477)
Total		(13,147)	0	0	(13,147)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>		<b>2,950,430</b>	<b>876,359</b>	<b>12,445</b>	<b>3,839,234</b>

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

# Financial statements

## Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2014 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>		
Service appropriation		193,451
Capital appropriations		5,614
Holding account drawdowns		8,987
Cash and cash equivalents distributed to owner		(26,289)
Royalties for Regions Fund		13,464
<b>Net cash provided by State Government</b>		<b>195,227</b>
Utilised as follows:		
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Payments</b>		
Employee benefits		(159,709)
Supplies and services		(76,985)
Accommodation		(4,267)
Grants and subsidies		(940)
GST payments on purchases		(12,842)
GST payments to taxation authority		(57)
Other payments		(27,740)
<b>Receipts</b>		
User charges and fees		43,437
Commonwealth grants and contributions		1,620
Interest received		2,399
GST receipts on sales		5,038
GST receipts from taxation authority		8,212
Other receipts		44,865
<b>Net cash (used) in operating activities</b>	29	<b>(176,969)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Payments</b>		
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(46,496)
<b>Receipts</b>		
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		815
<b>Net cash provided by/(used) used in investing activities</b>		<b>(45,681)</b>
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(27,423)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		106,193
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD</b>	29	<b>78,770</b>

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

# Financial statements

## Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service For the year ended 30 June 2014

	Parks Management 2014 \$'000	Wildlife Management 2014 \$'000	Forest Management 2014 \$'000	Total 2014 \$'000
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>				
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee benefits expense	50,121	77,134	28,803	156,058
Supplies and services	26,761	38,392	14,723	79,876
Depreciation expense	12,913	5,874	4,384	23,171
Accommodation expenses	1,671	2,144	414	4,229
Grants & subsidies	14	369	7	390
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	234	316	(362)	188
Other expenses	6,094	10,113	10,195	26,402
<b>Total cost of services</b>	<b>97,808</b>	<b>134,342</b>	<b>58,164</b>	<b>290,314</b>
<b>Income</b>				
User charges and fees	18,180	10,458	6,590	35,228
Commonwealth grants and contributions	80	1,397	0	1,477
Other grants and contributions	4,905	31,336	112	36,353
Interest revenue	317	2,082	13	2,412
Other revenue	3,750	3,381	2,733	9,864
<b>Total income other than income from State Government</b>	<b>27,232</b>	<b>48,654</b>	<b>9,448</b>	<b>85,334</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>70,576</b>	<b>85,688</b>	<b>48,716</b>	<b>204,980</b>
<b>Income from State Government</b>				
Service appropriation	69,752	93,390	50,026	213,168
Services received free of charge	418	705	447	1,570
Assets not previously recognised	243	230	100	573
Royalties for Regions Fund	1,189	925	0	2,114
<b>Total income from State Government</b>	<b>71,602</b>	<b>95,250</b>	<b>50,573</b>	<b>217,425</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the period</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>9,562</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>12,445</b>

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 2014

	Parks Management 2014 \$'000	Wildlife Management 2014 \$'000	Forest Management 2014 \$'000	Total 2014 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current assets	16,188	70,077	10,092	96,357
Non-current assets	895,592	1,113,286	1,786,173	3,795,051
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>911,780</b>	<b>1,183,363</b>	<b>1,796,265</b>	<b>3,891,408</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Current liabilities	15,553	19,793	7,453	42,799
Non-current liabilities	3,206	4,679	1,490	9,375
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>18,759</b>	<b>24,472</b>	<b>8,943</b>	<b>52,174</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>893,021</b>	<b>1,158,891</b>	<b>1,787,322</b>	<b>3,839,234</b>

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

# Financial statements

## Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates

For the year ended 30 June 2014

	2014 Estimate \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
<b>Delivery of Services</b>			
Item 103 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	201,473	212,645	11,172
Royalties for Regions Fund	5,303	2,114	(3,189)
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes			
- <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	523	523	0
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>	<b>207,299</b>	<b>215,282</b>	<b>7,983</b>
<b>Capital</b>			
Item 168 Capital appropriations	2,412	5,614	3,202
Royalties for Regions Fund	11,537	11,350	(187)
<b>Total capital</b>	<b>13,949</b>	<b>16,964</b>	<b>3,015</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>221,248</b>	<b>232,246</b>	<b>10,998</b>
<b>Details of Expenses by Service</b>			
Parks Management	95,342	97,808	2,466
Wildlife Management	142,175	134,342	(7,833)
Forest Management	53,247	58,164	4,917
Total Cost of Services	290,764	290,314	(450)
Less Total Income	(89,010)	(85,334)	3,676
Net Cost of Services	201,754	204,980	3,226
Adjustments	5,545	10,302	4,757
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>	<b>207,299</b>	<b>215,282</b>	<b>7,983</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>			
Purchase of non-current physical assets	29,913	46,496	16,583
Adjustment for other funding sources	(15,964)	(29,532)	(13,568)
<b>Capital appropriations</b>	<b>13,949</b>	<b>16,964</b>	<b>3,015</b>
<b>Details of Income Estimates</b>			
Income disclosed as Administered Income	90	73	(17)
	<b>90</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>(17)</b>

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

Note 35 "Explanatory statement" provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2014.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. Australian Accounting Standards

#### General

The Department of Parks and Wildlife (the Department) financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014 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).

This is the Department's first annual report. From 1 July 2013 the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Environment Regulation have delivered services previously offered by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The Department has adopted any applicable new and revised Australian Accounting Standards from their operative dates.

#### Early adoption of standards

The Department 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 the Department for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2014.

### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (a) General statement

The Department 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 2006* 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).

# Financial statements

Note 3 'Judgments made by management in applying accounting policies' discloses judgments that have been made in the process of applying the Department'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 is the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

### ***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.

The Department 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 the Department controls resources to carry on its functions.

### ***Services***

The Department provides the following services:

#### ***Service 1: Parks Management***

The generation of environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits through further development of a world class parks system in terms of ecosystem management and visitor facilities and services. The development of community awareness and appreciation of the State's natural environment and biodiversity and promotion of community involvement in and support for its protection and conservation.

#### ***Service 2: Wildlife Management***

The development and implementation of programs for the conservation of biodiversity including the variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form.

#### ***Service 3: Forest Management***

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

The Department administers assets, liabilities, income and expenses on behalf of Government which are not controlled by, nor integral to the function of the Department. These administered balances and transactions are not recognised in the principal financial statements of the Department but schedules are prepared using the same basis as the financial statements and are presented at note 42 '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

# Financial statements

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 fair value in the period in which the Department gains control of the appropriated funds. The Department gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited to the Department'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 the Department. In accordance with the determination specified in the 2013–2014 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$85.334 million in 2014 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 the Department 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.

# Financial statements

Royalties for Regions funds are recognised as revenue at fair value in the period in which the Department obtains control over the funds. The Department obtains control of the funds at the time the funds are deposited into the Department'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
Communication	5–20 years
Fire protection equipment	3–10 years
Infrastructure	10–33 years
Software (a)	4 years
Aircraft	5–13 years
Boats	5–12 years
Plant and machinery	4–20 years
Heavy fleet vehicles	5–14 years
Parks and visitor facilities	10–33 years

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

Works of art controlled by the Department 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. Where an asset measured at cost is written down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss. Where a previously revalued asset is written down to recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement in other comprehensive income. As the Department 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

# Financial statements

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**

The Department 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, The Department 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.



# Financial statements

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. The Department 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)**

The Department 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 the Department 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 the Department 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*

Annual leave is not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period and is therefore considered to be 'other long-term employee benefits'. The annual leave liability 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 the Department 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*

Long service leave is not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period and is therefore 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 the Department 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 the Department 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.

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

# Financial statements

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 provider. The Department 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 the Department's liability for superannuation charges in respect of employees who are not members of the Pension Scheme or GSS.

The Department 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 the Department to GESB.

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

The GSS, the WSS, and the GESBS, where the current service superannuation charge is paid by the Department to the GESB, are defined contribution schemes. The liabilities for current service superannuation charges under the GSS, the WSS, and the GESBS are extinguished by the concurrent payment of employer contributions to the GESB.

The GSS is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole-of-government reporting. However, from an agency perspective, apart from the pre-transfer benefits, it is a defined contribution plan under AASB 119.

## *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 the Department's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

## **(r) Superannuation expense**

Superannuation expense is recognised in the profit or loss of the Statement of Comprehensive Income and comprises employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the WSS, the GESBS, or other superannuation funds. The employer contribution paid to the GESB in respect of the GSS is paid back into the Consolidated Account by the GESB.

## **(s) Assets and services received free of charge or for nominal cost**

Assets or services received free of charge or for nominal cost are recognised as income at the fair value of the assets and /or the fair value of those services that can be reliably measured and the Department would otherwise pay for. A corresponding expense is recognised for services received. 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**

The Department was designated from 1 July 2013 following the separation of the former Department of Environment and Conservation into the Department of Parks and Wildlife and Department of Environment Regulation. Comparative figures are not provided due to 2013-14 being the Department's first year of operation.

### 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. The Department evaluates these judgments regularly.

#### Operating lease commitments

The Department 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 the Department'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

The Department has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2013 that impacted on the Department.

*AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*

This Standard defines fair value, sets out a framework for measuring fair value and requires additional disclosures for assets and liabilities measured at fair value. There is no financial impact.

*AASB 119 Employee Benefits*

This Standard supersedes AASB 119 (October 2010), making changes to the recognition, presentation and disclosure requirements.

The Department assessed employee leave patterns to determine whether annual leave is a short-term or other long-term employee benefit. The resultant discounting of annual leave liabilities that were previously measured at the undiscounted amounts is not material.

*AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards*

This Standard supersedes AASB 1048 (June 2012) enabling references to the Interpretations in all other Standards to be updated by reissuing the service Standard. There is no financial impact.

# Financial statements

**AASB 2011-8** *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]*

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 2011-10** *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119 (September 2011)[AASB 1, 8, 101, 124, 134, 1049 & 2011- 8 and Int 14]*

This Standard makes amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 119 in September 2011. The resultant discounting of annual leave liabilities that were previously measured at the undiscounted amounts is not material.

**AASB 2012-2** *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosures – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 7 & 132]*

This Standard amends the required disclosures in AASB 7 to include information that will enable users of an entity's financial statements to evaluate the effect or potential effect of netting arrangements, including rights of set-off associated with the entity's recognised financial assets and recognised financial liabilities, on the entity's financial position. There is no financial impact.

**AASB 2012-5** *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Annual Improvements 2009-11 Cycle [AASB 1, 101, 116, 132 & 134 and Int 2]*

This Standard makes amendments to the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a consequence of the annual improvements process. There is no financial impact.

**AASB 2012-6** *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Mandatory Effective Date of AASB 9 and Transition Disclosures [AASB 9, 2009-11, 2010-7, 2011-7 & 2011-8]*

This Standard amends the mandatory effective date of AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* to 1 January 2015 (instead of 1 January 2013). Further amendments are also made to consequential amendments arising from AASB 9 that will now apply from 1 January 2015. There is no financial impact.

# Financial statements

**AASB 2012-9**      *Amendment to AASB 1048 arising from the Withdrawal of Australian Int 1039*

The withdrawal of Int 1039 Substantive Enactment of Major Tax Bills in Australia has no financial impact for the Department during the reporting period and at balance date. Measurement of tax assets and liabilities continues to be measured in accordance with enacted or substantively enacted tax law pursuant to AASB 112.46-47.

**AASB 2012-10**      *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Transition Guidance and Other Amendments [AASB 1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 119, 127, 128, 132, 133, 134, 137, 1023, 1038, 1039, 1049, & 2011-7 and Int 12]*

The Standard introduces a number of editorial alterations and amends the mandatory application date of Standards for not for profit entities accounting for interests in other entities. There is no financial impact.

**AASB 2013-9**      *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments.*

Part A of this omnibus Standard makes amendments to other Standards arising from revisions to the Australian Accounting Conceptual Framework for periods ending on or after 20 December 2013. Other Parts of this Standard become operative in later periods. There is no financial impact for Part A of the Standard.

## Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

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

**Operative  
for reporting  
periods  
beginning  
on/after**

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**AASB 9**      *Financial Instruments*

*1 Jan 2018*

This Standard supersedes AASB 139 *Financial instruments: Recognition and Measurement*, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.

The mandatory application date of this Standard was amended to 1 January 2018 by AASB 2014-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.

# Financial statements

**AASB 10**      *Consolidated Financial Statements*      1 Jan 2014

This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 127 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements* and Int 112 *Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities*, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.

Mandatory application of this Standard was deferred by one year for not-for-profit entities by AASB 2012-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Transition Guidance and Other Amendments*. The adoption of the new Standard has no financial impact for the Department as it does not impact accounting for related bodies and the Department has no interests in other entities.

**AASB 11**      *Joint Arrangements*      1 Jan 2014

This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 131 *Interests in Joint Ventures*, introducing new principles for determining the type of joint arrangement that exists, which are more aligned to the actual rights and obligations of the parties to the arrangement.

Mandatory application of this Standard was deferred for not-for-profit entities by AASB 2012-10. There is no financial impact for the Department as the new standard continues to require the recognition of the Department's share of assets and share of liabilities for the unincorporated joint operation.

**AASB 12**      *Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities*      1 Jan 2014

This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes disclosure requirements in AASB 127 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*, AASB 128 *Investments in Associates* and AASB 131 *Interests in Joint Ventures*.

Mandatory application was deferred for not-for-profit entities by AASB 2012-10. There is no financial impact.

**AASB 127**      *Separate Financial Statements*      1 Jan 2014

This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 127 *Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements*, removing the consolidation requirements of the earlier standard whilst retaining accounting and disclosure requirements for the preparation of separate financial statements.

Mandatory application was deferred for not-for-profit entities by AASB 2012-10. There is no financial impact.

# Financial statements

**AASB 128** *Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures* 1 Jan 2014

This Standard, issued in August 2011 supersedes AASB 128 *Investments in Associates*, introducing a number of clarifications for the accounting treatments of changed ownership interest.

Mandatory application was deferred for not-for-profit entities by AASB 2012-10. The adoption of the new Standard has no financial impact for the Department as it does not hold investments in associates and the accounting treatments for joint operations is consistent with current practice.

**AASB 1031** *Materiality* 1 Jan 2014

This Standard supersedes AASB 1031 (February 2010), removing Australian guidance on materiality not available in IFRSs and refers to guidance on materiality in other Australian pronouncements. There is no financial impact.

**AASB 1055** *Budgetary Reporting* 1 Jul 2014

This Standard requires specific budgetary disclosures in the financial statements of not-for-profit entities within the General Government Sector. The Department will be required to disclose additional budgetary information and explanations of major variances between actual and budgeted amounts, though there is no financial impact.

**AASB 2009-11** *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Int 10 & 12]* 1 Jan 2015

[modified by AASB 2010-7]

**AASB 2010-7** *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]* 1 Jan 2015

This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010.

AASB 2012-6 amended the mandatory application date of this Standard to 1 January 2015. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.



# Financial statements

**AASB 2011-7**      *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Consolidation and Joint Arrangements Standards [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 101, 107, 112, 118, 121, 124, 132, 133, 136, 138, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Int 5, 9, 16 & 17]*      1 Jan 2014

This Standard gives effect to consequential changes arising from the issue of AASB 10, AASB 11, AASB 127 *Separate Financial Statements* and AASB 128 *Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures*. Mandatory application was deferred for not-for-profit entities by AASB 2012-10. The Department has analysed the suite of Consolidation and Joint Arrangements Standards and determined that no financial impact arises from adopting the various Standards.

**AASB 2012-3**      *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 132]*      1 Jan 2014

This Standard adds application guidance to AASB 132 to address inconsistencies identified in applying some of the offsetting criteria, including clarifying the meaning of “currently has a legally enforceable right of set-off” and that some gross settlement systems may be considered equivalent to net settlement. The Department does not routinely hold financial assets and financial liabilities that it intends to settle on a net basis, therefore there is no financial impact.

**AASB 2013-9**      This omnibus Standard makes amendments to other Standards arising from the deletion of references to AASB 1031 in other Standards for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2014 (Part B), and, defers the application of AASB 9 to 1 January 2017 (Part C). The application date of AASB 9 was subsequently deferred to 1 January 2018 by AASB 2014-1. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of AASB 9; otherwise there is no financial impact for Part B.      1 Jan 2014  
1 Jan 2017

**AASB 2014-1**      *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards*      1 Jul 2014  
1 Jan 2015  
The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.      1 Jan 2016  
1 Jan 2018

# Financial statements

	<b>2014</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>6 Employee benefits expense</b>	
Wages and salaries (a)	137,236
Superannuation – defined contribution plans (b)	14,280
Redundancy payments	4,542
	<b>156,058</b>
<p>(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component and 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>	
<b>7 Supplies and services</b>	
Communications	3,961
Consultants and contractors	9,863
Services and contracts	31,184
Materials	15,069
Repairs and maintenance	4,974
Travel	3,868
Regional employee housing	4,492
Other	6,466
	<b>79,877</b>
<b>8 Depreciation expense</b>	
Plant, equipment and vehicles	10,953
Infrastructure	3,560
Buildings	8,604
Software	53
	<b>23,170</b>
<b>9 Accommodation expenses</b>	
Lease rentals	2,053
Electricity, power and water	2,176
	<b>4,229</b>

# Financial statements

	<b>2014</b> <b>\$'000</b>
<b>10 Grants and subsidies</b>	
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	295
Department of Regional Development	100
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	35
Shire of Plantagenet (return of funding previously provided)	(40)
	<u>390</u>
<b>11 Other expenses</b>	
Employment on-costs (a)	2,258
Operating lease – motor vehicle	9,480
Other lease, rental and hire expenses	14,664
	<u>26,402</u>
<p>(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.</p>	
<b>12 User charges and fees</b>	
User charges	15,359
Fees	19,869
	<u>35,228</u>
<b>13 Commonwealth grants and contributions</b>	
Recurrent	1,477
	<u>1,477</u>
<b>14 Other grants and contributions</b>	
Capital	13,403
Recurrent	22,950
	<u>36,353</u>

# Financial statements

	<b>2014</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>15 (Loss) on disposal of non-current assets</b>	
<i>Proceeds from Disposal of Non-Current Assets</i>	
Plant, property, equipment & vehicles	813
Building	1
<i>Costs of Disposal of Non-Current Assets</i>	
Plant, property, equipment & vehicles	(884)
Building	(118)
<b>Net (loss)</b>	<b>(188)</b>
<b>16 Other revenue</b>	
Publications	351
Mining compensation	6,082
Other	3,431
	<b>9,864</b>
<b>17 Income from State Government</b>	
Appropriation received during the period:	
- Service Appropriations (a)	213,168
	<u>213,168</u>
Assets found during the period:	
- Buildings	380
- Property, plant and equipment	75
- Infrastructure	60
- Vehicles	58
Total assets found	<u>573</u>
Services received free of charge from other State Government agencies during the period:	
- Landgate	971
- State Solicitor's Office (Department of the Attorney-General)	200
- Department of Agriculture and Food	44
- Department of Water	16
- Main Roads Western Australia	15
- Department of Finance	290
- Department of Corrective Services	34
	<u>1,570</u>

# Financial statements

	<b>2014</b> <b>\$'000</b>
Royalties for Regions Fund:	
- Regional Community Services Fund (b)	1,844
- Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund (b)	270
	<u>2,114</u>
	<u><b>217,425</b></u>

(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) 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)	69,706
	<u><b>69,706</b></u>

### *Non Current*

Accrued salaries suspense account (b)	5,820
	<u><b>5,820</b></u>

(a) Cash held in the account is to fund the three special purpose accounts disclosed at note 40 'Special Purpose Accounts' 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 27<sup>th</sup> pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years.

## 19 Inventories

### *Current*

Inventories held for resale:

Souvenirs	316
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Inventories held for distribution:

Publications	968
	<u><b>1,284</b></u>

# Financial statements

	<b>2014</b> <b>\$'000</b>
<b>20 Receivables</b>	
<i>Current</i>	
Receivables	9,480
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(403)
GST receivable	1,165
Accrued revenue	987
	<u>11,229</u>

## **Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:**

Balance at start of year belonging to the Department of Environment and Conservation	397
Impaired receivables transferred to Department of Environment Regulation as a result of administrative restructure	(40)
Doubtful debts expense	70
Amounts written off during the year	(24)
Amounts recovered during the year	0
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<u><b>403</b></u>

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

## **21 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)**

Current	9,404
Non-current	111,050
	<u><b>120,454</b></u>

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**

<i>Current</i>	
Prepayments	1,489
	<u><b>1,489</b></u>

# Financial statements

	<b>2014</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>23 Property, plant and equipment</b>	
Assets measured at fair value:	
Land	
At fair value (a)	3,425,629
	<u>3,425,629</u>
Buildings	
At fair value (a)	121,106
	<u>121,106</u>
Plant and equipment	
At cost	124,130
Accumulated depreciation	(57,812)
	<u>66,318</u>
Infrastructure	
At cost	52,492
Accumulated depreciation	(26,034)
	<u>26,458</u>
Vehicles	
At cost	32,783
Accumulated depreciation	(19,997)
	<u>12,786</u>
Works of art	
At cost	555
	<u>555</u>
Assets under construction	25,330
	<u><b>3,678,182</b></u>

(a) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2013 by the Western Australian Land Information Department (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2014 and recognised at 30 June 2014. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$1,280,400,750 and buildings: \$3,487,200. 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:

# Financial statements

<b>2014</b>	<b>Land</b>	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Plant and equipment</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>Works of art</b>	<b>Assets under construction</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Carrying amount at start of year	3,394,640	120,045	64,340	23,288	9,940	536	22,394	3,635,183
Assets not previously identified	0	380	75	60	58	0	0	573
Transfers(a)	1,341	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,341
Additions	13,519	2,575	8,245	4,242	4,504	19	12,608	45,712
Transfers (b)	(1,550)	1,569	3,788	2,428	44	0	(9,672)	(3,393)
Disposals	0	(118)	(806)	0	(78)	0	0	(1,002)
Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	17,679	5,259	0	0	0	0	0	22,938
Depreciation	0	(8,604)	(9,324)	(3,560)	(1,682)	0	0	(23,170)
<b>Carrying amount at end of year</b>	<b>3,425,629</b>	<b>121,106</b>	<b>66,318</b>	<b>26,458</b>	<b>12,786</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>25,330</b>	<b>3,678,182</b>

- (a) The Department has received \$1.34M of assets from other agencies which has been accounted as contributed equity.
- (b) Transfers also include assets transferred to the newly established Department of Environment Regulation on 1 July 2013 as a result of the restructure of administrative arrangements.



# Financial statements

**2014**  
**\$'000**

## 24 Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment at 30 June 2014.

The Department 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.

## 25 Payables

### *Current*

Trade payables	4,333
Accrued expenses	1,568
Accrued salaries	4,465
Accrued superannuation	411
Parental payment	97
	<b>10,874</b>

## 26 Provisions

### *Current*

#### *Employee benefits provision*

Annual leave (a)	11,065
Long service leave (b)	12,732
	<b>23,797</b>

#### *Other provisions*

Employment on-costs (c)	2,689
	<b>2,689</b>
	<b>26,486</b>

### *Non-current*

#### *Employee benefits provision*

Long service leave (b)	8,423
	<b>8,423</b>

#### *Other provisions*

Employment on-costs (c)	952
	<b>9,375</b>

(a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting period. As a result of the Department's restructure, there is no historical data available to estimate the likelihood of all current annual leave liabilities being taken within 12 months. The Department therefore anticipates annual leave to be taken within 12 months.

# Financial statements

	<b>2014</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	11,065
More than 12 months after the reporting period	0
	<b>11,065</b>

(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. As a result of the Department's restructure, there is no historical data available to estimate the likelihood of all current long service leave liabilities being taken within 12 months. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	12,732
More than 12 months after the reporting period	8,422
	<b>21,154</b>

(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 belonging to Department of Environment and Conservation	411
Amounts transferred to Department of Environment Regulation as a result of administrative restructure	(756)
Additional provisions recognised	2,962
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefits	1,024
<b>Carrying amount at end of period</b>	<b>3,641</b>

## 27 Current liabilities

### *Current*

Unearned revenue	5,439
	<b>5,439</b>

**2014**  
**\$'000**

## 28 Equity

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

### Contributed equity

Balance at start of period belonging to Department of Environment and Conservation	2,963,577
<i>Contributions by owners</i>	
Capital appropriation	16,964
<i>Transfer of net assets from other agencies</i>	
Main Roads Western Australia	1,170
Western Australian Planning Commission	196
<b>Total contributions by owners</b>	<b>2,981,907</b>

### *Distributions to owners*

Transfer of net assets to other agencies and Government	(31,477)
<b>Total distributions to owners</b>	<b>(31,477)</b>

<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>2,950,430</b>
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### Reserves

Asset revaluation surplus:

Balance at start of period belonging to Department of Environment and Conservation	853,421
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):	
Land	17,679
Buildings	5,259
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>876,359</b>

### Accumulated surplus

Balance at start of period belonging to Department of Environment and Conservation	0
Result for the period	12,445
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>12,445</b>

## 29 Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

**2014**  
**\$'000**

### 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	3,244
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (note 18 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents')	75,526
	<b>78,770</b>

### Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities

Net cost of services	<b>(204,980)</b>
<i>Non-cash items:</i>	
Depreciation expense	23,170
Resources received free of charge	1,570
(Gain)/Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	188
<i>(Increase)/decrease in assets:</i>	
Current receivables (a)	6,459
Inventories	685
Prepayments	812
Other current assets	10,332
<i>Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:</i>	
Current payables (a)	(1,840)
Provisions	(11,894)
Net GST receipts/(payments) (b)	351
Net assets transferred to Department of Environment Regulation	(1,822)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(176,969)</b>

(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.

## 30 Fair Value Measurements

<b>Assets measured at fair value:</b>				<b>Fair Value at end of period</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Land (Note 23)	0	1,281,496	2,144,133	3,425,629
Buildings (Note 23)	0	3,561	117,545	121,106
	<b>0</b>	<b>1,285,057</b>	<b>2,261,678</b>	<b>3,546,735</b>

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 or 3 during the period.

### Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)

<b>2014</b>	<b>Land</b>	<b>Buildings</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Fair Value at start of Period Belonging to the Department of Environment and Conservation	1,829,052	116,516
Additions	13,135	4,391
Revaluation/increments/(decrements) recognised in Comprehensive Income	301,946	5,104
Disposals	-	(115)
Depreciation Expense	-	(8,351)
<b>Fair Value at end of Period</b>	<b>2,144,133</b>	<b>117,545</b>
Total gains or losses for the period included in profit or loss, under Other Gains	-	-
Change in unrealised gains or losses for the period included in profit or loss for assets held at the end of the reporting period	-	-

### Valuation techniques to derive Level 2 fair values

Level 2 fair values of Non-current assets held for sale, Land and Buildings (Office Accommodation) are derived using the market approach. Market evidence of sales prices of comparable land and buildings (office accommodation) in close proximity is used to determine price per square metre.

### Valuation Processes

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

Transfers in and out of a fair value level are recognised on the date of the event or change in circumstances that caused the transfer. Transfers are generally limited to assets newly classified as non-current assets held for sale as Treasurer's instructions require valuations of land, buildings and infrastructure to be categorised within Level 3 where the valuations will utilise significant Level 3 inputs on a recurring basis.

Fair value for existing use specialised buildings is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the depreciated replacement cost. Depreciated replacement cost is the current replacement cost of an asset less accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired economic benefit, or obsolescence, and optimisation (where applicable) of the asset. Current replacement cost is generally determined by reference to the market-observable replacement cost of a substitute asset of comparable utility and the gross project size specifications.

Fair value for restricted use land is based on market value, by either using market evidence of sales of comparable land that is unrestricted less restoration costs to return the site to a vacant and marketable condition (low restricted use land), or, comparison with market evidence for land with low

# Financial statements

level utility (high restricted use land.)

Significant Level 3 inputs used by the Department and derived and evaluated as follows:

*Consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset*

These are estimated by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services).

*Selection of land with restricted utility*

Fair value for restricted use land is determined by comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility. Relevant comparators of land with low level utility are selected by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services).

*Historical cost per square metre floor area (m<sup>2</sup>)*

The costs of constructing specialised buildings with similar utility are extracted from financial records of the Department, then indexed by movements in CPI.

## Information about significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) in fair value measurements

Description and fair value as at 30 June 2014 \$000	Valuation technique(s)	Unobservable inputs	Range of unobservable inputs (weighted average)	Relationship of unobservable inputs to fair value
Land (\$2,144,133)	Market approach	Selection of land with similar approximate utility	\$0.00004 – \$554.61 per m <sup>2</sup> (\$6.55 per m <sup>2</sup> )	Higher value of similar land increases estimated fair value.
Buildings (\$117,545)	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset	-14% – 75.4% per year (2.5% per year)	Greater consumption of economic benefit or increased obsolescence lowers fair value.
		Historical cost per square metre floor area(m <sup>2</sup> )	\$211 – \$9,318 per m <sup>2</sup> (\$2,523.54 per m <sup>2</sup> )	Higher historical cost per square metre m <sup>2</sup> increases fair value.

Reconciliation of opening and closing balances are provided in note 23

## Basis of valuation

In the absence of market-based evidence, due to the specialised nature of some non-financial assets, these assets are valued at Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy on an existing use basis. The existing use basis recognises that restrictions or limitations have been placed on their use and disposal when they are not determined to be surplus to requirements. These restrictions are imposed by virtue of the assets being held to deliver a specific community service.

# Financial statements

	<u>2014</u> <u>\$'000</u>
<b>31 Services provided free of charge</b>	
During the period the following services were provided to other agencies free of charge for functions outside the normal operations of the Department:	
Department of Environment Regulation – Payment of insurance premiums to Risk Cover	40
	<u>40</u>
<b>32 Commitments</b>	
<b>Non-cancellable operating lease commitments</b>	
Commitments for minimum lease payments are payable as follows:	
Within 1 year	5,838
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	9,570
Later than 5 years	2,209
	<u>17,617</u>
The Department's fleet leases account for \$7.7 million of the non-cancellable operating lease commitments for 2014. The lease term varies depending on the vehicle. The lease payments are fixed for the term of the lease and are payable monthly.	
The capital expenditure commitments below are inclusive of GST.	
<b>Capital expenditure commitments</b>	
Capital expenditure commitments, being contracted capital expenditure additional to the amounts reported in the financial statements, are payable as follows:	
Within 1 year	1,144
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0
	<u>1,144</u>
<b>33 Contingent liabilities and contingent assets</b>	

## **Contingent liabilities**

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

### *Litigation in process*

The Department has 15 litigation claims against it that may affect the Department's financial position if all claims are successful to the value of \$595,011 having regard to the excess payable under the Department's general liability insurance policy. The total contingent liability for the Department's insurer is \$29,406,993. The Department has denied liability and any legal claim will be defended.

### *Native title claims*

The Department'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* the Department is required to report known and suspected contaminated sites on land the Department owns or occupies or where its activities may have caused or contributed to contamination. In accordance with the Act, the Department 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”, the Department may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

The Department has 64 sites classified as “possibly contaminated - investigation required” and a site near the former Pemberton Timber Mill classified as “contaminated - remediation required”. Some remediation was conducted at the Pemberton site in 2007 and further investigation is underway. It is not practicable to estimate the potential financial effect or to identify the uncertainties relating to the amount or timing of any outflows in relation to these sites.

## **34 Events occurring after the end of the reporting period**

The Department had no adjusting or non-adjusting events after the period.

## **35 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.

### *Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2014*

	<b>2014 Estimate \$'000</b>	<b>2014 Actual \$'000</b>	<b>Variance \$'000</b>
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>			
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	207,299	215,282	7,983

*Total appropriations provided to deliver services* – The increase in appropriations provided to deliver services is due to a number of adjustments as follows: Voluntary Severance Scheme increase \$5.847 million, unbudgeted bushfire suppression increase \$3.779 million, public liability and other insurances escalation increase \$1.8 million, personal protective equipment for fire management increase \$0.763 million, adjustment to the Department's salary cap to allow for externally funded positions increase \$0.534 million, Burrup Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement increase \$0.45 million, South West Native Title Agreement increase \$0.4 million and procurement savings reduction \$2.401 million. Further, the Royalty for Regions Fund appropriations reduced by \$3.189 million principally due to a re-cash flow of the Marine Parks Management project of \$2.75 million.



# Financial statements

## Service expenditure

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2014

	2014 Estimate \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	
Wildlife Management	142,175	134,342	(7,833)	(a)
Forest Management	53,247	58,164	4,917	(b)

(a) *Wildlife Management* - 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) *Forest Management* - The increase in expenditure over the estimate is principally due to greater expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression operations than was originally estimated.

## Capital appropriation

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2014

	2014 Estimate \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Capital appropriation	2,412	5,614	3,202

*Capital appropriation* – The increase in the capital appropriation of \$3.202 million was mainly due to funding provided for the retrofitting of the fire fighting fleet vehicles for enhanced safety.

## Capital expenditure

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2014

	2014 Estimate \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Purchase of non-current physical assets	29,913	46,496	16,583

*Purchase of non-current physical assets* – The increase is largely due to an increase in the purchase of conservation land funded by environmental offsets.

## 36 Financial instruments

### (a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

Financial instruments held by the Department are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables. The Department has limited exposure to financial risks. The Department's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

#### Credit risk

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

# Financial statements

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 36(c) 'Financial Instruments Disclosures' and note 20 'Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with the Department's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amounts receivable for services (holding account). The Department 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 the Department'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 the Department is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Department is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business.

The Department 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 the Department's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The Department 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 36(c), the Department is not exposed to interest rate risk because the Department has no borrowings.

**2014**  
**\$'000**

## **(b) Categories of financial instruments**

### **Financial Assets**

Cash and cash equivalents	3,244
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	75,526
Loans and receivables (a)	130,518

### **Financial Liabilities**

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	10,874
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(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 the Department's maximum exposure to credit risk and the ageing analysis of financial assets. The Department'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 the Department.

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

# Financial statements

		Aged analysis of financial assets						Impaired financial assets \$'000
		Past due but not impaired		More than 5 years		Impaired financial assets \$'000		
2014	Carrying Amount \$'000	Not past due and not impaired \$'000	Up to 1 month \$'000				1-5 years \$'000	0
			Up to 1 month \$'000	1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,244	3,244	0	0	0	0	0	
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	75,526	75,526	0	0	0	0	0	
Receivables (a)	10,064	5,750	893	865	951	1,202	403	
Amounts receivable for services	120,454	120,454	0	0	0	0	0	
	<b>209,288</b>	<b>204,974</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>403</b>	

(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 Department's interest rate exposure and 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 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
<b>2014</b>											
<i>Financial Assets</i>											
Cash and cash equivalents	2.81	3,244	0	3,244	0	3,244	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.81	75,526	0	75,526	0	75,526	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables (a)		10,064	0	0	10,064	10,064	0	0	0	0	0
Amounts receivable for services		120,454	0	0	120,454	120,454	0	1,200	8,204	47,545	63,505
		<b>209,288</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78,770</b>	<b>130,518</b>	<b>209,288</b>	<b>88,834</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>8,204</b>	<b>47,545</b>	<b>63,505</b>
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>											
Payables		10,874	0	0	10,874	10,874	10,874	0	0	0	0
		<b>10,874</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,874</b>	<b>10,874</b>	<b>10,874</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

# Financial statements

## Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the Department'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
<b>2014</b>					
<i>Financial Assets</i>					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,244	(32)	(32)	32	32
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	75,526	(755)	(755)	755	755
<b>Total Increase/(Decrease)</b>		<b>(787)</b>	<b>(787)</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>787</b>

## 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.

## 37 Remuneration of senior officers

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

\$	<b>2014</b>
160,001 – 170,000	<b>1</b>
170,001 – 180,000	<b>1</b>
180,001 – 190,000	<b>1</b>
190,001 – 200,000	<b>1</b>
210,001 – 220,000	<b>1</b>
220,001 – 230,000	<b>1</b>
230,001 – 240,000	<b>1</b>
360,001 – 370,000	<b>1</b>
	<b>2014</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>
Base remuneration and superannuation	1,472
Annual leave and long service leave accruals	58
Adjustment for accruals	6
Other benefits	236
<b>Total remuneration of senior officers</b>	<b>1,772</b>

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

# Financial statements

**2014**  
**\$'000**

## 38 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 key performance indicators	169
	<b>169</b>

## 39 Affiliated bodies

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

Conservation Commission	1,017
Marine Parks and Reserves Authority	198
	<b>1,215</b>

## 40 Special purpose accounts

### Special Purpose Account section 16 1(b) of FMA

#### *Nature Conservation and National Parks Account*

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

Balance at start of period	357
Receipts	115
Payments	(345)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>127</b>

#### *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	10,688
Receipts	2,511
Payments	(4,161)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>9,038</b>

**2014**  
**\$'000**

**National Parks Essential Works Account**

The purpose of the 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.

## 41 Supplementary financial information

### (a) Write-offs

During the financial year \$24,516.02 was written off as bad debts and \$15,932.30 of the Department's asset and public property register under the authority of:

The Accountable Authority	40
The Minister	0
Executive Council	0
	<b>40</b>

Of the \$40,448.32 approved for write off during the year \$15,932.30 relates to losses through theft, defaults and other causes disclosed at note 41(b) below.

### (b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

Losses of public money and, public and other property through theft or default.	16
Amounts recovered	0
	<b>16</b>

# Financial statements

## 42 Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service

	Parks Management	Wildlife Management	Forest Management	Total
	2014 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>				
<i>Expenses</i>				
Transfer payments	0	73	0	73
<b>Total administered expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>
<i>Income</i>				
Regulatory fees and charges	0	31	0	31
Other revenue	0	42	0	42
<b>Total administered income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>



# Certification

## **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 Parks and Wildlife's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Parks and Wildlife for the financial year ended 30 June 2014.



**Jim Sharp**

Accountable Authority

8 September 2014

# Key performance indicators

## Outcome Based Management Structure

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services and performance indicators
Social and Environmental Responsibility: Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State	Community enjoyment of park facilities and services, wildlife and the natural environment displayed in parks	<b>1. Parks Management</b>  Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Average level of visitor satisfaction with their visit  Key efficiency indicators KPI 1.1 Average cost per hectare of managing parks
	Conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity	<b>2. Wildlife Management</b>  Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Total number of listed threatened taxa and ecological communities 2. Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with improved conservation status 3. Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with declining conservation status 4. Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan 5. Proportion of terrestrial sub-bioregions with a greater than 15% reservation 6. Proportion of marine bioregions with marine conservation reserves  Key efficiency indicators KPI 2.1 Average cost per hectare of managing wildlife habitat
		<b>3. Forest Management</b>  Key effectiveness indicator: 7. Cumulative removal of jarrah sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan 8. Cumulative removal of karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan  Key efficiency indicators KPI 3.1 Average cost per hectare of managing forest

The Department of Environment and Conservation was separated on 1 July 2013 into the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Environment Regulation. Comparative figures relate to the former Department of Environment and Conservation.

In association with the establishment of the new Department, services were renamed and re-ordered and there were some alterations to the effectiveness and efficiency indicators.

# Key performance indicators

## Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators

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

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#### 1. 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.

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Target	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%
Actual	86.8%	88.8%	88.0%	89.1%

**Note to indicator:** A benchmark visitor satisfaction index has been adopted to compare visitor satisfaction levels each year. This benchmark has been set at 85 per cent. The index is averaged from visitor responses (1,171 in 2013–14; confidence level 95%; margin of error 2.9%) to the state wide visitor survey and park wide surveys conducted at selected parks, reserves and forest areas around the state. The survey sample is stratified across the state by visitation distribution and collected in both peak and off-peak periods that includes weekday, weekends, public holidays and school holidays.

Surveys are conducted on-site by a departmental officer or volunteer at major recreation areas within parks such as picnic areas and campgrounds. The target population are members of the general public who visit Parks and Wildlife-managed land and waters of a park or protected area for purposes mandated for the area. The state wide surveys are administered via a structured interview via department staff and volunteers (1058). The interview is voluntary and anonymous. All respondents receive the same set of questions, asked in the same order or sequence by the interviewer who has been instructed to treat every interview situation in a like manner and ensuring they are playing a neutral role.

In addition to face to face interviews, some results are collated using park wide survey information that contain the same two satisfaction questions used to calculate the result for this KPI. This is due to the more detailed nature of the survey to inform individual park management. A random sample is extracted from park wide surveys and included in the overall statewide KPI for satisfaction (113). Tests of significance are conducted to determine any potential sampling irregularities.

The average level of visitor satisfaction is based upon the average response of two survey questions: (1) 'How would you rate your visit overall?' and (2) 'How did you feel about your visit today?' The level of satisfaction for 2013–14 remained consistently high and exceeded the target of 85 per cent. This is consistent with previous years.

# Key performance indicators

## Outcome: Conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity

### 1. Total number of listed threatened taxa and ecological communities

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Target	711	739	750	763
Actual	711	739	754	763

**Note to indicator:** A review of the conservation status of flora and fauna species has indicated a net increase of nine species to be listed as threatened. Fauna species listed included four species of assassin spider following a review of these spiders by the WA Museum. Four species of flora were listed, and two flora species removed from the list of threatened flora.

An increase in the number over time does not necessarily represent a loss of biodiversity conservation status, but reflects the outcome of work across many areas of the department, and external organisations, to appropriately investigate and classify the biodiversity of the state. For example the assassin spider review by the WA Museum resulted in the recognition of four new species in WA that were formally considered to be part of another genus, thus the number of recognised taxonomic units increased.

### 2. Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with improved conservation status

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Target	3	0	1	0
Actual	3	4	3	2

**Note to indicator:** Two species of flora were de-listed during the year following a taxonomic study by the WA Herbarium. The objective is to improve the conservation of species or communities however it is recognised that successful conservation actions may take decades or several generations for a species to demonstrate effective recovery to the extent required to meet the internationally accepted guidelines developed by the IUCN, used to determine conservation status. Measuring change on an annual basis is thus considered to be a short time frame for biological entities and hence the target was set at 0. The over achievement of this target was due to the results of a taxonomic study undertaken by the WA Herbarium rather than the result of conservation actions.

### 3. Number of threatened taxa and ecological communities with declining conservation status

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Target	2	3	1	3
Actual	2	2	9	3

**Note to indicator:** Three listed species had a decline in conservation status during the year. These were two species of flora that had a decline in the quality of their habitat, and the woylie which has continued to decline due to predation by cats. The targets for changes in conservation status (either an increase or decline) are low due to the time often taken for species to demonstrate effective recovery or decline. This is reflected in trend over time only ever resulting in a few changes. The exception to this was 9 changes identified in 2012-2013 which was the result of an extensive review of the conservation status of birds undertaken at a National level. Apart from that outlier, the trend is relatively stable over time.

# Key performance indicators

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

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Target	70.0%	70.0%	68.0%	69.0%
Actual	67.2%	69.0%	69.3%	69.4%

**Note to indicator:** Recovery plans are prepared for threatened species to outline the actions needed to improve the conservation status of those species, and provide guidance to managers for implementing recovery actions. The proportion of species and communities covered by recovery plans varies each year as additional plans are prepared and new species or communities added to the lists.

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

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Target	20.4%	20.4%	20.4%	22.2%
Actual	22.2%	22.2%	22.2%	22.2%

**Note to indicator:** Terrestrial sub-bioregions are areas of the state with similar biogeographic characteristics as determined by the Australian Government through the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia. An objective of the comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) conservation reserve system is to achieve a minimum reservation status (15%) of lands reserved and managed for biodiversity conservation across the range of sub-regions. There have not been any significant land reservations to result in changes in the threshold reservation.

## 6. Proportion of marine bioregions with marine conservation reserves

	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
Target	47.3%	63.2%	57.9%	53.0%
Actual	42.1%	47.4%	52.6%	53.0%

**Note to indicator:** The coastal waters of Western Australia have been divided into marine bioregions – regions with similar biogeographical characteristics. The indicator seeks to achieve conservation reserves in each marine bioregion to achieve a representative marine conservation reserve system. There were no new marine parks created in new marine bioregions during the year.

## 7. Cumulative removal of jarrah sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan

	2013–14
Target	1,310,000m <sup>3</sup>
Actual	1,157,348m <sup>3</sup>

**Note to indicator:** The previous Forest Management effectiveness indicator “Percentage of Forest Management Plan performance indicators where defined annual targets are met” has been replaced. The new indicator links the Department’s desired outcome of sustainable utilisation of biodiversity with the operations of the Forest Management Service and the settings provided for in the corresponding approved Forest Management Plan. For 2013-14, the target is the cumulative total of first and second grade jarrah sawlogs that can be removed over the 10 year life of the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013. The actual cumulative total of first and second jarrah sawlogs removed is obtained from the Logging Operations Information System (LOIS), a computer database which tracks log products removed from harvest coupes.

# Key performance indicators

## 8. Cumulative removal of karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan

	<u>2013–14</u>
Target	540,000m <sup>3</sup>
Actual	539,540m <sup>3</sup>

**Note to indicator:** The previous Forest Management effectiveness indicator “Percentage of Forest Management Plan performance indicators where defined annual targets are met” has been replaced. The new indicator links the Department’s desired outcome of sustainable utilisation of biodiversity with the operations of the Forest Management Service and the settings provided for in the corresponding approved Forest Management Plan. For 2013-14, the target is the cumulative total of first and second grade karri sawlogs that can be removed over the 10 year life of the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013. The actual cumulative total of first and second karri sawlogs removed is obtained from LOIS, a computer database which tracks log products removed from harvest coupes.

# Key performance indicators

## Key Efficiency Indicators

### Service 1: Parks Management

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#### 1.1 Average cost per hectare of managing parks

Management of lands and waters; dealing with public involvement, visitation and appreciation of the natural environment on lands and waters managed by the Department.

	<u>2013–14</u>
Target	\$3.34
Actual	\$3.43

**Note to indicator:** The Key Efficiency Indicator for Parks Management has been amended in 2013–14 to cost per hectare (previously cost per visit).

### Service 2: Wildlife Management

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#### 2.1 Average cost per hectare of managing wildlife habitat

Relates to costs associated with the development and implementation of programs for the conservation of biodiversity including the variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form.

	<u>2010–11</u>	<u>2011–12</u>	<u>2012–13</u>	<u>2013–14</u>
Target	\$4.76	\$5.25	\$5.42	\$4.94
Actual	\$4.36	\$4.45	\$4.72	\$4.71

**Note to indicator:** the overall efficiency of land management for wildlife will vary with the change in total cost of the service, with changes in the total cost reflecting inputs into specific wildlife management programs, including through external funding sources. There were no significant additions to the area of land managed, and thus little change in the efficiency indicator.

### Service 3: Forest Management

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#### 3.1 Average cost per hectare of managing forest

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 2014–2023* are being managed as if the land category change had already occurred.

	<u>2010–11</u>	<u>2011–12</u>	<u>2012–13</u>	<u>2013–14</u>
Target	\$37.21	\$38.55	\$40.64	\$41.10
Actual	\$37.41	\$41.26	\$43.02	\$45.02

**Note to indicator:** The increase in this indicator was due to an increase to the cost for service over the estimate, principally due to the additional expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression operations than was originally estimated.

# Ministerial directives

## 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 on a full or partial cost recovery basis. Fees and charges are determined in accordance with Costing and Pricing Government Services: Guidelines for Use by Agencies in the Western Australian Public Sectors published by Treasury. Fees are reviewed annually.

## Capital works: incomplete and completed

The Department's planned capital works program of \$29.913 million for 2013–14 provided funds for buildings, tourism roads and park facilities, plant and equipment, conservation estate land purchase and firefighting fleet replacement.

### Summary of major capital works 2013–14

#### DETAILS OF MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

WORKS IN PROGRESS	Expected year of completion	Estimated expenditure remaining \$'000	Estimated total project cost \$'000
Conservation parks infrastructure and roads	2014–15	3,199	20,000
<i>Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy</i> tourism initiatives	2014–15	1,977	3,115
Caravan and Camping ( <i>Parks for People</i> )	2016–17	19,208	21,050
Great Kimberley Marine Park	2016–17	1,490	2,740
RECURRING CAPITAL PROGRAMS	Expected Year of Completion	2013–14 Expenditure \$'000	
Conservation land acquisition	Ongoing	13,519	
Firefighting fleet and equipment	Ongoing	5,502	
Plant and equipment purchase and replacement	Ongoing	6,449	
Tourism road improvements	Ongoing	2,019	
Parks improvement program	Ongoing	5,735	

## Employment and industrial relations

### Staff profile

	2013–14	2012–13
Full-time permanent	1,090	1,353
Full-time contract	272	298
Part-time measured on a FTE basis	204	282
On secondment	5	6
Total	1,570	1,939

Note: On 1 July 2013 the Department of Environment and Conservation was separated into two departments. The staff profile for 2012–13 includes employees who moved to the new Department of Environment Regulation.

# Other financial disclosures

## 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 2013–14 was to negotiate the replacement agreement for rangers with the United Voice union and start negotiations for the replacement of the three fire agreements and the Barrow Island Agency Specific Agreement.

## Workforce planning

Parks and Wildlife's *Workforce and Diversity Plan 2014–2017* was approved by the Public Sector Commission in May 2014 following the integration of the previous DEC Workforce Plan 2011–14 and DEC *Equity and Diversity Management Plan 2007–2012*. This plan is designed to attract and retain staff, develop future leaders, instil Departmental values, build capacity, and importantly, ensure an inclusive, equitable and diverse workforce that is free from discrimination and harassment.

Developing management and leadership skills is a key strategy in Parks and Wildlife's *Workforce and Diversity Plan 2014–17*. During 2013–14, 23 staff members completed the Executive Leadership program, 19 completed the Aspiring Leaders program for middle managers, and 27 completed the three-day *Effective Supervision Skills* course for new supervisors.

Fourteen employees were awarded scholarships for further tertiary studies or development opportunities in 2014. Scholarships are awarded under the categories of women, leadership, science and career development. Parks and Wildlife sponsored one Aboriginal student in tertiary studies, and work experience placements with the Department during university breaks

were arranged. Aboriginal cadetships were 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.

## Staff Development

### Nationally Recognised Training

During 2013–14, a range of internal and external short courses as well as nationally recognised training programs were provided to staff across the State.

The Department is a Registered Training Organisation and during 2013–14 received 480 enrolments for nationally recognised qualifications, accredited courses and/or units of competency. These enrolments resulted from learning and development programs offered by the Department or agencies that form part of its bureau service.

Enrolments in programs with nationally recognised training often span financial years and vary between 12 and 36 months in duration.

Conservation and Land Management qualifications have been tailored to suit the needs of the Department's conservation employees through the *Pathways* program; this includes offering specialist streams in *Parks and Visitor Services/Ranger, Crew Leader/Overseer, Nature Conservation* and *Sustainable Forest Management*. The program focuses on developing and maintaining a sustainable and effective conservation employee workforce.

The Department supports Aboriginal trainees through the *Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES)* program. The MATES program has a strong focus on joint management agreements, with many trainees participating as part of wider joint management agreements between Parks

and Wildlife and Aboriginal corporations and community groups.

New enrolments received for programs with nationally recognised training in 2013–14 were:

Conservation and Land Management	15
Fire Fighting Crew Member	28
Incident Management	14
Bushfire Awareness	68
Frontline Management	8
Government Investigation	5
Government Statutory Compliance	18
Visitor Risk Management	52
Chemical and Weeds	65
Operate and Maintain Chainsaws	43
Apply First Aid	57
Corporate Firearms Safety	88
Hazardous Material Awareness	19

The Department issued 47 certificates of qualification and 155 statements of attainment in 2013–14.

## Corporate Training

Corporate training programs are programs identified by the Department's training needs analysis, the former Training and Development Steering Committee, and, more recently, the Learning and Development Steering Committee, as training required by the majority of the Department's staff and its bureau service agencies.

In 2013–14, Parks and Wildlife offered 25 programs over 52 sessions and 418 people enrolled in the training that covered a range of subjects including report and business writing, dealing with grievances, conflict management, diversity awareness, project management, health and safety, ethical and accountable decision-making, and career development.

# Other financial disclosures

## Specific needs training

Within and across the Department's three service areas, training is provided as required to support operations and to cater for the specific needs of staff in particular roles. In particular, the Department has a comprehensive bushfire training program. For more details see page 49 in the Fire Management Services Branch section.

## Cultural awareness training

As part of the Department's *Reconciliation Action Plan 2013–15* and *Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2011–14*, a new cultural awareness training program was delivered in 2013–14, with 23 people participating.

The one-day program was delivered in two parts with the first focussing on Aboriginal culture, the value of country, the impact of first contact, colonisation, past policies, and the self-empowerment and determination movement. The second focussed on the Department's operations including partnerships and engagement, Aboriginal affairs, amendments to legislation and shared values.

## Workers' compensation

The Department 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 insurance premium and associated costs.

In 2013–14, the Department's workers' compensation contribution was \$1,124,229 compared with \$1,421,693 for the previous year. The number of lost time injuries in 2013–14 was 30 (down from 37 in 2012–13), with 57 medical treatment injuries (up from 49 in 2012–13).

# Governance disclosures

## Enabling legislation

On 1 July 2014 the Department of Parks and Wildlife was established under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* along with the Department of Environment Regulation. These two departments carried forward the legislative responsibilities of the former Department of Environment and Conservation.

## 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.

## Board and committee remuneration

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration
<b>Shark Bay World Heritage Committee</b>				
Member	Laurence Bellottie	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$417
Member	Robert Morgan	Sessional	01.07.13 to 03.04.14	\$417
Member	Therese Morris	Sessional	01.07.13 to 03.04.14	\$834
Member	Peter Green	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$834
Member	Susan Graham-Taylor	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$834
Member	Darren Capewell	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$417
Member	Andrew Hill	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$1,274
<b>Conservation Commission of Western Australia</b>				
Chair	Brian Easton	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$40,842
Deputy chair	William Mitchell	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$15,195
Member	Brian Middleton	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$10,590
Member	Wade De Campo	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$8,690
Member	Regina Flugge	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$8,695
Member	Ross Dowling	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$8,695
<b>Marine Parks and Reserves Authority</b>				
Member	Kellie Pendoley	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$6,445
Member	Ida Holt	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$6,595
Member	John Colero	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$6,295
Member	Diana Walker	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$6,595
Member	Christopher Doepel	Sessional	01.07.13 to 30.06.14	\$10,725
<b>Total</b>				<b>134,391</b>

# Other legal requirements

## Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail (*Electoral Act 1907, s175ZE*)

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

**Total expenditure for 2013–14 was: \$366,569.46**

Expenditure was incurred in the following areas:

**Advertising agencies \$270,650.42**

Adcorp Australia Limited	\$270,650.42
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**Direct mail organisations Nil**

**Market research organisations Nil**

**Media advertising organisations \$95,919.04**

Agricultural Publishers Pty Ltd	\$473.22	Eyezon Pty Ltd	\$4,186.00
Airport Publications	\$2,717.00	Impact Publications	\$165.00
Albany and Great Southern Weekender	\$396.00	Kununurra Visitor Centre	\$600.00
Albany Advertiser Pty Ltd	\$1,748.60	Lasso Kip Pty Ltd	\$990.00
Andimaps	\$846.00	LetsGoKids Pty Ltd	\$462.00
Artha Publishing	\$30.00	Lizart Productions	\$882.00
Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association	\$505.00	Loray Designs	\$220.00
Aussie Drawcards Pty Ltd	\$388.50	Marsh Agencies Pty Ltd	\$594.00
Australia's Golden Outback	\$1,995.00	Penguin Island Cruises Pty Ltd	\$23,788.61
Australia's South West Inc.	\$5,374.00	Professional Network Australia Pty Ltd	\$984.50
Aviation Trader	\$2,143.24	Scenovia	\$130.01
CafeCapers WA	\$630.00	Scoop Publishing	\$8,250.00
Candy Custom Media Pty Ltd	\$1,500.00	Shire of Mundaring	\$120.00
Chamber of Commerce and Industry	\$90.24	State Law Publisher	\$2,350.94
Citizen Factoring	\$1,291.00	<i>The Sunday Times</i>	\$587.40
City of Albany	\$2,950.00	<i>The West Australian</i> newspaper	\$3,515.48
Cooks Tours Pty Ltd	\$1,700.00	Times Publications	\$1,760.00
Countrywide Publications	\$2,500.00	Travelwest Publications	\$2,500.00
Denmark Bulletin	\$1,287.00	Walpole Community Resource Centre	\$2,792.80
Echo Newspaper	\$1,903.00	Wanneroo Business Association	\$382.50
EDcursions	\$300.00	Western Australian Holiday Guide	\$990.00
Executive Media Pty Ltd	\$4,250.00	What's On	\$1,500.00
Experience Perth	\$3,150.00		

**Polling organisations Nil**

# Other legal requirements

## Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes (*Disability Services Act 1993, s29 and Schedule 3 of the Disability Services Regulations 2004*)

Parks and Wildlife 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.

The Department'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 has a process for lodging complaints that is accessible for people with disability. The Department also ensures that consultations with the public are held in an accessible manner.

Under the Department's *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2012–2017* (DAIP), work continues to improve access to facilities and services to ensure they meet the needs of the public and staff, with participatory inclusion being the primary and ongoing aim.

The plan is monitored by the Diversity and Access Committee (previously the Disability Access and Inclusion Committee), which meets quarterly. Committee members include representatives from five divisions and two Corporate Executive representatives.

As a major provider of outdoor recreation locations and facilities in natural areas, Parks and Wildlife ensures that all site plans consider access requirements and are developed in accordance with the Department's *Policy 18 (Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services)*.

During 2013–14, there were a number of noteworthy works in progress or

completed by the Department to improve access to visitor facilities:

- The Caldyanup Jinning lookout in Mount Frankland National Park was completed and opened by the Minister for Environment on 10 October 2013. Visitor facilities at the site are now wheelchair accessible, including the viewing platform offering spectacular views of the Walpole Wilderness area.
- Recreation sites in Fitzgerald River National Park have been redeveloped as part of the *Fitzgerald River National Park Improvement Project*. Facilities that have been upgraded include parking, toilets and paths providing either wheelchair or assisted access to features such as lookouts at Cave Point, picnic facilities at Four Mile Beach, West Beach and Point Ann, interpretive and education information at Barrens Beach and camping at Four Mile Beach.
- The Loop in Kalbarri National Park has been redeveloped and the sealed car park and paths provide wheelchair access to lookouts, toilets and picnic shelters.
- Assisted access camp sites and facilities, including toilets, paths and camp kitchens, have been completed at Martins Tank campground in Yalgorup National Park.
- Work has started on the construction of assisted access camp sites and facilities at Logue Brook Dam in Clarke forest block and Conto Field campground in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.
- Planning has been completed for new facilities in Torndirrup National Park and the tender process for construction has started. The facilities have been designed to provide

wheelchair access to picnic facilities and new lookouts at The Gap and Natural Bridge.

- At Langford Park in Jarrahdale, wheelchair access has been provided to toilets, barbecues and picnic tables.
- Assisted access toilets have been constructed at Munurru campground, a remote but popular campground en-route to the Mitchell Plateau in the Kimberley.
- Kurrajong campground in Cape Range National Park has been redeveloped and now has assisted access camp sites. The toilets and sunset decks are wheelchair accessible.
- Work has started on providing wheelchair accessible facilities at Castle Rock in Porongurup National Park and assisted access to Nanga campground in Lane Poole Reserve and Koongk-a-maya campground in Dryandra.

Additional key initiatives and achievements from the DAIP include:

- promoting the use of the Disability Services Commission's *Creating Accessible Events* checklist, which has been incorporated in the Department's events planning process
- meeting contemporary good practice and government guidelines for website accessibility and making documents available in other formats on request
- disability awareness information packs have been developed to improve volunteer awareness of disability access issues
- funding of access improvements for employees and volunteers with disability: modifications were undertaken at the Department's Collie office to provide universal access.

# Other legal requirements

## Compliance statements

Public Sector Commission reporting under s31 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* for 2013–14.

Compliance issue	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
<b>Public sector standards</b>	
<p>One breach claim referred to the Public Sector Commission (PSC) in 2012–13 was carried over into 2013–14. No breach of standard was found by the PSC.</p> <p>Three breach claims were lodged in 2013–14. All breach claims were against the <i>Employment Standard</i>.</p> <p>Two of the claims were referred to the PSC; however, no breach of standard was found by the PSC. The third was resolved internally and was subsequently withdrawn.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department's People Services Branch intranet site has information on the <i>Public Sector Standards</i> including a hyperlink to the Public Sector Commission's website.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• <i>Human Resources Awareness Raising</i> refresher sessions have continued.</li> <li>• Policies and guidelines relevant to the Standards have been reviewed and updated and are available on the People Services Branch intranet site.</li> </ul>

<b>Code of Ethics</b>	
<p>There were no reports of non-compliance with the <i>WA Code of Ethics</i>.</p>	<p>The <i>Code of Ethics</i> is contained within Park and Wildlife's Code of Conduct. The <i>Code of Conduct</i> was revised and released in February 2014, and includes a hyperlink to the PSC website for the Public Sector of Western Australia and its <i>Code of Ethics</i>.</p>

<b>Department's Code of Conduct</b>	
<p>Three allegations raised in 2012–13 were carried into 2013–14 from DEC. Two of the allegations were retained by Parks and Wildlife and finalised in 2013–14. One of the allegations was retained by the Department of Environment Regulation.</p> <p>Five allegations of breaches of the <i>Code of Conduct</i> were raised in 2013–14.</p> <p>All five of the allegations raised in 2013–14 were finalised in 2013–14.</p> <p>No alleged breaches have been carried over to 2014–15.</p>	<p>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.</p>

<b>Recordkeeping plans</b>		
<p>The Department's compliance with the <i>State Records Act 2000</i> is supported by the Corporate Information Services (CIS) Branch in the Corporate Services Division. In March 2014, the State Records Commission approved the Department's amended recordkeeping plan.</p> <p>Management of corporate documents and information is specified in the Department's recordkeeping plan and</p>	<p>mandatory records and document training for employees is part of the induction process. In addition, further training is available to employees upon request to CIS and is tailored to meet business unit needs.</p> <p>Recordkeeping roles and responsibilities are also included in the Department's <i>Code of Conduct</i> and ethical and accountable decision-making training.</p>	<p>CIS regularly reviews recordkeeping policy and operational documents such as the Department's recordkeeping manual. The electronic document and records management system, <i>InfOBase</i>, is deployed to all staff.</p>

# 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 (CALM Act).

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.

The Department has a longstanding practice of involving Aboriginal groups in managing conservation lands and waters in order to protect the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people. In 2013–14, Parks and Wildlife:

- implemented a new policy on Aboriginal Joint Management to guide the Department's approach to provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to achieve economic and social benefits through the joint management of CALM Act lands and waters
- implemented a new policy on Aboriginal Customary Activities to assist and facilitate the needs of Aboriginal people to access CALM Act lands and waters to carry out customary activities, such as taking flowers and animals
- strengthened partnerships with Aboriginal stakeholders including through Aboriginal employment and training opportunities

- progressed native title negotiations including the preparation and implementation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in accordance with government priorities
- liaised and consulted with Aboriginal organisations and people including park councils
- delivered a new cultural awareness training program for staff as part of the Department's *Reconciliation Action Plan 2013–15 and Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2011–14*.

The Department further ensures that:

- cross-cultural training is routinely provided to Parks and Wildlife 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 Parks and Wildlife 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

The Department promotes a strong culture of workplace occupational safety and health (OSH). This commitment is shared across all levels of the agency to ensure the highest achievable performance.

The Department's OSH policy requires managers to demonstrate, maintain, monitor and review OSH in the workplace and places a responsibility on employees to implement a cycle of continuous improvement.

The Director General and Corporate Executive are committed to providing, maintaining and promoting a safe working environment. To this end, Parks and Wildlife's OSH committees, OSH representatives, directors, managers, supervisors and all employees are responsible for ensuring that Parks and Wildlife OSH policies, programs and procedures are followed.

### Consultation with employees

The Department recognises that continuous improvement of the OSH systems can only be achieved by consulting employees as part of a proactive approach.

The Department's OSH policy and procedures guide the consultation process, which is facilitated by the Department's well-established network of OSH safety officers who focus on ensuring a safe and healthy work environment for all employees in their work centre.

The Department's employees are encouraged to participate in the consultation process via interaction with safety officers, health and safety representatives, managers, supervisors and the Health and Safety Section.



# Government policy requirements

To ensure a best-practice approach towards OSH is an ongoing process. OSH committees meet quarterly and minutes are sent to the Director Regional and Fire Management Services and the Health and Safety Section.

## **Injury management**

Parks and Wildlife is committed to providing best-practice injury management for its employees by complying with the requirements of the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981* and the *Workers' Compensation Code of Practice (Injury Management) 2005*.

Together with effective OSH practices and health and well-being initiatives, the Department's injury management system strives for an early return to work for employees who are medically fit to do so.

It is acknowledged that an effective injury management system benefits the employee through comprehensive assistance in times of injury, and Parks and Wildlife through potential reduction in insurance premiums and associated costs. An effective process has been established through the local management of employee's injuries and liaison with the treating GP.

When required, external rehabilitation providers are appointed to further aid an employee's recovery.

## **Assessment of the OSH management system**

Following an external audit of the Department's OSH systems, an internal annual audit process was implemented. Although the external audit found the Department to be compliant with the requirements of the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*, the internal annual audit aims to review each work centre's safety management program in order to promote continuous improvement.

The Department's Work Health and Safety Management Plan is a framework to assess employees' understanding of health and safety and progress in working towards common goals. This plan enables assessment and rating of safety management systems and directs attention to areas that may be in need of improvement.

The framework provides a consistent approach across the Department and aims to reduce injury, disability, lost productivity and workers' compensation costs.

Parks and Wildlife is also committed to ensuring staff across the state are provided with appropriate, evidence-based health and well-being initiatives that encompass a whole-of-workplace approach where policy and the environment are considered alongside awareness and education.

## **Other initiatives in work health and safety**

The Department continued to raise awareness of the importance of physical fitness, healthy eating and mental health, and through programs aimed at encouraging and assisting employees to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Parks and Wildlife also continued, and expanded, well-being support available to employees through the *Peer Support Program* and access to a fulltime chaplain. The chaplaincy program has been highly successful in supporting staff in difficult times helping them regain a sense of normality.

In addition to the *Peer Support* network and the chaplain, Parks and Wildlife offers employees and members of their immediate family access to a professional counselling service through the *Employee Assistance Program*.

Parks and Wildlife actively analyses its critical-incident response incorporating the continual review of best practice in emergency management and staff welfare.

## **Prevention of injury**

Following on from work previously done to comply with the WorkSafe Improvement Notices arising from the events of the Black Cat Creek bushfire in October 2012, a new annual mandatory pre-fire season training package for staff filling operational and non-operational roles was developed and introduced across the Department in September 2013. A total of 960 Parks and Wildlife, Department of Environment Regulation and FPC staff members attended training that included the use of two-way radios, storage and use of fire blankets and burn-over drills. In addition, a range of improvements were made to the Department's fleet of 110 fire trucks following receipt of the improvement notices and an internal review. These improvements included protection and lagging of critical electrical and fuel system components to better maintain mobility in entrapment situations, and the fitting of heat reflective curtains to protect occupants in the event of a burn-over. Following field trials, a tender was awarded to supply and fit water-spray protection systems to Parks and Wildlife fire trucks. Significant progress has been made in installing the deluge systems with more than a third of the Department's fire truck fleet outfitted by 30 June 2014.

# Government policy requirements

## Occupational safety and health performance indicators

Measure	Actual results		Results against target	
	2011–12	2013–14	Target	Target achieved
Number of fatalities	0	*1	0	No
Lost time injury and/or disease incident rate	1.33	2.13	0 or 10% reduction	No
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate	3.85	8.82	0 or 10% reduction	No
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:	92%	88%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Yes
i) within 13 weeks				
ii) within 26 weeks	97%	91%		Yes
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	>80%	>80%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Yes

Compiled in accordance with the Public Sector Commissioner's Circular 2012–05 which requires reporting of a three-year trend.

\*Death of a worker in a vehicle rollover on Perup Road near Manjimup on 10 June 2014. The accident is the subject of a WA Police investigation and a WorkSafe investigation.



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife

