

A wide-angle photograph of a rocky landscape. In the foreground, several large, dark grey boulders are scattered across the ground. A wooden walkway with a metal railing runs across the middle ground, where two people are standing and looking out over a vast valley. The valley is filled with green fields and patches of yellow, with distant mountains visible under a clear blue sky. An orange banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title text.

Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014–15 Annual Report



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Acknowledgments

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

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Department of
Parks and Wildlife



About the Department's 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 Department of Parks and Wildlife.

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

Front cover: Granite Skywalk, Porongurup National Park.

Photo – Andrew Halsall

Back cover: Osprey Bay campground at night, Cape Range National Park.

Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

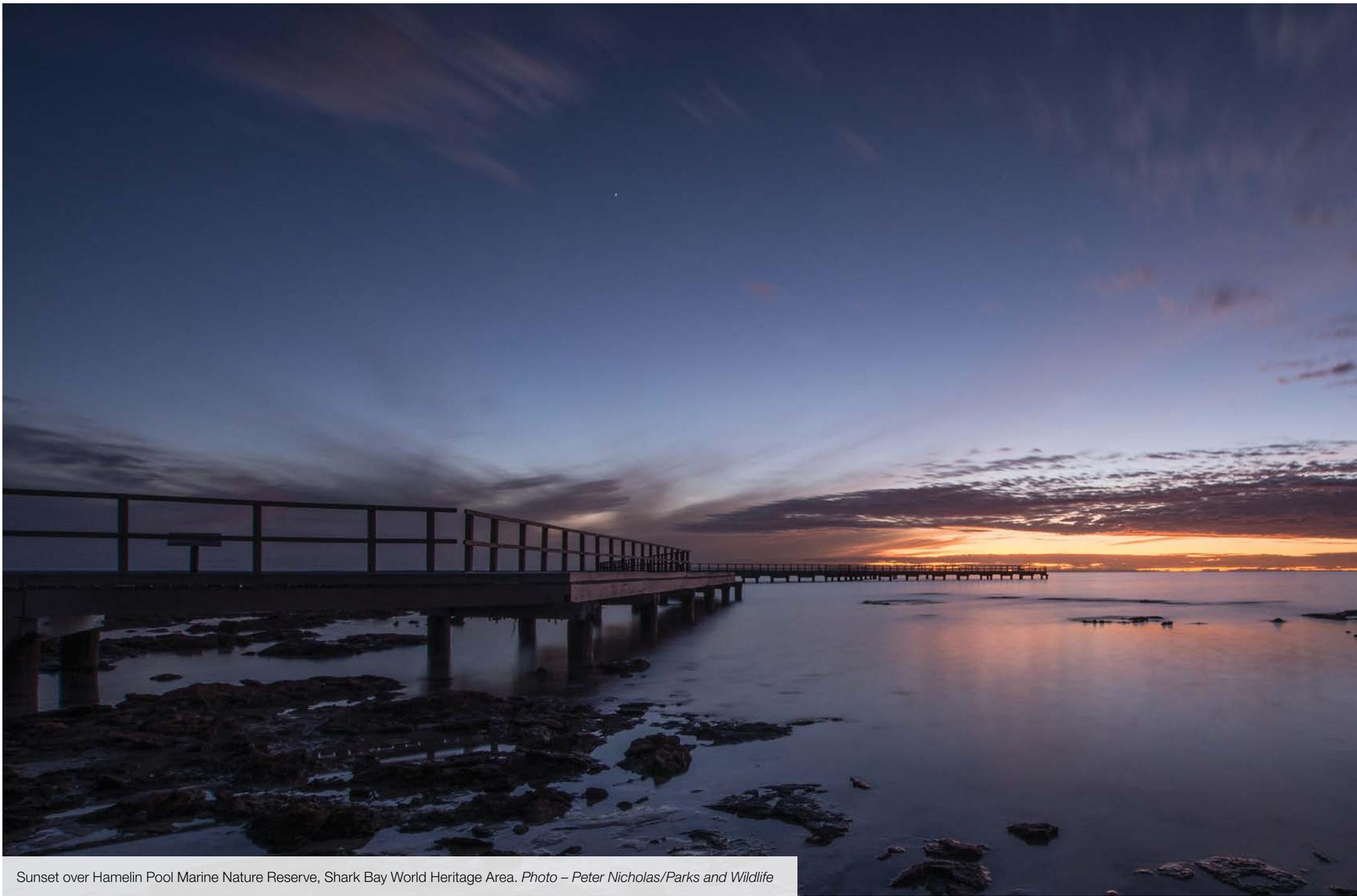


Sturt's desert pea, Millstream Chichester National Park.
Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014–15 Annual Report



Ngarrawaana Ranger Jessica Allen and Parks and Wildlife officer Sandy Benson removing invasive weeds at Deep Reach Pool, Millstream Chichester National Park. *Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife*



Sunset over Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve, Shark Bay World Heritage Area. *Photo – Peter Nicholas/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 2014 to 30 June 2015.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J Sharp".

Jim Sharp
Director General
Department of Parks and Wildlife

Director General's foreword



Reef heron and ibis at Roebuck Bay. Photo – Tourism WA



Building on the strong foundation set in Parks and Wildlife's first year of operation was the focus for 2014–15. Substantial progress was made towards delivering key outcomes of the Department's strategic directions in ensuring the nature of Western Australia is conserved for people to access, experience and enjoy.

Across the board milestones and successes were achieved under the three service areas of Parks Management, Wildlife Management and Forest Management. Engagement with the community is an essential part of our operations and a key driver in accomplishing the agency's goals.

With 100 national parks, 13 marine parks and conservation reserves covering an area of around 28 million hectares, our staff work in a range of fields and locations to conserve the State's world renowned native plants and animals, protect cultural and heritage values and manage recreation use.

Our expertise in these areas was recognised late last year with the establishment of Western Australia's first sister park relationship, between China's Danxiashan National Park and WA's Purnululu National Park – both World Heritage-listed areas.

A world-class parks system continues to be a priority and in this reporting period we reached a record of 18.6 million visits to land we manage on behalf of the people of WA, underscoring the growing demand for experiencing the great outdoors.

To cater for this we have developed a range of recreational opportunities including trails, visitor facilities and affordable camping and caravan accommodation under the Parks for People initiative, part of the State Government's *Western Australian Caravan and Camping Action Plan 2013–18*.

During the past financial year 271 new camp sites were completed at new and existing campgrounds in parks, reserves and State forest areas including Osprey Bay campground in Cape Range National Park and Conto campground in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park among others.

To foster greater community involvement, the Department in partnership with Nature Play WA and Outdoors WA, conducted successful first-time camper events at Yanchep and Warren national parks and hosted a 'free entry to national parks' promotion to encourage families to get outdoors and enjoy nature.

Now in its fifth year of operation, the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy* continued to reap benefits for conservation and lay the ground work for a booming cultural tourism industry in liaison with traditional owners.



Kayaks in Yardie Creek, Cape Range National Park. Photo – Sally Bostwick/Parks and Wildlife



Yawuru rangers collect benthic samples at Man-galagun/ Crab Creek as part of a study into mudflats and shorebirds. Photo – Jennifer Eliot/Parks and Wildlife

An historic agreement between the State Government, Rio Tinto and Alcoa will see 175,900ha of land on the Mitchell Plateau included in the new Kimberley National Park, which will become Australia's biggest national park at more than two million hectares.

Other highlights during the past year were the release of the final management plan for Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park draft management plan and the Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park indicative management plan.

These plans were the culmination of ongoing engagement with traditional owners in the Kimberley to facilitate joint management and provide greater employment for Aboriginal people.

The Department continued to develop and implement strategies and programs for biodiversity conservation. Of particular note was the reinvasion of our core wildlife

recovery program *Western Shield*, which is working to control foxes and feral cats through broadscale baiting on about 3.8 million hectares of conservation lands.

The program is supported by corporate sponsor Alcoa, with new multi-year sponsorship agreements signed with Tronox and Western Areas Ltd in 2014–15.

The new *Eradicat*® feral cat bait, developed over more than a decade of research by Parks and Wildlife, was registered in December 2014 for operational use in WA, underlining the success and expertise our scientists are having in feral cat control research.

Parks and Wildlife has an essential lead role in prescribed burning and bushfire suppression in WA and this was highlighted at three major bushfires during the year – Bullsbrook in Perth, Lower Hotham near Boddington and O'Sullivan near Northcliffe.

The O'Sullivan fire was one of the most significant bushfires that the agency, and its predecessors, have dealt with. Almost half of our total number of staff were involved in the firefighting effort with officers from as far north as Kununurra and inland to the Goldfields travelling to the south-west to assist with fire suppression, along with a contingency of firefighters from interstate.

The Department also achieved its best prescribed burning outcome in five years within the south-west forest regions with almost 75 per cent of its target reached.

The use of prescribed burning as an essential tool to reduce the risk of bushfires was further supported by a budget allocation in May for \$20 million over four years. This will help us meet the challenge of reducing forest fuels and bushfire risk in the south-west.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff and our network of 12,500 plus volunteers for their valuable contribution and acknowledge the ongoing support and guidance of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia and the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority.

By working collaboratively we have achieved significant outcomes in this past year which will ensure the long-term conservation of Western Australia's diverse, scenic and unique environment for all to enjoy in the future.

Jim Sharp
Director General
Department of Parks and Wildlife

September 2015

Contents

Acknowledgments	Inside cover	Significant issues and trends	62
Letter to the Minister	3	Disclosures and legal compliance	64
Director General's foreword	4	Certification	65
Overview of agency	8	Auditor General's opinion	66
Executive summary	9	Financial statements	68
Operational structure	14	Certification	103
Responsible Minister	14	Key performance indicators	104
Legislation administered by the Department at 30 June 2015	14	Ministerial directives	108
Changes made in 2014–15 to legislation administered	14	Other financial disclosures	109
Proposed changes to legislation administered	15	Pricing policies	109
Notices, orders and approvals	16	Capital works: incomplete and completed	109
Performance management framework	17	Employment and industrial relations	109
Parks and Wildlife organisational chart	18	Governance disclosures	111
Changes from the 2013–14 reporting year	19	Enabling legislation	111
Shared responsibilities with other agencies	19	Contracts with senior officers	111
Agency performance	20	Board and committee remuneration	111
Report on operations	21	Other legal requirements	112
Service 1: Parks Management	21	Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail	112
Service 2: Wildlife Management	30	Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes	113
Service 3: Forest Management	40	Compliance statements	114
Supporting our Department	46	Recordkeeping plans	115
Public Information and Corporate Affairs	46	Government policy requirements	116
Legal matters	48	Substantive equality	116
Regional and Fire Management Services	49	Workplace health, safety and injury management	117
Corporate Services Division	55		
Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters	57		
Map of lands and waters	61		



A Bush Ranger cadet from Onslow Primary School abseils at Karijini National Park.
Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Millstream Chichester National Park. *Photo – Rob Davis/Parks and Wildlife*



White-necked heron. *Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife*



Green turtle hatchlings at Ningaloo World Heritage Area. *Photo – Meghan Segers/Parks and Wildlife*



Caravanning at Martins Tank campground, Yalgorup National Park. *Photo – Parks and Wildlife*

Overview of agency



Ellie and Laura Walduck with Cooper, Amali and Mia Wivell and Parks and Wildlife ranger Scott Thomson, Turquoise Bay, Cape Range National Park. *Photo – Jennifer Eliot/Parks and Wildlife*



Executive summary

The Department of Parks and Wildlife works with the community to ensure that the nature of Western Australia is conserved, for its intrinsic values and to sustain and enrich people's lives.

The Department's second year of operations built on the momentum from its first year and 2014–15 began with the release of the *Strategic Directions 2014–17*. The plan focuses the agency's investment and resources on programs that result in tangible improvements to on-ground animal and plant conservation, improving recreation and tourism facilities, and enhancing local and landscape-scale management outcomes.

Parks and Wildlife manages 100 national parks, 13 marine parks and a number of other reserves totalling 28 million hectares, an area roughly equal to the size of Victoria and Tasmania combined. It also has responsibility for the conservation and management of all native animals and plants.

Work towards Parks and Wildlife's goals is divided into five key areas, each of which had significant highlights, initiatives and challenges in 2014–15.

Parks

It was the second year of implementation of the \$21.05 million *Parks for People* initiative, funded by *Royalties for Regions* as part of the State Government's *Caravan and Camping Action Plan 2013–18*. Extensive work was completed on the development and upgrade of campgrounds and visitor

facilities, resulting in 271 new camp sites created throughout the State (read more on page 28).

The new Logue Brook campground, in Dwellingup State Forest, was completed, offering visitors a choice of 126 new sites at popular Lake Brockman. Logue Brook is the first Parks and Wildlife campground to be managed by a commercial operator under a community partnership agreement, providing benefits for visitors, business and Government.

Similar commercial arrangements to bring the public closer to nature were pursued through the State Government's *Naturebank* program, in partnership with Tourism WA and the Department of Regional Development. *Naturebank* aims to prepare sites for the development of quality environmentally sensitive accommodation for tourists in the State's parks. This year, a site prospectus for Ngamoowalem Conservation Park was released, and site assessments for Millstream Chichester National Park and Icy Creek in Lane Poole Reserve were completed.

Work on major visitor infrastructure projects continued in 2014–15. Construction began on the redevelopment of The Gap and Natural Bridge in Torndirrup National Park, funded by

Royalties for Regions. Two new world-class lookout structures are being built to provide a closer, more dramatic view of the beautiful coastline while incorporating key safety design features. A new pathway network with full wheelchair access, new interpretation and upgrades to the day-use and parking areas are also part of the work underway.

Repairs to the popular Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track were a priority for the Department in the last half of the year. Parts of the trails, including bridges, camp shelters and trail markers, were damaged by three bushfires: O'Sullivan near Northcliffe, Lower Hotham near Boddington and Helena Valley National Park near Armadale. Staff and volunteers quickly put diversions in place to allow both trails to re-open, before completing further works to allow the original alignments to re-open. Work to repair more extensive damage is ongoing.

Final management plans for four areas were released in 2014–15; Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, Tuart Forest National Park, Leeuwin-Naturaliste capes area parks and reserves, and Barrow group nature reserves.



Porongurup National Park.
Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

Executive summary

Partnerships with traditional owners in a number of regions across the State were strengthened and formalised this year. In June 2015, six Indigenous Land Use Agreements covering 200,000km² of south-west land were signed between the Noongar people and the State Government

Parks and Wildlife continued to negotiate with traditional owners in the Kimberley to facilitate the creation of jointly managed marine and terrestrial reserves under the \$81.5 million *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*.

Indigenous Land Use Agreements were signed with the Ngarla and Karajarri people for the creation and joint management of Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park and surrounding reserves.

The creation of the proposed Kimberley National Park advanced with the termination of a State Agreement for the development of an alumina refinery and bauxite mine in the Mitchell Plateau region, which will allow for 175,900ha of environmentally significant land to be included in the park.

Parks and Wildlife continued to support Aboriginal people to protect their culture and heritage on parks and reserves, through joint management arrangements, and the provision of training programs in rock art conservation. Staff also visited Aboriginal groups on country to build relationships and provide information

on changes to the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* allowing the practice of customary activities on Parks and Wildlife-managed land.

Visitor risk management continued to be a priority for the Department. Online safety messages were revised and updated to ensure they are consistent and easy to understand. Fifty-seven staff completed a nationally accredited risk management course, and upgrades completed at Fortescue Falls walk trail in Karijini National Park and Mirima National Park have improved safety at these sites.

The Department also built international relationships this year. The State Government established Western Australia's first sister park relationship. The agreement pairs China's Danxiashan National Park and WA's Purnululu National Park, both of which are World Heritage-listed.

In April 2015 Parks and Wildlife welcomed a delegation of Chinese scientists from the Institute of Botany and Chinese Academy of Sciences to the Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre as part of a cooperative agreement to develop plant conservation research opportunities.

Wildlife

The Department's commitment to protect and conserve the State's native plants and animals was progressed this year through a number of conservation and research projects.

Work continued in the Kimberley under the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*, a bold plan to conserve the region's natural and cultural values. One of the key projects within the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy* was recognised in the Premier's Awards. The *Landscape Conservation Initiative*, in which the Department partners with many agencies on conservation projects across a broad range of land tenures, won the environment category of the awards in November 2014.

The Department's long-running wildlife recovery program, *Western Shield*, was reinvigorated this year with support from sponsors and the registration of the *Eradicat*[®] feral cat bait. About 3.8 million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest were baited in 2014–15, using more than one million baits. The work is showing promising results at a number of locations, including Matuwa (Lorna Glen former pastoral lease) in the northern Goldfields, where there has been a sustained reduction of up to 70 per cent in feral cat numbers since baiting began in 2005.

Parks and Wildlife researchers conducted biodiversity surveys across the State in partnership with Aboriginal ranger and community groups. A major biological survey program of Kimberley islands and the Pilbara



Fighting the fire near Northcliffe required a massive interagency effort.
Photo – Steve Bradfield/Parks and Wildlife



Parks and Wildlife senior research scientist Kelly Shepherd with representatives from the Institute of Botany and Chinese Academy of Sciences; Yin Yunlong, Xu Zenglai, Zhuang Yule, Geng Maolin and Liu Jianxiu. Photo – Jennifer Eliot/Parks and Wildlife



Nearer to Nature officer Stephen Crane teaching students about Western Shield baiting. Photo – Parks and Wildlife

bioregion was completed, and floristic and vegetation surveys of Fortescue Marsh continued with support from Fortescue Metals Group and BHP Billiton Iron Ore. During 2014–15, 128 permanent plots were sampled with 360 taxa documented, including two that were new to science.

Scientific work to identify, name and quantify WA's native wildlife was another key activity for the Department. Eight new plant species were added to the list of specially protected (threatened) flora under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*. One species of native animal, Carter's freshwater mussel (*Westralunio carteri*), was added to the list of threatened fauna. The western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) was upgraded from vulnerable to endangered following a review of its conservation status that demonstrated an ongoing decline in this species.

At 30 June 2015, there were 245 threatened fauna species (49 critically endangered, 44 endangered and 154 vulnerable). There were 422 extant threatened flora species (163 critically endangered, 121 endangered and 138 vulnerable).

The Department's marine science program focused on evaluating results of long-term monitoring of marine fauna across WA's marine parks and reserves. Fieldwork concentrated on the monitoring of

seagrasses, algae, coral and fish communities at Ngari Capes, Shark Bay, Marmion, Shoalwater islands, Ningaloo and the Montebello/Barrow islands marine parks and reserves.

Community turtle monitoring was conducted in partnership with volunteers at Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, Ningaloo Marine Park, the West Pilbara and surrounding beaches.

Parks and Wildlife continued to respond to other threatening processes including cane toads, *Phytophthora* dieback, weeds, pest animals and the illegal removal of protected native animals and plants.

Fire

The Department again played a key role in fire management and preparedness in 2014–15, working closely with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, local government authorities, local bushfire brigades, Western Power, St John Ambulance, WA Police, Main Roads WA, the Forest Products Commission and the community.

Parks and Wildlife undertakes prescribed burning on the land it manages to protect the community by mitigating the severity of bushfires, maintain biodiversity, promote vegetation regrowth after disturbance such as mining or timber harvesting, and to conduct research on fire and its interaction with the environment.

Executive summary

In the State's south-west forest regions, the Department's prescribed burning program achieved its best result in five years, having burnt 147,082ha of the 200,000ha target, up from 78,234ha last year. Favourable weather conditions in autumn allowed more burns to go ahead than in previous years. A further 1,977,727ha was burnt in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast regions.

Throughout the year, Parks and Wildlife attended and monitored 825 bushfires that burnt about 2.5 million hectares, including large multi-agency fires at Bullsbrook in Perth, O'Sullivan near Northcliffe and Lower Hotham near Boddington. The O'Sullivan fire burnt 98,700ha, the biggest fire in the south-west since the Dwellingup fires of 1961.

Three Parks and Wildlife firefighters were deployed to Canada in August–September 2014 as part of an Australian contingent to assist in the mitigation of major bushfires in British Columbia.

The Department's fire management is informed by best practice scientific research. This year, a joint project under the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy between Parks and Wildlife, Melbourne University and Charles Darwin University began to investigate the interactions between fire mosaics and tree hollow distributions and the abundance of threatened arboreal mammals.

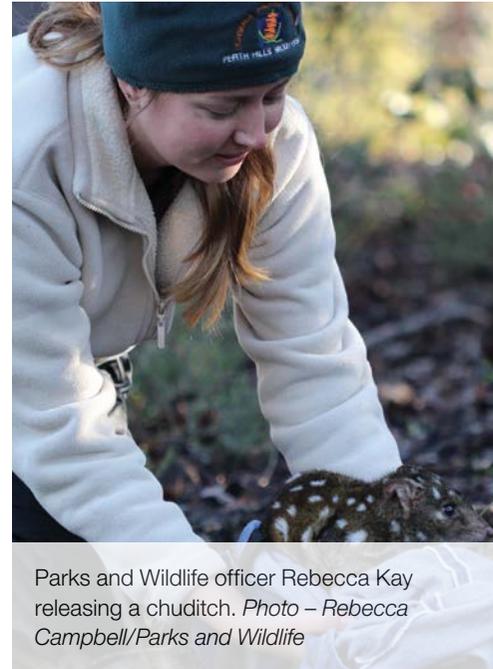
Managed use

One of the Department's major roles is to manage the State's native forests in an ecologically sustainable manner. This year Parks and Wildlife continued to implement the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*, the key policy framework for protecting and managing the south-west forests.

Work undertaken included acquiring and analysing wood inventory data to assist in planning, managing and monitoring wood production in State forest and timber reserves. During 2014–15, the Department continued to use advanced remote sensing technology to map the forests in greater detail than ever before, significantly improving its capacity and accuracy to estimate timber and carbon volumes while markedly reducing the amount of field work required to measure the forests (read more on page 44).

Staff also focused on the detection and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback, assessing and reporting on the status of more than 28,000ha of land managed by the Department. This work helps to prioritise disease treatments and manage disturbance operations.

Recreation in national parks and reserves is an important part of ensuring WA's unique environment is valued by the community. The Department worked closely with and supported key recreation groups to progress this goal.



Parks and Wildlife officer Rebecca Kay releasing a chuditch. Photo – Rebecca Campbell/Parks and Wildlife

The *Track Adoption* program continued, wherein the Department partners with volunteers from recreational four-wheel-drive and trail bike clubs to manage and conserve trails on Parks and Wildlife-managed land. In May 2015, volunteers from the WA 4WD Association and Track Care WA went on a week-long trip with staff to Dirk Hartog Island National Park and cleared six truckloads of rubbish from the island.

610,000
hours contributed by volunteers

147,082ha
area prescribed burnt
in south-west forest regions

28,000ha
area surveyed for dieback

247
threatened animal species

422
threatened plant species

People

Parks and Wildlife relies on the involvement of people to help achieve its conservation and park management aims.

Work continued in the lead-up to the Department's amalgamation with the Swan River Trust to ensure a smooth transition for staff, Government and the public. As a pre-cursor to the merge, Trust employees relocated to Parks and Wildlife's headquarters in Kensington, while continuing to focus on management of the Swan-Canning Riverpark based on best practice science.

It was an outstanding year for volunteer contribution. The Department celebrated the 25th year of its formal volunteering program in 2014, and volunteers contributed more than 610,000 hours to projects across the State. Volunteers took part in a wide range of activities including staffing the Wildcare Helpline, campground hosting, collecting seeds, clearing weeds, taking part in native animal and plant surveys and trail maintenance.

Parks and Wildlife reinforced its commitment to workplace health and safety with the rollout of an updated training program for all staff.

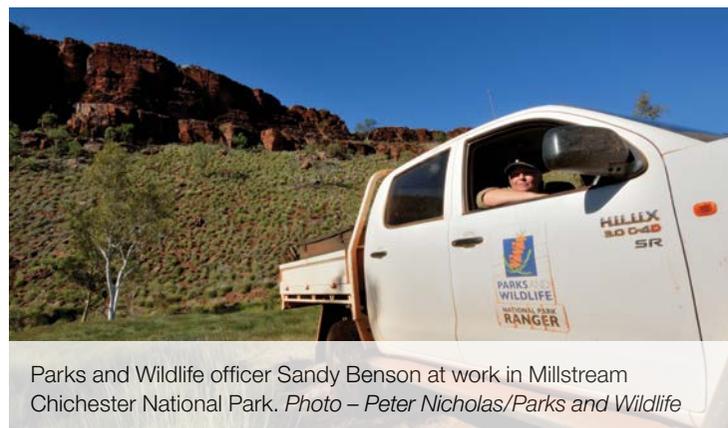
The annual Graduation and Awards Ceremony again provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of outstanding and committed employees. This year the inaugural *Western Shield* award was presented to recognise outstanding individual contribution to the program, and it was the second year the Department celebrated the achievements of staff involved in fire management with the Fire Rewards and Recognition Program.



Conservation employee Paul Dunstan.
Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife



Research scientist Ryonen Butcher. *Photo – Shae Nechwatal*



Parks and Wildlife officer Sandy Benson at work in Millstream
Chichester National Park. *Photo – Peter Nicholas/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.

The Department was established on 1 July 2013, and is in the portfolio of the Minister for Environment.

Its key responsibilities include 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 1000km Bibbulmun Track for walkers, and the 1000km Munda Biddi Trail for cyclists.

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

It employs more than 1400 people, many with world-class skills in areas including scientific research, policy development, land and marine management, visitor services and education.

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*, the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, the *Sandalwood Act 1929* and the other legislation administered by the Department.

Legislation administered by the Department at 30 June 2015

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 2014–15 to legislation administered

- On 2 July 2014 the *Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Act 2014* was passed, section 44 of which made a minor amendment to section 16(1) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.
- On 19 September 2014, the Wildlife Conservation Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2014 were published in the *Government Gazette*, which amended regulation 63 of the Regulations to make provision for certain customary activities.
- On 19 September 2014, the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2014 were gazetted, which made a number of incidental amendments and also amended Schedule 2 of the Regulations by inserting

new modified penalties for some offences and making changes to a number of other existing modified penalties. In particular, the Amendment Regulations made amendments to regulations 3, 4, 39, 67, 73 and 121, in addition to amending Schedules 1 and 2 of the Regulations.

- On 8 January 2015, the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations 2014 were gazetted which made a consequential amendment to regulation 2 of the Regulations.
- On 24 March 2015, the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations 2015 were gazetted, which dealt with the management of moorings in marine parks. The Amendment Regulations made changes to regulations 2, 6, 59, 60 and 63 of the Regulations and inserted a new regulation 61B. Two new Divisions, 4 and 5, were inserted under Part 7 of the Regulations.
- On 19 June 2015, the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2015 were gazetted, which amended regulation 84 of the Regulations.

Proposed changes to legislation administered

Amendments to the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* are in progress.

The *Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2015* was introduced into the Legislative Assembly by the Minister for Environment on 12 March 2015. This Bill makes provision for a number of proposed initiatives, including:

- combining the Conservation Commission with the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority (Marine Authority) into a single Conservation and Parks Commission
- enabling joint vesting of national parks, nature reserves and conservation parks between the Conservation and Parks Commission and native title parties
- zoning schemes in marine parks including special purpose and recreation zones that allow some forms of fishing to operate while imposing restrictions on other forms, as intended in approved marine park management plans
- the roles of regional park coordination, management planning and management, to be legislated functions of the CALM Act Chief Executive Officer (CEO) legislated recognition that fire management, including prescribed burning, is an integral part of the land management functions of the CALM Act CEO

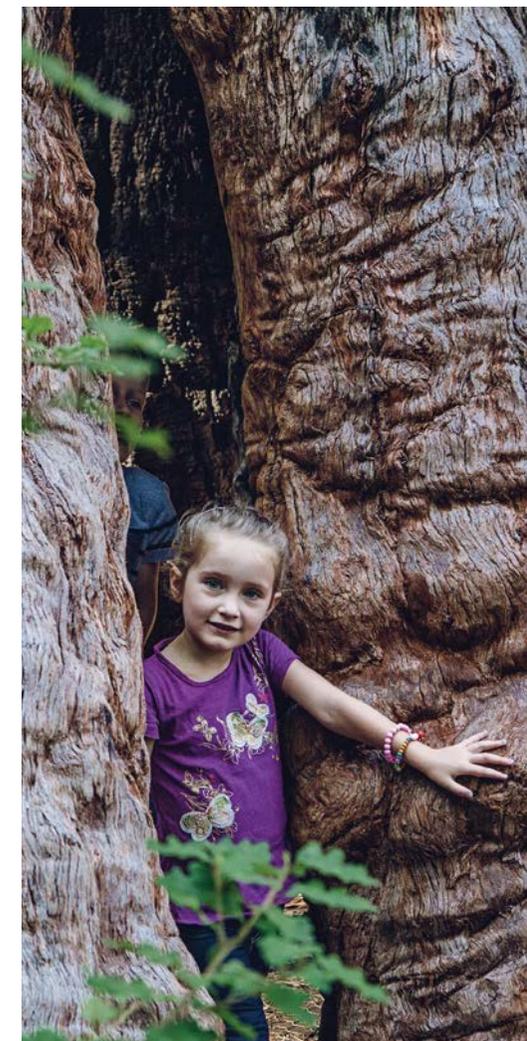
- extending the maximum allowable term of CALM Act leases for recreation, tourism and other purposes from the current 21 years, with a 21-year extension, to a maximum of 99 years, consistent with the periods available under the *Land Administration Act 1997*.



Swainsona sp. Photo – Peter Nicholas/
Parks and Wildlife



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



Exploring the Valley of the Giants,
Walpole-Nornalup National Park.
Photo – Nic Duncan

Operational structure

Notices, orders and approvals

The following notices were made by the Minister for Environment under the provisions of sections 14(4) and 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* during the 2014–15 reporting year:

- The *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2014*, which was published in the *Government Gazette* on 2 December 2014
- The *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2014*, which was published in the *Government Gazette* on 2 December 2014.

The following management plans were approved by the Minister for Environment under section 60 of the CALM Act during the 2014–15 reporting year:

- *Tuart Forest National Park final management plan* was published in the *Government Gazette* on 19 August 2014
- *Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park management plan* was published in the *Government Gazette* on 2 December 2014
- *Leeuwin-Naturaliste capes area parks and reserves final management plan* was published in the *Government Gazette* on 9 January 2015
- *Barrow group nature reserves final management plan* was published in the *Government Gazette* on 24 February 2015.

On 28 October 2014, *Public Firewood Areas Order (No. 2)* was published in the *Government Gazette* under regulation 98 of the Forest Management Regulations 1993, designating an area of State Forest No. 22 as a public firewood area.

Also during the 2014–15 reporting year, the following ‘Excision from Timber Reserves’ Orders were made by the Governor under section 17(6a) of the CALM Act and published in the *Government Gazette*:

- On 5 December 2014, the *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from Timber Reserve) Order (No. 1) 2014* excised an area of 0.9562ha from Timber Reserve No. 171/25 19km south of Boddington for road re-alignment purposes.
- On 9 January 2015, the *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from Timber Reserve) Order (No. 2) 2014* excised an area of 14.0062ha from Timber Reserve No. 116/25 7km north of Manjimup for road re-alignment purposes.

In the same period, the following *Revocation of State Forest Orders* were made by the Governor under section 9(2) of the CALM Act:

- On 4 July 2014, the *Conservation and Land Management (Revocation of State Forest) Order (No. 1) 2014* was published in the *Government Gazette*, revoking an area of 1.6174ha of State Forest No. 22 situated 5km south of Boddington.
- On 26 September 2014, the *Conservation and Land Management (Revocation of State Forest) Order (No. 2) 2014* was published in the *Government Gazette*, revoking the following areas of State Forest:
 - 7.3262ha from State Forest No. 6,
 - 17.8635ha from State Forest No. 28,
 - 71.3985ha from State Forest No. 32,
 - and 39.0974ha from State Forest No. 33 as part of the dedication of Mowen Road between Margaret River and Nannup
 - 3.0777ha from State Forest No. 23 5km west of Dwellingup to allow for the dedication of Helio and Austin roads
 - 19.8014ha from State Forest No. 65 near Ellenbrook to facilitate the widening of Gngangara Road
 - 0.2821ha from State Forest No. 65 about 6km east of Butler to facilitate upgrades to Wesco Road.

- On 24 October 2014, a correction was published in the *Government Gazette* to correct an error in *Conservation and Land Management (Revocation of State Forest) Order (No. 2) 2013*, which was published on 26 September 2014.
- On 17 March 2015, the *Conservation and Land Management (Revocation of State Forest) Order (No. 1) 2015* was published in the *Government Gazette*, revoking an area of 24.4958ha of State Forest No. 56 situated 2km north of Margaret River to facilitate the construction of Margaret River Perimeter Road.



Pygmy possums. Photo – Babs and Bert Wells/
Parks and Wildlife

Performance management framework

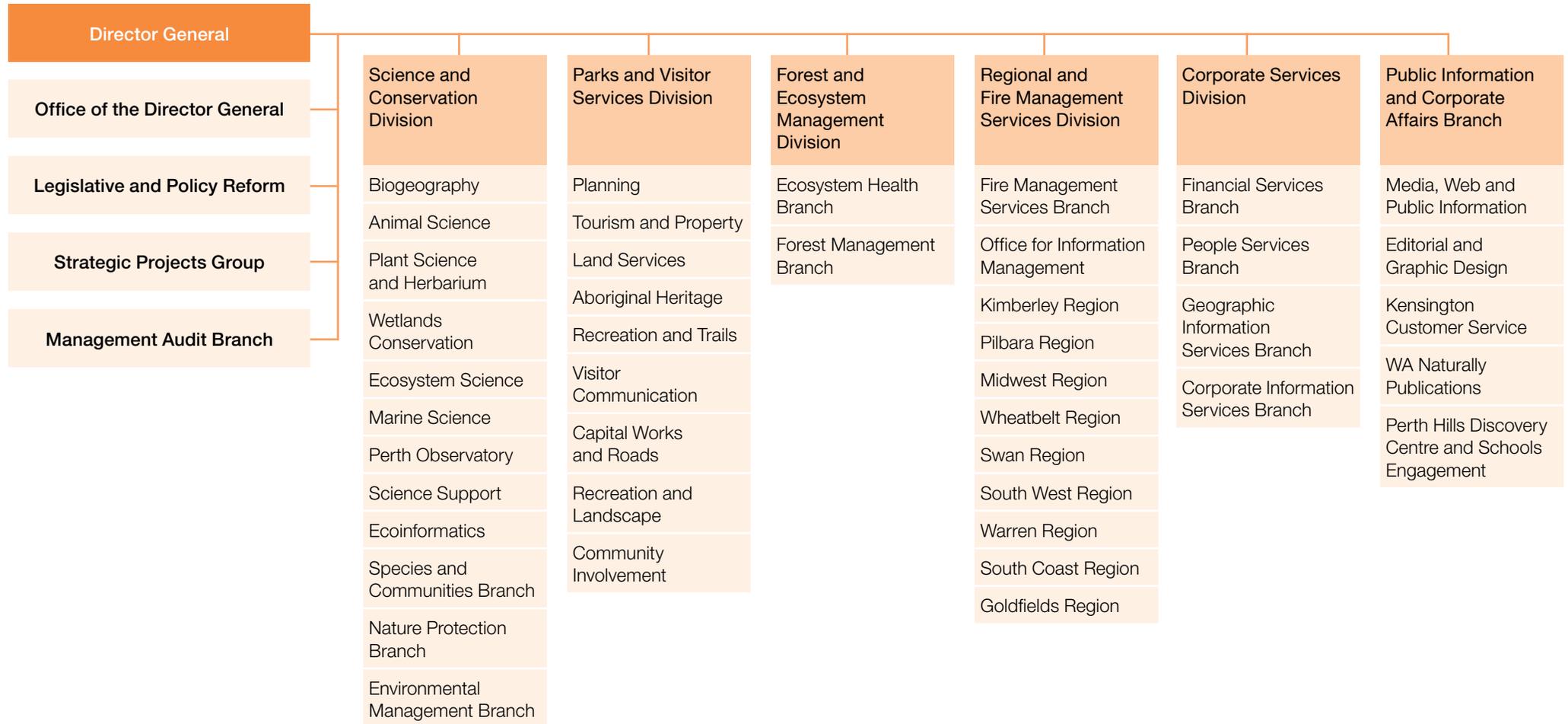
Parks and Wildlife supports Government goals with more specific desired outcomes, achieved via delivery across three services.

The table to the right illustrates the relationship between 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	<p>Outcome 1 Community enjoyment of park facilities and services, wildlife and the natural environment displayed in parks</p>	<p>Service 1: Parks Management Key effectiveness indicators Outcome 1 KPI 1. Average level of visitor satisfaction with their visit</p> <p>Key efficiency indicator Average cost per hectare of managing parks</p>
Social and environmental responsibility	<p>Outcome 2 Conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity</p>	<p>Service 2: Wildlife Management Key effectiveness indicators 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</p> <p>Key efficiency indicator Average cost per hectare of managing wildlife habitat</p> <p>Service 3: Forest Management Key effectiveness indicators 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</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators Average cost per hectare of managing forest</p>

Operational structure

Parks and Wildlife organisational chart



Correct at 30 June 2015

Changes from the 2013–14 reporting year

The performance management framework adopted in 2013–14 continued to be applied in 2014–15.

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.

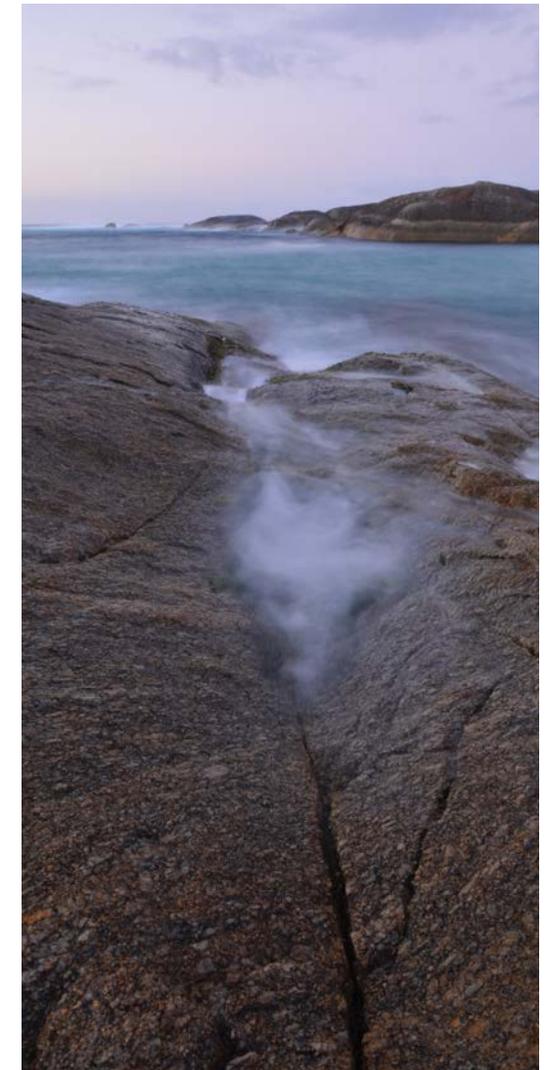
Initiative	Contributing agencies	Result for 2014–15
Responding to climate change	Department of Environment Regulation, Department of Planning, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Transport, Department of Treasury, Public Utilities Office, Parks and Wildlife	Whole-of-government integrated response to climate change
Salinity	Department of Agriculture and Food (lead agency), Parks and Wildlife	Continuing amelioration of the impacts of salinity



A mixture of moss and lichen grows on a tree in Walpole-Nornalup National Park.
Photo – Sam Clarke/Parks and Wildlife

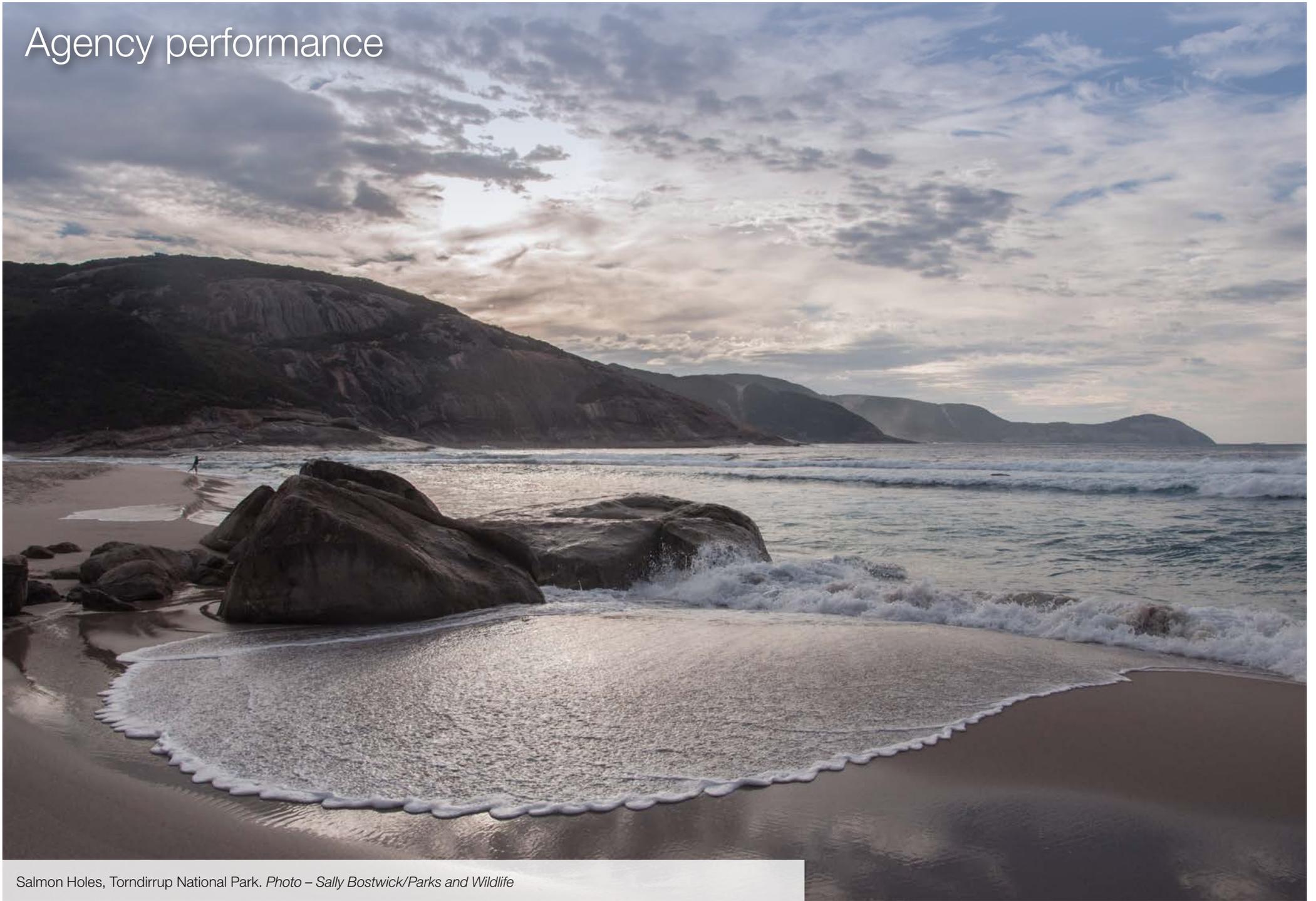


Ant on white-flowered philotheca.
Photo – Hayden Cannon/Parks and Wildlife



William Bay National Park.
Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

Agency performance



Salmon Holes, Torndirrup National Park. *Photo – Sally Bostwick/Parks and Wildlife*

Report on operations

Service 1: Parks Management

This service is responsible for developing a world-class parks system that promotes community support and appreciation for the State's parks, wildlife and Aboriginal cultural values.

The Parks Management service priorities in 2014–15 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 forms part of the State Government's *Western Australian Caravan and Camping Action Plan 2013–18* 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 partnership with 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 service priorities are delivered through seven key 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.

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
- addressing sites and facilities that pose a risk to visitors
- investing in key visitor sites that have potential to generate revenue to assist with conservation and park management
- offering high-quality visitor experiences
- developing opportunities to provide a range of trails for kayaking, walking, trail running, mountain biking, four-wheel driving, trail biking, snorkelling and scuba diving
- developing and improving 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 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 52)
- 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.

Report on operations



Parks and Wildlife ranger Scott Thomson welcomes Jonathon Scott-Lee to Osprey Bay, Cape Range National Park. *Photo – Jennifer Eliot/Parks and Wildlife*



Baden Powell campground, Lane Poole Reserve. *Photo – Rod Annear/Parks and Wildlife*

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 new technology to enrich the visitor experience.

5. Involve Aboriginal people in managing conservation lands 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 2013–15*
- 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

	2014–15 Target \$'000	2014–15 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	\$93,731	\$116,676	\$22,945
Key Efficiency Indicator	2014–15 Target	2014–15 Actual	Variance
Average cost per hectare of managing parks	\$3.29	\$4.09	\$0.80

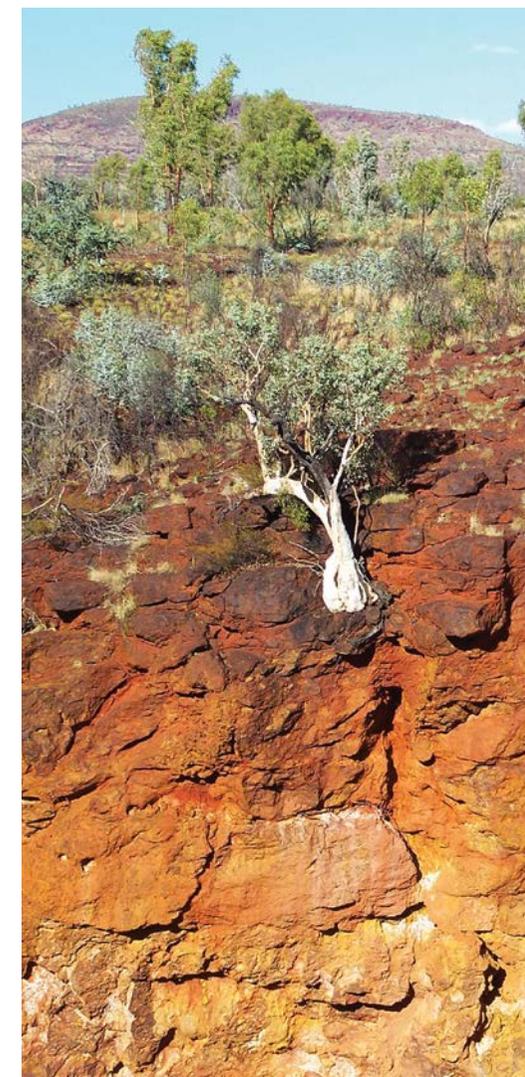
Key Effectiveness Indicator

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 2014–15: 85 per cent
Actual 2014–15: 87.9 per cent

More details regarding the key efficiency and key effectiveness indicators can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 104 to 106.



Dales Gorge, Karijini National Park.
Photo – Mark Neilson/Parks and Wildlife

Report on operations

Performance highlights

- The total number of visits to Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters increased to 18.67 million from 16.88 million last year (Figure 2, page 27). Although much of this change in visitation is due to improved monitoring, it still represents a significant increase over previous years.
- During 2014–15, final management plans were gazetted for Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, Tuart Forest National Park, Leeuwin-Naturaliste capes area parks and reserves, and Barrow group nature reserves.
- A total of 14 management plans were being prepared in 2014–15, including the *Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park draft management plan* and the *Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park indicative management plan*, which were both released for public comment.
- Parks and Wildlife continued to negotiate with traditional owners in the Kimberley to facilitate the creation of jointly managed marine and terrestrial reserves under the \$81.5 million *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*.
- In August 2014, the State Government signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Ngarla people, which provides for the creation and management of the Ngarla parts of Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park and Jarrkumpang Nature Reserve.
- In June 2015, the State Government signed an ILUA with the Karajarri native

title holders, enabling the creation and joint management of the Karajarri parts of the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park and a number of terrestrial reserves.

- In June 2015, six Indigenous Land Use Agreements covering 200,000km² of south-west land were signed between the Noongar people and the State Government.
- A fit-for-purpose 20m vessel for the northern Kimberley marine parks was commissioned, allowing staff to undertake joint management operations with traditional owners on sea country.
- The Armbangardi ranger group was established on Carson River Station to undertake conservation works required by the Pastoral Lands Board.
- The Department ran a rock art conservation training course with five traditional owner groups throughout the Kimberley. The groups were shown conservation techniques and supplied with conservation toolkits.
- The Credo working group was set up with assistance from the Goldfields Land and Sea Council to progress Aboriginal involvement and joint management of the proposed Credo Conservation Park.
- A joint management training program was run for Wiluna Martu, Goldfields Land and Sea Council and Spinifex rangers.
- Parks and Wildlife staff held a number of information sessions with Aboriginal groups

in Collie, Bunbury, Busselton and Manjimup, with the aim of building relationships and providing information on changes to the CALM Act in relation to customary activities.

- During 2014–15, potential sites under the *Naturebank* program were progressed. The site prospectus for the Ngamoowalem Conservation Park was released. Site assessments of Millstream Chichester National Park and Icy Creek, Lane Poole Reserve, were completed and investment attraction plans seeking potential developers are being developed.
- In January 2015, a commercial operation licence was allocated to a helicopter operator for tours to Breaksea Island Nature Reserve to meet increased demand for cultural, adventure and eco-tourism experiences on the south coast.
- The State Government established Western Australia's first sister park relationship. The agreement pairs China's Danxiashan National Park with WA's Purnululu National Park, which are both World Heritage-listed.
- The Department continued to work closely with and support key recreation 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, the West Australian Trail Horse Riders Association and Motorcycling Western Australia.

18.6M

visits to parks and reserves

\$21.05M

invested in *Parks for People*

25th

year of volunteer program

271

new camp sites built in 2014–15

37,000km

length of road network managed and maintained

2

stunning new lookouts under construction at The Gap and Natural Bridge

- In June 2015, the *WA Mountain Bike Strategy 2015–2020* was officially launched by the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Sport and Recreation. The Department worked closely with the Department of Sport and Recreation, Westcycle and the WA Mountain Bike Association to develop the strategy.
- The *South West Mountain Bike Master Plan* was completed, identifying and prioritising areas for future development of mountain bike opportunities. Detailed environmental assessments and trail planning have begun in the high-priority locations of Wellington and Bramley national parks.
- Work continued on the development of the *Perth and Peel Mountain Bike Master Plan*, which will identify and prioritise future development of mountain bike trails in the Perth and Peel regions. During the year, a steering group was formed and consultants were appointed to develop the plan.
- The Department's *Track Adoption Program*, developed in partnership with Track Care WA and the WA 4WD Association, continued to see volunteers working alongside staff on a number of projects across the State. One of the projects undertaken with the Toyota Landcruiser Club of WA saw the construction of replica stockyards at Congelin campground in Dryandra Woodland.
- The new ParkFinder WA mobile application was launched, making it easier for visitors to plan their trips to parks and reserves. Work also started on the development of a Munda Bidji Trail application, a camping checklist application, and mobile plant and animal guides.
- The Department continued to assist with improvements to the Trails WA website, a central, searchable portal for trail information. Seventy of the 160 trails listed are in parks and reserves managed by Parks and Wildlife, and an additional 20 trails are in the process of being listed.
- Work continued with the Department of Sport and Recreation to develop recreation audits and planning in de-proclaimed water catchments, including Murray River Water Reserve and the Wellington Dam Catchment Area.
- Significant site and recreation master planning and stakeholder consultation was undertaken for Yawuru in-town and out-of-town parks in and around Broome and the Karara area former pastoral leases in the Midwest Region.
- The State Government endorsed a preliminary planning report on the future management of Wedge and Grey, south of Perth. The implementation of the preliminary plan and development of a final plan are ongoing
- Maintenance continued on Parks and Wildlife's 37,000km road network. Road upgrade projects were completed in Cape Le Grand, Cape Range, Kennedy Range and Kalbarri national parks.
- In 2014–15, under the *Parks for People* initiative, 271 new camp sites were completed at new and existing campgrounds in parks, reserves and State forest areas across the State.
- The redevelopment of Osprey Bay campground in Cape Range National Park was completed. The campground redevelopment delivered 30 new camp sites and includes three two-cubicle toilets, picnic tables, shelters in a new sunset viewing area, upgraded access roads and a 3km connecting walk trail to neighbouring Sandy Bay.
- The expansion and upgrade of Conto campground in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park was completed. This project delivered 29 new camp sites, each with fire rings and picnic tables, three two-cubicle toilets, two barbecue shelters, information signs, and improvements to access roads and paths.
- The redevelopment of Nanga Brook campground in Lane Poole Reserve was opened to the public, although some minor works are still being completed. The new campground delivered 29 additional purpose-built caravan and campervan sites, 12 new tent camp sites, three two-cubicle toilets, group fire rings, picnic tables, and improvements to access roads and paths.
- The development of the new Logue Brook campground in Dwellingup State Forest was completed. This project provides five camping loops with 126 new camp sites each with fire rings and picnic tables, nine toilet blocks, five barbecue shelters, a mountain bike pump track, a new waste dump station to service campers and improvements to roads and paths. The new facilities are being managed by the Lake Brockman Tourist Park under a community partnership agreement.
- The development of the new campground at the proposed Credo Conservation Park continued. The campground will provide 16 new camp sites, improved road access, picnic tables and toilets. Local Aboriginal workers were employed on a contract basis to develop the campground.
- One of two camping loops was completed for the new campground named Gnaala Mia (Noongar for 'our home') in Dryandra Woodland. Once completed, it will provide 30 new camp sites, a new access road, four two-cubicle toilets and two barbecue shelters.
- The redevelopment of Miners campground in Coalseam Conservation Park was completed. The upgraded campground provides 13 new camp sites, an upgraded access road and a new toilet.

Report on operations

- The redevelopment of Black Point campground in D'Entrecasteaux National Park was completed. The upgraded campground provides 13 new camp sites, upgraded access roads and new toilets.
- In 2014–15, planning and design work was completed on a number of redevelopment projects under the *Parks for People* initiative. These include Lucky Bay campground in Cape Le Grand National Park, Baden Powell day-use area in Lane Poole Reserve, Big Lagoon campground in Francois Peron National Park and Potters Gorge campground in Wellington National Park.
- Construction works began on the redevelopment of The Gap and Natural Bridge in Torndirrup National Park, funded by *Royalties for Regions*. This project will deliver two new world-class lookout structures, a new pathway network with full wheelchair access, new interpretation and upgrades to the day-use and parking areas.
- Six historic railway bridges in John Forrest National Park were restored, including Jane Brook bridge on the Railway Heritage Trail. Three of the bridges were replaced with special pre-cast concrete decks containing an imprint of the original timber decking as an interpretive historical link.
- Upgrades to Fortescue Falls walk trail at Dales Gorge in Karijini National Park continued with the construction of steel staircases and boardwalks.
- Upgrades to visitor facilities within Mirima National Park were completed. Works include a new hybrid toilet, cement pathways, an upgraded interpretive shelter, new bollards and rest area seating.
- New walk trails were built in Kalbarri National Park at Red Bluff (Bluff to Beach Trail) and Z Bend (4 Ways Trail).
- The Pinjar Off-road Motorcycle Area was further developed with the completion of an advanced skills area. Other works included track grading, improving signs, car parks and paths.
- \$1.4 million was invested to repair visitor infrastructure damaged by severe flooding in Cape Range National Park, as a result of ex-tropical cyclone Jack. Works were undertaken to repair or replace damaged assets including the Milyering Discovery Centre, accommodation, roads, campgrounds and other visitor facilities.
- In February 2015, the Helena, Lower Hotham and O'Sullivan bushfires caused significant damage to the Bibbulmun Track, Munda Biddi Trail, visitor infrastructure and road bridges in the south-west. Works were immediately undertaken to re-align and re-open both trails and a program is now being implemented to replace damaged or lost assets.
- 2450 signs were developed to final production, including 260 directional and identification signs, 362 visitor risk signs, 1521 management signs, nine fee signs and 298 interpretation signs.
- Shelter interpretation panels were installed at Nilgen Nature Reserve lookout, and boot cleaning stations were installed at trailheads in Lesueur and Badgingarra national parks to reduce the risk of introducing dieback.
- Interpretive and directional signage was installed in most locations within Millstream Chichester National Park. Extensive consultation was undertaken with Aboriginal groups for interpretive artwork and translations.
- Work on the development of the *Kimberley Region Crocodile Safety Communication Strategy* continued in consultation with interstate agencies.
- All visitor safety messages were revised, updated and standardised.
- In partnership with Nature Play WA and Outdoors WA, Parks and Wildlife conducted first-time camper events at Yanchep and Warren national parks. The events were aimed at providing hundreds of first-time campers with an opportunity to camp with the support of staff.
- In partnership with Nature Play WA, Parks and Wildlife ran a 'free entry to national parks' promotion over the July school holidays for children who held Nature Play passports. The aim was to promote the *Parks for People* initiative and encourage families to get outdoors and enjoy nature.
- The Department established a partnership with the Perth Observatory Volunteer Group, enabling the group to continue running the outreach program for the community to experience astronomy, space science and astrophotography. The group will also maintain the historical and valuable equipment and buildings at the observatory.
- The Department celebrated the 25th year of its formal volunteering program in 2014. At 30 June 2015, the number of Parks and Wildlife-registered volunteers was 12,511, of whom 4636 contributed more than 610,000 hours to projects across the State – an outstanding result. Volunteers took part in a wide range of activities including staffing the Wildcare Helpline, campground hosting, collecting seeds, clearing weeds, taking part in native plant and animal surveys and trail maintenance.
- The 2014–15 visitor satisfaction index, averaged from visitor responses to surveys at selected parks, reserves and forest areas around the State, was 87.9 per cent. This outcome, with results from previous years of the survey program, is illustrated in Figure 1.

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

Visitor satisfaction

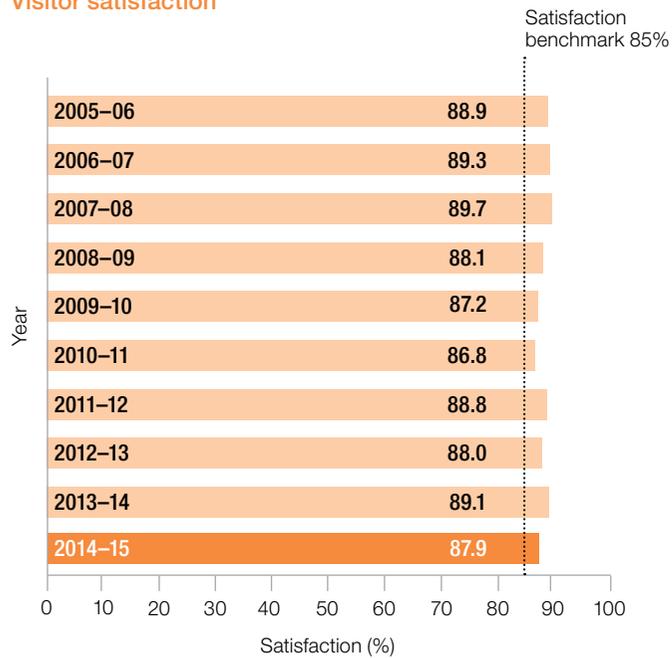
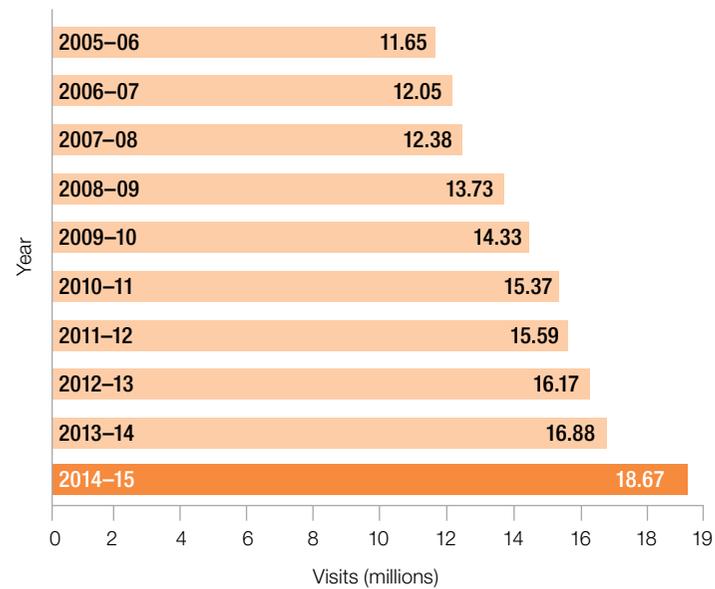
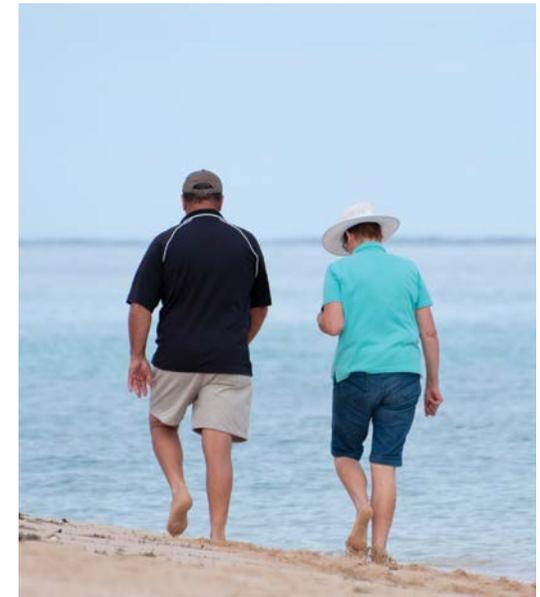


Figure 2. Total visits to Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters

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.



Peter and Marg Speed at Osprey Bay, Cape Range National Park.
Photo – Sally Bostwick/Parks and Wildlife



Customary fishing. Photo – Chris Nutt/Parks and Wildlife

Case study

Government goal: Ensuring that economic activity is managed in a socially and environmentally responsible manner for the long-term benefit of the State

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

Making WA camping more enjoyable

The \$21.05 million *Parks for People* initiative, funded by *Royalties for Regions*, went from strength to strength in 2014–15, with the addition of 271 new camp sites to the Department's network of nature-based accommodation throughout the State. This year saw the completion of one new campground, significant progress on another two and major redevelopments of five existing family favourites.

Implemented by Parks and Wildlife, *Parks for People* is part of the State Government's *Western Australian Caravan and Camping Action Plan 2013–18* which is working to improve and expand camping and visitor experiences for Western Australians and tourists.

The initiative provides for visitor facilities and services, including the establishment of affordable camping and caravan accommodation, walk, bike and drive trails and the creation of interpretive information such as mobile and desktop applications.

Logue Brook leading the way

The new Logue Brook campground, in Dwellingup State Forest, was partially opened in December 2014 in time for school holidays and was completed in June 2015. The \$3 million investment delivered 126 new sites across five camping loops. Each camp site has a fire ring and picnic table, as well as access to one of nine toilet blocks, five barbecue shelters, a mountain bike pump track and a waste dump station.

The campground is being managed under a community partnership agreement by commercial operator Lake Brockman Tourist Park. The arrangement is the first of its kind for a campground and is already proving successful. Visitors benefit by enjoying quality facilities at a low cost, as well as an on-ground management presence and access to additional services.

New sites in Dryandra and Goldfields

Construction of one of two camping loops was completed this year for a new campground in Dryandra Woodland called Gnaala Mia (Noongar for 'our home'). Eighteen new camp sites have been built in addition to a new access road and other facilities. A second camping loop is due for completion in 2015–16.

The development of a new campground at proposed Credo Conservation Park, in the Goldfields, also continued. It will provide 16 new camp sites, improved road access, picnic tables and toilets. Local Aboriginal people were employed to develop the campground, due to be completed in August 2015.

Upgrading the favourites

In addition to developing new campgrounds, the Department focused on improving and expanding popular campground locations.

A \$1.25 million redevelopment of Osprey Bay campground in Cape Range National Park opened in April 2015. The number of camp sites has been increased to 45, and three new toilet blocks, two shade shelters, new picnic tables, sunset viewing platforms and a 3.1km walk trail were constructed.

WA's most visited national park, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park in the south-west, now caters for more campers after a \$1.1 million expansion at Conto campground. Opened to the public for the 2015 Easter long weekend, Conto now features 29 new camp sites, wi-fi connectivity, and a range of other visitor facilities.

Also in the State's south-west, Nanga Brook campground in the popular Lane Poole Reserve underwent a \$2 million upgrade, with the addition of 29 purpose-built caravan and campervan sites and 12 tent camp sites.

Two smaller redevelopments were also completed at Miners campground in Coalseam Conservation Park and Black Point campground in D'Entrecasteaux National Park. Miners campground has 13 new camp sites and Black Point has 15. Both feature upgraded access roads, new signs and new toilets.

Connecting people to parks

To support work being done on the ground, Parks and Wildlife has improved information for park visitors. In May 2015, the Department launched the new mobile application, ParkFinder WA, to help guide people to parks and campgrounds. The Department's Park Stay WA website was also upgraded.

And for those visitors with the will to camp but a lack of confidence or experience, the Department, held two events in partnership with Nature Play WA and Outdoors WA to introduce hundreds of people to camping.



Camping at Osprey Bay campground. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Nanga Brook campground. Photo – Laurence Radin/Parks and Wildlife



New facilities at Conto campground. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Credo campground site. Photo – Parks and Wildlife

Report on operations

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 Western Australia's wildlife. The Wildlife Management service priorities in 2014–15 to deliver this outcome were:

- effectively manage the terrestrial and marine conservation reserve system
- 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.



A rock rat found at Cockburn Range during a biological survey.
Photo – Jasper Kruse/Parks and Wildlife



Volunteers during a microbialite survey at Lake Clifton, Yalgorup National Park. *Photo – Val English/Parks and Wildlife*

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 significant 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
- providing consistent and timely advice on the conservation reserve system, key species and ecological communities to industry, regulatory agencies and the Minister for Environment.

5. Effectively targeting scientific investigations to improve biodiversity knowledge and integrating science discoveries into wildlife 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 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

	2014–15 Target \$'000	2014–15 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	\$139,370	\$123,075	(16,295)
Key Efficiency Indicator	2014–15 Target	2014–15 Actual	Variance
Average cost per hectare of managing wildlife habitat	\$4.81	\$4.31	(0.5)

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 2014–15: 772
Actual 2014–15: 772

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

Target 2014–15: 1
Actual 2014–15: 1

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

Target 2014–15: 2
Actual 2014–15: 2

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

Target 2014–15: 68 per cent
Actual 2014–15: 68.9 per cent

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

Target 2014–15: 22.2 per cent
Actual 2014–15: 22.2 per cent

KPI 6. Proportion of marine bioregions with marine conservation reserves

Target 2014–15: 53 per cent
Actual 2014–15: 53 per cent

More details regarding the key efficiency and key effectiveness indicators can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 104 to 106.

Performance highlights

- The Department gave a high priority to the drafting of the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Bill throughout the year in keeping with the Premier's commitment, made in an address to Parliament on 17 February 2015, for the Bill to be introduced into Parliament in the forthcoming year. The Bill is being drafted to replace the WC Act with modern conservation provisions and will include significantly increased penalties for persons having significant impacts on high-priority native plants and animals, including threatened species, whales and dolphins. The Bill is also to include provisions for greater flexibility and certainty for private landowner conservation initiatives with a focus on encouragement, while removing unnecessary regulatory barriers.
- 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. This included advice on a range of mining and petroleum exploration and development proposals, including extraction of basic raw materials, and town planning schemes, structure plans, subdivisions and development applications.
- The Department continued to implement the \$81.5 million *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*. As a first step in creating the proposed Kimberley National Park, the Government reached agreement with Rio Tinto and Alcoa to terminate the *Alumina Refinery (Mitchell Plateau) Agreement 1971* and a ratifying bill was introduced to Parliament on 25 March 2015 to enable 175,900ha of Mitchell Plateau to be included in the park. Indigenous Land Use Agreements were signed for Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park and adjacent terrestrial reserves with Karajarri and Ngarla traditional owners.
- 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 in a tenure-blind approach to managing threatening processes.

- Also through the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*, a joint Parks and Wildlife, Melbourne University and Charles Darwin University project began to investigate the interactions between fire mosaics and tree hollow distributions and the abundance of threatened arboreal mammals in the north Kimberley.
- Work continued on the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) *Kimberley Marine Research Program*, a \$12 million research initiative that will inform and support the planning and management of new marine parks in the Kimberley. The program is led by the Department and supported by about \$18 million in co-investment from WAMSI partners. Delivery of 25 integrated science projects will provide new information on marine biodiversity, habitats, ecological processes and human use across the Kimberley.
- The Kimberley Islands and Pilbara Bioregion biological surveys were completed and publication is close to completion. Biodiversity surveys were undertaken at another three north Kimberley islands and an adjacent mainland site in partnership with the Balangarra and Dambimangari traditional owners, under the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*. The results highlighted the importance of the islands as conservation refuges.

- Floristic and vegetation surveys of Fortescue Marsh continued with support from Fortescue Metals Group and BHP Billiton Iron Ore. During 2014–15, 128 permanent plots were sampled with 360 taxa documented, including two that are new to science. New, unique plant communities were recorded on gypsum dunes. Control of donkeys, horses and camels continued. A collaborative project between Parks and Wildlife and the Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee, Roy Hill Iron Ore, Fortescue Metals Group and Roy Hill station saw the removal of 20,679 *Parkinsonia* plants upstream of the marsh.
- A biological survey of the poorly known Peterswald map sheet area in the Great Victoria Desert recorded 16 mammal species, of which four were introduced, 48 reptiles and 58 bird species.
- In collaboration with the Great Victoria Desert Trust, the status and gaps in knowledge were reviewed for the threatened sandhill dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*), malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and southern marsupial mole (*Notoryctes typhlops*). Research priorities were clarified and species research and management plans are being drafted to guide the investment of offset funds and corporate sponsorship contributions in the Great Victoria Desert.



Bunuba rangers and Parks and Wildlife staff conduct a crocodile survey in Windjana Gorge National Park. Left to right: Henry Williams, Rory Williams, Clive Aiken, Nigel Hale and Philip DeBruyn. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Thorny devil. Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

Report on operations

- A biodiversity audit to document the State's biodiversity through a detailed bioregional analysis was completed in 2014–15. Departmental staff are now using the data collected on threatened and priority plants and animals, threatened and priority ecological communities, and internationally and nationally significant wetlands to inform and improve conservation and management actions.
- The *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program continued to implement broadscale fox and feral cat baiting for native animal conservation. About 3.8 million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest were baited, using more than one million baits (about 600,000 fox baits and 500,000 feral cat baits). The program was supported by corporate sponsors Alcoa, Tronox and Western Areas Ltd.
- The new *Eradicat*® feral cat bait is the result of more than a decade of research by Parks and Wildlife and was registered in December 2014 for operational use in WA. Research continues to improve bait delivery in different environments, with projects at Fortescue Marsh in the Pilbara, Matuwa (Lorna Glen former pastoral station) and on the south coast. Operational trials of the bait were commenced at Dryandra Woodland, the coastal sand plains north of Perth and Cape Range National Park. A project was initiated to determine the potential impact of *Eradicat*® on northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) in the Pilbara.
- Significant progress continued to be made on the *Return to 1616* ecological restoration project at Dirk Hartog Island National Park, which is substantially funded through the Gorgon Barrow Island *Net Conservation Benefits* (NCB) program. The \$11.54 million NCB funding is supporting the progressive removal of invasive pest animals, including goats, sheep and feral cats, before native animals are reintroduced in an ambitious and ground-breaking project to restore Dirk Hartog Island to its former state. In 2014–15, a cat-proof fence was constructed across the island to assist with feral cat eradication using the *Eradicat*® feral cat bait. Aerial baiting and trapping were conducted south of this barrier fence in mid-2014 and no feral cat activity has been observed in this area since October 2014.
- The monitoring of translocated animals on the Montebello Islands continued under Gorgon Gas Project offset funding. Golden bandicoots (*Isodon auratus*), spectacled hare-wallabies (*Lagorchestes conspicillatus conspicillatus*), black and white fairy-wrens (*Malurus leucopterus edouardi*) and spinifexbirds (*Megalurus carteri*) translocated from Barrow Island to Hermite Island are breeding and continuing to spread to occupy all available habitats. Boodies (*Bettongia lesueur*) that were translocated to Alpha Island are also breeding.
- 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 (*Natator depressus*) population. In 2014–15, the Department investigated acoustic tracking of hatchlings in an altered light environment, the impacts of marine debris on turtles in northern Australia, fox predation on turtle nests at Mundabullangana Station and climate change on marine turtle incubation.
- Marine park and threatened marine fauna monitoring, evaluation and reporting produced updated synthesis reports of long-term monitoring for WA's marine parks and reserves. During 2014–15, fieldwork concentrated on Ngari Capes, Shark Bay, Marmion, Shoalwater Islands, Ningaloo and the Montebello/Barrow islands marine parks and reserves to monitor seagrasses, algae, coral and fish communities.



Redgate Beach, Ngari Capes Marine Park. Photo – Sally Bostwick/Parks and Wildlife

- The Department continued to implement the *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2014–19*, with a focus on protecting native wildlife from impacts of this pest animal and preventing the establishment of new satellite populations. Biological surveys continued to be conducted ahead of the cane toad frontline, in collaboration with Aboriginal ranger groups, *Bush Ranger* cadets, primary school students, the Western Australian Museum, universities and volunteers.
- The *Operation Rangelands Restoration* project continued at Matuwa (Lorna Glen former pastoral station). Reintroduced populations of bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), mala (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*), golden bandicoot and boodie are all breeding. Baiting for feral cats in 2014 using *Eradicat*® was shown to be effective and also produced a 25 per cent reduction in wild dogs. Martu traditional owners and Parks and Wildlife will continue to jointly manage this rangeland property for conservation and cultural purposes.
- The Perup Sanctuary, established with State Natural Resource Management Program funding, continues to support a robust population of woylies (*Bettongia ogilbyi*). Two-hundred and sixty of these critically endangered mammals have been translocated to other sites and those populations are increasing. The sanctuary also supports threatened

numbats (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) and western ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*).

- The Barna Mia nocturnal animal sanctuary in Dryandra Woodland opened a second enclosure in 2014–15 and continued running its popular public tours in both enclosures.
- Work continued to reduce the threat of *Phytophthora* dieback to biodiversity, including phosphite spraying to protect threatened plant populations in the Stirling Range and Cape Le Grand national parks and in the Albany coastal area. 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 priority weeds continued in the Department's nine regions, with a wide range of species targeted for control and management. Collaborative efforts with traditional owners and a range of community and other groups have substantially reduced rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*), prickly acacia (*Acacia nilotica*) and gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*) in the north Kimberley.

- Eight new species of plants were added to the WC Act list of specially protected (threatened) flora: *Androcalva bivillosa*, *Austrostipa bronwenae*, *Austrostipa jacobsoniana*, *Caladenia granitora*, *Eremophila microtheca* subsp. narrow leaves, *Leucopogon nitidus*, *Leucopogon* sp. Ongerup and *Stylidium applanatum*, and one species (*Scholtzia* sp. Bickley) was added as a presumed extinct species. *Banksia verticillata* was upgraded from vulnerable to critically endangered and *Stachystemon nematophorus* was removed from the list as it is now known to be more common and secure.
- At 30 June 2015, there were 422 extant threatened flora species (163 critically endangered, 121 endangered and 138 vulnerable), 15 listed as presumed to be extinct and 3024 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 695 records added to the *Threatened and Priority Flora* database, 324 were for new populations.

\$81.5M

invested in *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*



1M

baits laid to control introduced predators



260

woylies translocated from Perup Sanctuary to boost populations at other sites



759,797

plant specimens held at WA Herbarium

Report on operations

- With funding from State NRM, the Department continued to improve the conservation status of threatened plant species, establishing viable populations of 23 species in threat-free sites, developing fire management protocols and fire management procedures for 42 species, completing fencing and grazing control for 26 species over 17,073ha and undertaking weed control and habitat restoration for 29 species covering 461ha.
- The number of plant specimens held at the Western Australian Herbarium increased by 1.16 per cent (a net increase of 8668 specimens), bringing the total number of specimens held to 759,797.
- A total of 215 seed collections representing 121 species were banked at the Threatened Flora Seed Centre, of which 89 are critically endangered. Department staff continued to provide technical advice and assistance for projects involving seed collection and use, including the *Banksia Woodland Restoration Project*. Collections of 21 critically endangered species were withdrawn from the seed bank and germinated for use in Departmental translocation projects. The seed bank now contains 325 threatened flora, 696 priority flora and 791 key restoration species.
- One species of native animal, Carter's freshwater mussel (*Westralunio carteri*) was added to the WC Act list of specially protected (threatened) fauna. The western ringtail possum was upgraded from vulnerable to endangered following a review of its conservation status that demonstrated an ongoing decline in this species.
- At 30 June 2015, there were 247 threatened fauna species (49 critically endangered, 44 endangered and 154 vulnerable), 19 listed as presumed to be extinct, 13 listed as otherwise specially protected, and 189 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.
- The *South Coast Threatened Birds Recovery Plan* was adopted by the Australian Government under the EPBC Act. This incorporates recovery actions for five threatened south coast birds: western ground parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*), western bristlebird (*Dasyornis longirostris*), noisy scrub-bird (*Atrichornis clamosus*), western whipbird (western heath) (*Psophodes nigrogularis nigrogularis*), western whipbird (western mallee) (*Psophodes nigrogularis oberon*), and one presumed extinct species, rufous bristlebird (western) (*Dasyornis broadbenti litoralis*). Recovery plans for the western ringtail possum and the white-bellied and orange-bellied frogs (*Geocrinia alba* and *Geocrinia vitellina*) were submitted to the Australian Government for adoption following public review periods.
- Quotas for the commercial harvest of western grey and red kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus* and *M. rufus*) were set following aerial surveys under the management plan, approved by the Commonwealth Government. Aerial surveys conducted in October 2014 in the South-East Zone resulted in the lowest estimated densities of both species since surveys began in 1981. As such, quotas have been set for two of the five management areas within the zone, where kangaroo numbers are higher.
- At 30 June 2015, there were 66 extant ecological communities listed by the Department as threatened (21 critically endangered, 17 endangered and 28 vulnerable), three listed as 'totally destroyed'. Another 339 ecological communities were on the priority list. The implementation of the recovery plan for the Scott Ironstone Association threatened ecological community (TEC) was reviewed and updated in 2014–15.



Golden dryandra. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Western ground parrot. Photo – Jennene Riggs

- New occurrence information was added to the *Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities* database for 181 occurrences of six TECs and 15 priority ecological communities (PECs), helping resolve the status of the PECs and providing improved information for land use planning. This included 57 occurrences of two PECs in the Kimberley Region, 61 occurrences of a PEC in the Pilbara Region, and 31 occurrences of the 'Subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh' PEC, which is listed as a TEC under the EPBC Act.
- Surveys were completed in 104 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.
- Wetland conservation work continued, with a draft *Ecological Character Description* for the Becher Point Wetlands being prepared. Three Ramsar information sheets were updated in 2014–15, with the new online template being used for the first time for the Ord River Floodplain sheet.
- The *South West Wetlands Monitoring Program* completed a report on depth, salinity and pH trends from 1977 to 2013 of 103 wetlands. The Department continued to monitor the biological responses of a selection of Wheatbelt wetlands to threats such as salinisation, acidification and climate change. Biannual waterbird monitoring was conducted at the Lake Warden and Lake Gore Ramsar sites, and a new project to investigate the hydrogeochemistry of peat wetlands in the Muir-Byenup complex began. Vegetation communities and amphibians were also surveyed at wetlands along the Jurien coast, and groundwater monitoring continued at Lake Bryde.
- During 2014–15, the Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) completed its work, resulting in new planning and decision tools as part of the *Natural Diversity Recovery Catchment Program*. In collaboration with The University of Western Australia, hydrological modelling work was completed, providing a management tool for key wetlands in semi-arid agricultural systems in WA.
- During 2014–15, the *Land for Wildlife* program registered 45 new properties, bringing the total area of registered sites managed privately for conservation to 284,473ha.
- Under the voluntary *Nature Conservation Covenant Program*, covenants have been established on 240 titles covering a total of 20,224ha, including habitat for several threatened species and ecological communities, a Ramsar-listed wetland and registered Aboriginal heritage sites.
- The *Healthy Wetland Habitats* program signed three voluntary agreements in 2014–15 with private land managers, providing technical and financial assistance to protect significant wetlands in the Shire of Capel, Shire of Murray and the City of Cockburn.
- *Urban Nature* worked with more than 75 community groups, private landholders, local governments, State agencies and universities to facilitate best practice management of urban bushland. Coordination of the *Banksia Woodland Restoration Program* continued, with 50ha of banksia woodland established through topsoil transfer, planting and direct seeding to provide new feeding habitat for the threatened Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*). Twenty community conservation projects valued at \$300,000 continued to restore and improve the management of urban banksia woodland.
- Management of the sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*) industry and the detection of illegal or unsustainable harvest of sandalwood from the wild continued during 2014–15. In March 2015, this resulted in the apprehension of another major sandalwood syndicate that had exported more than 100 tonnes of illegal sandalwood valued in excess of \$1.8 million, and the subsequent seizure of processing equipment. Parks and Wildlife is leading a joint investigation team, with WA Police and the Federal Department of Agriculture.
- The Roadside Conservation Committee undertook a range of activities to raise awareness of roadside conservation and engage with stakeholders, including vegetation surveys and training for five local governments in the Wheatbelt.

Licensing

To support the sustainable use of wildlife, in 2014–15, the Department issued 7996 licences under the WC Act to take, collect, keep and breed, deal in, trap or export native animals, and 1808 licences to collect native plants. A further 486 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 48.



Fat-tailed dunnart. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Parks and Wildlife technical officer Sean Garretson releasing a chuditch on Dolphin Island Nature Reserve. Photo – Judy Dunlop/Parks and Wildlife



Volunteer Rebecca Campbell and Parks and Wildlife ranger Doug Giles record details about a chuditch as part of a *Western Shield* trapping exercise. Photo courtesy of Rebecca Campbell



Installing cameras in Nambung National Park. Photo – Christine Bean/Parks and Wildlife



Loading baited sausages onto the plane for aerial drops. Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

Case study

Government goal: Social and environmental responsibility

Outcome: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

New bait in fight to save wildlife

The Department of Parks and Wildlife's aim to conserve native animals based on best practice science reached a milestone this year with the registration of the new feral cat bait *Eradicat*[®] in December 2014.

Introduced predators, such as foxes and feral cats, are a major threat to Western Australia's native animals, having contributed to the extinction of 11 species and the decline of many others. The Department's *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program is fighting back, working to recover native animal populations in the wild through broadscale baiting to reduce these introduced predators.

At least 53 threatened mammal and bird species remain in existence in *Western Shield* baited areas, and at least 29 of these species are showing improvements in population size and distribution.

The main weapon in the fight against ferals is the use of the poison 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) found in native plant species. Many WA native animals have evolved with these plants and have a high tolerance to the poison, whereas introduced animals do not.

A new weapon

Feral cats are very sensitive to 1080 but prefer live prey, so do not normally eat the dried meat baits used to control foxes. Over more than a decade, scientists from Parks and Wildlife and

its predecessors developed *Eradicat*[®], a new feral cat bait containing 1080 that is smaller, moister and more appetising to feral cats.

Its registration for operational use by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority paved the way to better integrate landscape-scale feral cat baiting with the existing fox baiting program.

Trialing the bait

Trials of *Eradicat*[®] have taken place in Cape Arid and Fitzgerald River national parks over the past six years to test its effectiveness in the south-west high-rainfall zone and refine methods for long-term operational use. These trials have seen a significant decrease in cat activity, an increase in quenda and chuditch numbers and stabilisation of the critically endangered western ground parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*) population. Trials are also underway in Two Peoples Bay and Mount Manypeaks nature reserves and Waychinicup National Park.

Eradicat[®] has been used at Matuwa (Lorna Glen former pastoral lease) in the northern Goldfields since 2005 to control feral cats over

an area of about 245,000ha as part of the *Operation Rangelands Restoration* project. This has led to a sustained reduction of up to 70 per cent in feral cat numbers, an increase in the number of bilbies and brushtail possums that were reintroduced to the area, and an increase in the abundance of a range of other native animals.

At Dirk Hartog Island National Park, *Eradicat*[®] is being used as part of the *Return to 1616* ecological restoration project to eradicate feral cats from WA's largest island and enable the return of native mammal species present at the time of Dirk Hartog's landing in 1616. Aerial baiting was conducted on the island in May 2014 and May 2015, with recent monitoring showing the cat eradication program is progressing well with few cats remaining on the island.

Eradicat[®] is being tested at Fortescue Marsh in the Pilbara and Nambung National Park on the coastal sandplains north of Perth to inform the development of effective baiting regimes in these types of environments. In 2014–15, the Department integrated *Eradicat*[®] with the existing fox baiting program to reduce cat

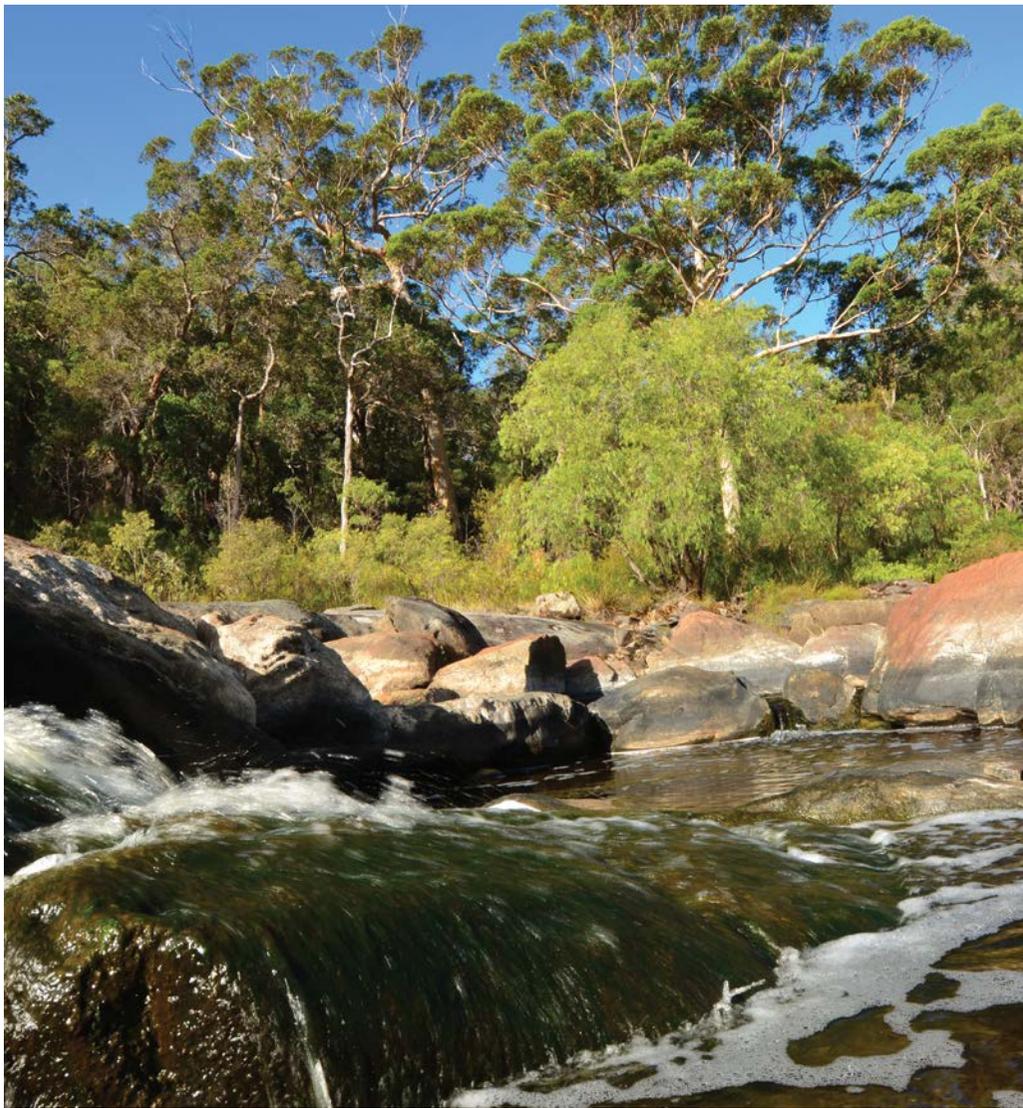
predation on black-flanked rock wallabies (*Petrogale lateralis*) in Cape Range National Park and three species of turtle that nest along the Ningaloo coast. Baiting with *Eradicat*[®] has also paved the way for the successful re-establishment of black-flanked rock-wallabies to the Durba Hills in the Little Sandy Desert.

Looking forward

More trials of *Eradicat*[®] will be undertaken in the south-west forest areas, building on information to determine the bait's effectiveness in a wetter, forested environment.

Western Shield is undertaken in partnership with industry and the community, and sponsored by Alcoa World Alumina, Tronox and Western Areas Ltd. The Fortescue Marsh project is funded by Fortescue Metals Group.

Report on operations



Circular Pool, Walpole-Nornalup National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/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 Western Australia's south-west forests. The overall priorities for 2014–15 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, monitoring and compliance management system, and hand-back procedure for proponents of operations on State forests and timber reserves
- implementing the new management requirements of the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*

- providing the scientific and regulatory basis for ongoing Government support for a sustainable forest products industry in Western Australia.

The desired outcome is delivered through a number of strategies:

- 1. Implementing Government policies and programs, including management activities outlined in the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*.**
- 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 the effects of infrastructure construction or other 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 health monitoring and audits.

4. Providing for harvesting, regeneration and growth of forest products in accordance with the approved Forest Management Plan 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.

5. Maintaining partnerships, including with:

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

Performance summary

	2014–15 Target \$'000	2014–15 Actual \$'000	Variation \$'000
Expense by service	\$52,889	\$62,670	\$9781
Key Efficiency Indicator	2014–15 Target	2014–15 Actual	Variance
Average cost per hectare of managing forest	\$40.93	\$48.50	\$7.57

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 2014–15: 132,000 cubic metres
Actual 2014–15: 71,195 cubic metres

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

Target 2014–15: 59,000 cubic metres
Actual 2014–15: 40,580 cubic metres

Note: Removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs under the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* is reconciled on a calendar year basis.

More details regarding the key efficiency indicator and key effectiveness indicators can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 104 to 106.

Report on operations

Performance highlights

- The *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* continued to be implemented.
- Five and 10-year progress reviews of the *Regional Forest Agreement for the South-West Forest Region of Western Australia* were finalised.
- Three-year (2015–17) timber harvest plans for Swan, South West and Warren regions were prepared and released.
- 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 inform planning for the salvage and regeneration of regrowth karri forest damaged in the O'Sullivan bushfire in January–February 2015 (see page 44).
- The detection and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback was carried out on 28,468ha of land managed by Parks and Wildlife to help plan and manage disturbance operations and the prioritisation of disease treatments. This included 12,035ha rechecked that had been previously mapped.
- Eighty-five disturbance operations, covering 6750ha 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. Seven *FORESTCHECK* sites in the eastern Blackwood District and one existing and two new sites in Perth Hills District were sampled in Spring 2014 to complete the annual monitoring cycle.
- Monitoring trials using cameras to detect terrestrial vertebrates in karri forest were conducted in Donnelly District.
- An overall analysis of *FORESTCHECK* data from the 10-year monitoring period 2002–12 was completed and associated scientific papers are being prepared. A review began to assess the capacity and delivery of *FORESTCHECK* into the future.
- A nine-year study of tree crown recovery and seedling regeneration following bushfires in tall karri-tangle forest was completed and will inform regeneration and rehabilitation management strategies adopted to aid recovery from the O'Sullivan and future bushfires, including salvage harvesting operations in State forest.
- Fire management was implemented to protect the values of State forest and timber reserves within the south-west forests. A total of 78,145.43ha of State forest and timber reserves were subject to prescribed burns.



Walpole Inlet, Walpole-Nornalup National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

- Fauna habitat zones in State forests are created to help maintain biodiversity values in areas subject to timber harvesting. Analysis of the potential location of 19 fauna habitat zones was carried out, five of which (comprising a gross area of 846ha) were finalised in accordance with the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*.
- Completion criteria for bauxite mine rehabilitation were revised to enhance the recovery of healthy ecosystems and a sustainable timber industry in areas subject to mining.
- A community forest inspection was undertaken in the South West Region.
- Procedures and reference material for silvicultural practices in native forests were prepared.
- Supporting procedures and reference material for silvicultural practices in native forests were prepared, including a suite of silvicultural burning guidance and reference documents that were revised to improve prescribed burning outcomes, soil management and silvicultural treatment.
- A suite of documents to support safe work practices in forest areas was developed.
- Silvicultural training in jarrah seed forecasting and regeneration processes was conducted.



Bluff Knoll walkway, Stirling Range National Park. Photo – Tracy Churchill/Parks and Wildlife

Case study

Government goal: Social and environmental responsibility

Case Study: Conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity

New era in forest mapping

An airborne laser sensor has been traversing karri forest in the south-west, collecting valuable data and providing unprecedented digital scans of the forest.

The LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) system, which is attached to an aircraft, uses laser light pulses to accurately measure the forest, right down to fine details such as individual leaves.

More than 30 billion data points within a 140 km² area (Figure 1) have been recorded by the system and processed by the Department's Forest Management Branch in partnership with the Geographic Information Services Branch.

The resultant scans have greatly refined Parks and Wildlife's vegetation, hydrology, topography and roading datasets, all of which are fundamental in making decisions about the best way to achieve ecologically sustainable forest management outcomes.

The data can be used to produce different types of digital models that show the ground surface or the upper canopy of vegetation (Figure 1 and 2). This is useful because it enables 'wall to wall' mapping of individual trees, meaning major improvements in the Department's capacity and accuracy to estimate timber and carbon volumes while markedly reducing the amount of field work

required to measure the forests. This supports the implementation of the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*.

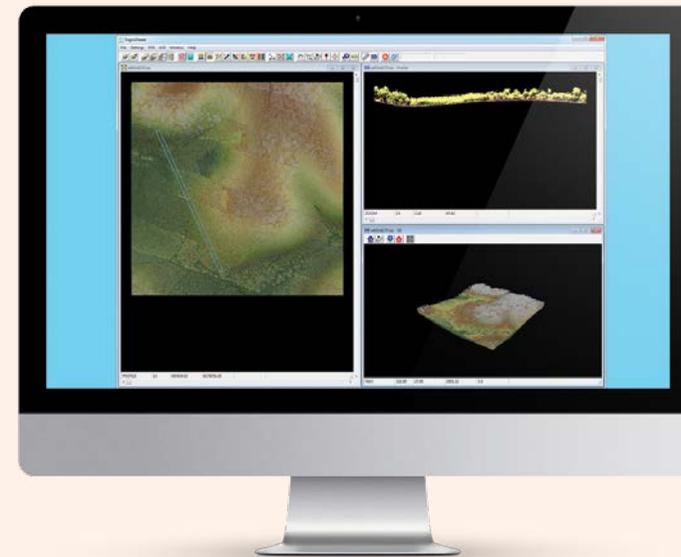
During 2014–15, the LiDAR project focused on mapping regrowth karri forest near Pemberton (Figure 3), in order to update site quality information and inform the scheduling of forest thinning operations.

The technology is also helping with recovery efforts following the large O'Sullivan fire in January–February 2015, by enabling accurate resource estimation and identifying patches suitable for potential salvage operations.

While LiDAR technology has previously been applied in industries such as civil engineering, aeronautics, surveying and agriculture, it is only in the past couple of years that it has been used for forest management in Western Australia. Substantial developments in computer storage, processing and classification capacity have made this possible.

Further analysis of the data will investigate new approaches to estimate tree stocking densities, crown cover, leaf area, vegetation structure, and above-ground biomass. These measures may also enable improved estimation of fuel load and structure in the forests, which will help focus prescribed burn planning.

In years to come, LiDAR data could be used in ecosystem health monitoring programs, to compare trends over time.



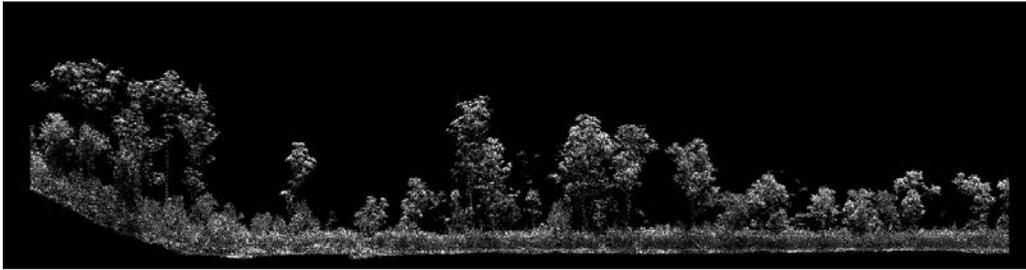


Figure 1

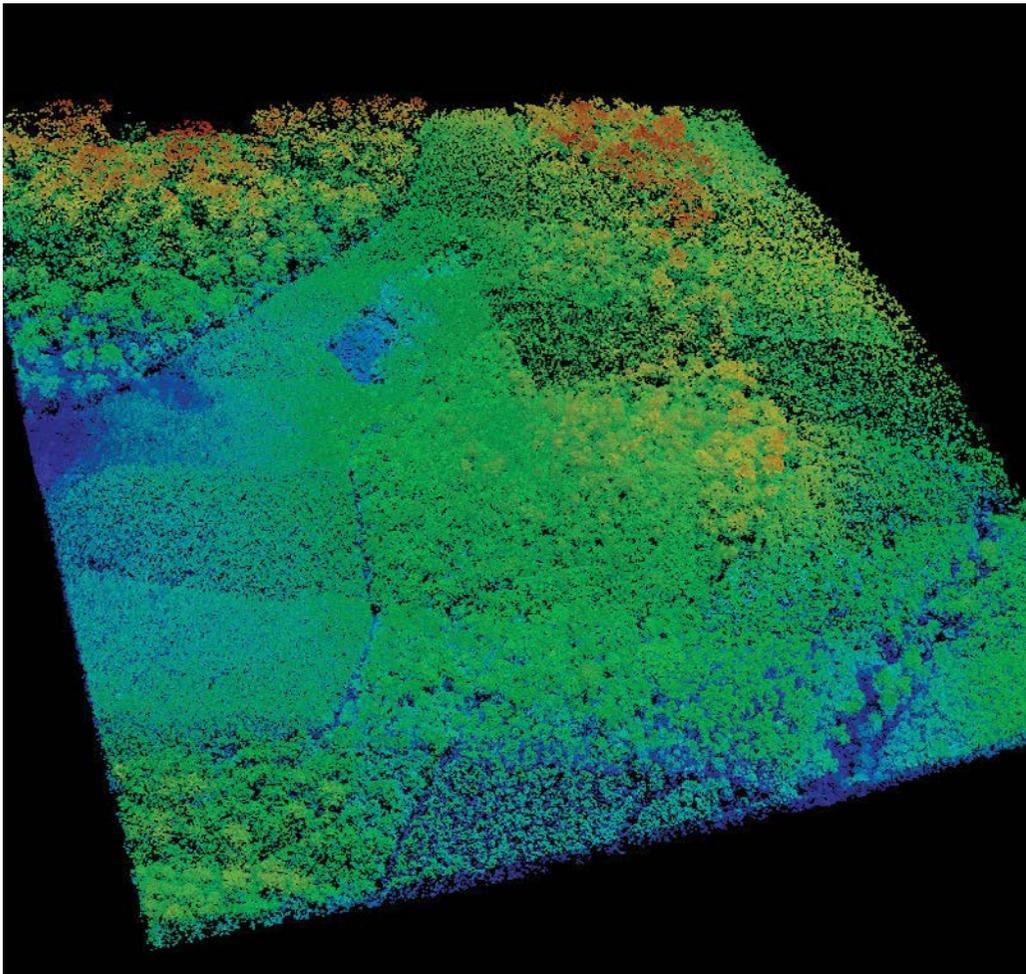


Figure 2

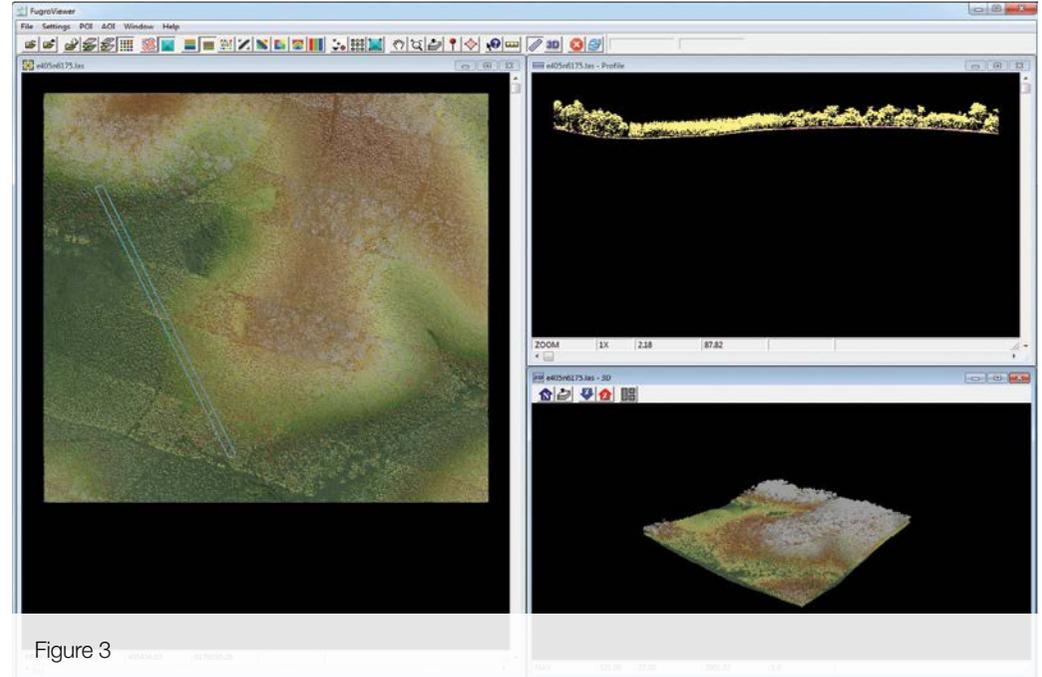


Figure 3

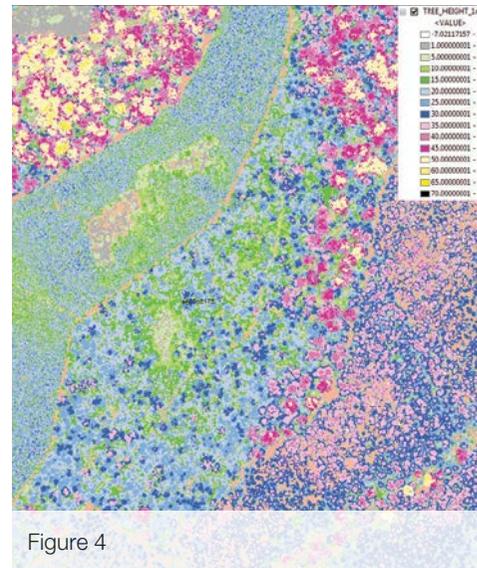


Figure 4

Figure 1. A cross-section of the LiDAR 'point cloud' data depicting the ground terrain and vegetation structure along a transect of karri forest.

Figure 2. A three-dimensional representation of the vegetation composition, height and structure for an area of forest. Blue colours depict the ground surface, while green to red and orange depict tree heights.

Figure 3. Images depicting a portion of the scanned forest, the location of a cross-section through the landscape, and the classified heights of the vegetation shown in different colours.

Figure 4. An estimate of tree heights allowing the Department to better understand forest structure across the landscape.

Supporting our Department

Public Information and Corporate Affairs

The Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch delivers efficient and effective services to Parks and Wildlife external customers and stakeholders as well as internal partners, consistent with the Department's *Strategic Directions 2014–17*. This is achieved through public safety information coordination in support of incidents, fire awareness education for youth, media relations, websites, photography and video production, customer service, publications and graphic design, outdoor education activities in national parks, public participation planning, events coordination, advertising and a variety of corporate programs.

The branch produced audio-visual materials for the Department's stakeholders including videos for community safety, staff training and to promote parks. Branch staff worked closely with external partners, such as Recfishwest and *Western Angler* for a rock fishing safety video; Nature Play WA on an introduction to camping video, as well as the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre and the Australian Marine Safety Authority to film a nationwide oil spill response activity. The branch also provided news packages to support Ministerial announcements, and recorded major events and professional lectures, which are available on the Department's intranet for access by all staff. In 2014–15, a key focus of audio-visual output was on supporting corporate

responsibilities in risk management, with the completion and initiation of a number of videos on topics related to community and staff safety, including fire management, sandbar crossings and whale carcass removal.

The branch's media unit provided communications support across the Department through the preparation and delivery of communication plans, speeches, media statements, media training 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 2014–15 fire season; including major incidents such as the large O'Sullivan bushfire near Northcliffe, and continued to work 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 to enable thousands of young Western Australians to connect with nature. Operating from the Perth Hills Discovery Centre in Beelu National Park, *Nearer to Nature* introduced participants from Perth and surrounds to aspects of WA's vibrant natural environment through programs focusing on *Western Shield*, wildlife, bushfire, bush skills and Aboriginal culture. A number of these activities were supported by Alcoa.

During 2014–15, 25,896 people took part in *Nearer to Nature* programs, with 17,928 children and teachers participating in school programs and 7968 children and adults in 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 2014–15, the number of cadets increased from 2199 to 2275, with 20 per cent of *Bush Rangers* coming from Aboriginal backgrounds. *Bush Rangers* has the highest number of participants of the wider *Cadets WA* program, and the highest rate of Aboriginal and female cadets enrolled.

During 2014–15, the branch's web content team developed the Learning Management System to train staff and clients across multiple fields and disciplines. In addition, staff completed and launched an extranet for the Department's Fire Management Services Branch, allowing staff and external clients to communicate and collaborate on fire management.

Internal projects included ongoing server management, and the development of management systems for digital assets and videos, as well as the transfer of all websites and databases from local servers to remote web services, that is, 'the cloud'.



Parks and Wildlife communications officer Tania Durlik recording a voiceover for a video. Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife

Departmental social media, including Facebook pages, Twitter accounts and YouTube channels, is coordinated by the branch. Public Information and Corporate Affairs has developed a social media content management strategy and guidelines for the Department, which focus on harnessing opportunities with an engaged online community. As at 30 June 2015, 13 Facebook pages, two Facebook profiles, three Twitter accounts and one Instagram account from various Parks and Wildlife operational areas were registered.

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. In addition it produced designs, logos and branding guidelines for projects and logos for vessel, airplane and vehicle signage and uniforms across the Department.

The Department produced four issues of *LANDSCOPE* magazine in a modernised format, 12 issues of *Parks and Wildlife News*, a monthly online newsletter for volunteers and staff, as well as regular stories on the Department's internal newsfeed *Nature Notes*.

In 2014–15, the Department's saleable publishing program *WA Naturally* introduced a new community engagement tool and exhibition 'WA Naturally on display – illustrations and photographs'. This framed collection of prints was presented to audiences in Perth at the Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre and at the Tree Top Walk near Walpole and will continue to be exhibited at regional and metropolitan locations across the State. A number of popular Bush Book titles were also reprinted to continue on the success of this series, which in 2014–15 surpassed total sales of over 500,000 copies since the series was introduced in the mid-1990s.



Audiovisual project officer Peter Nicholas films visitor risk management coordinator Michael Phillips demonstrating the safety equipment at Salmon Holes, Torndirrup National Park. Photo – Sally Bostwick/Parks and Wildlife



Nearer to Nature guide Leonard Thorne demonstrates traditional face painting on Regent College student Olivia Wedge at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. Photo – Jennifer Eliot/Parks and Wildlife



Senior wildlife officer Rick Dawson, with Director General Jim Sharp and Environment Minister Albert Jacob, talks to the media about an attempted reptile smuggling. Photo – Heather Quinlan/Parks and Wildlife

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 2014–15* (available on the Parks and Wildlife website 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 20 valid applications for access to information, with three applicants requesting an internal review of the Department's decision. No applicants requested an external review.

Litigation

During 2014–15, no new writs were issued against the Department in respect of public liability claims. Currently there are 15 open public liability claims against the Department that are being administered through the various stages of the litigation process.

A settlement, with no admission of liability, was reached in June 2015 for a claim alleging a duty of care breach causing death by drowning off Penguin Island in December 2010.

Legal action against the Department was withdrawn by the plaintiff for another claim relating to an incident at Stathams Quarry in February 2011.

Prosecutions

The Department initiated 28 prosecutions during 2014–15, involving a total of 274 charges covering a broad range of offences including the illegal taking or possession of protected and rare fauna or flora, illegal importation or selling of fauna, illegal exportation of fauna, cruelty to fauna, failure to comply with licence conditions, and offences relating to activities on State forest, nature reserves and national parks.

Finalised prosecutions for 2014–15

Of the 28 prosecutions commenced, 16 were subject to final court determination during 2014–15, including cases relating to the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, *Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2000*, and the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970*.

These matters resulted in the imposition of fines totalling \$16,400 and costs to the value of \$1,202.50.

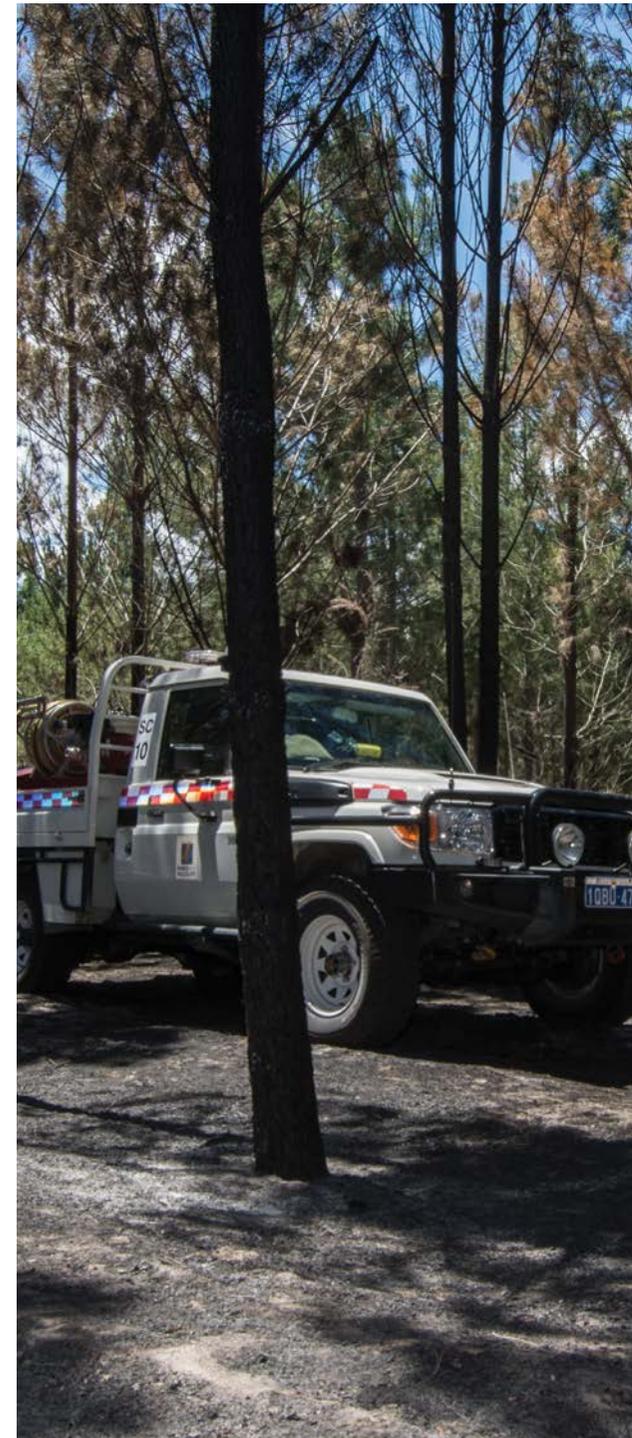
In addition to the 28 prosecutions commenced during this period a further 30 were carried forwarded and finalised from 2013–14.

Prosecutions currently before the courts

As at 30 June 2015, 25 prosecutions were yet to be concluded and remained before the courts. A further four 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 2014 and 30 June 2015, a total of 1236 offences were reported, of which 23 were dealt with by way of prosecution, 259 were pending, 482 were dealt with by infringement notice, 12 resulted in letters of warning, 449 were dealt with by caution notices, 10 required no further action and one was withdrawn.





Fire operations officer Sam Hurd.
 Photo – Peter Nicholas/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 (Science and Conservation, Forest and Ecosystem Management, and Parks and Visitor Services) and the Forest Products Commission. There are nine Parks and Wildlife regions across the State comprising 15 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. OIM also oversees the development of information and technology-related policies, strategies and standards.

In 2014–15, OIM focused on aligning the Department's information management (IM) and information and communications technology (ICT) objectives to the Department's *Strategic Directions 2014–17* and Government ICT reform initiatives. To achieve this, OIM worked to:

- deliver more productive, secure and cost-effective IM and ICT capabilities to support the Department's strategic priorities and operations
- enable new ways to leverage IM and ICT to support business processes
- strengthen the Department's information security management systems to preserve the availability, integrity and confidentiality of digital assets.

Major achievements for 2014–15 include:

- an enhanced governance structure for managing corporate information and technology-related capabilities, services and assets

- expanding the use of open-source software and cloud-based services for secure and cost-reduced business operations
- improving the information security risk management framework and risk-based processes to protect against threats and vulnerabilities
- implementing disaster recovery services to safeguard the Department's business continuity procedures
- implementing a Department-wide knowledge management initiative for improved digital data handling and IM systems and practices
- improving community safety through the expansion and upgrade of the Department's telecommunications network including the installation of a custom-built satellite emergency phone in Kalbarri National Park.

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 processes to enhance the effectiveness of prescribed burning and bushfire suppression operations.

Supporting our Department

The Department has a strong contingent of trained and experienced fire management officers and undertakes scientific studies into fire-related topics to constantly expand the knowledge available to fire practitioners.

Fire management

Departmental staff attended and monitored 825 bushfires that burnt about 2,569,695ha in 2014–15, including:

- 862,798ha in the Pilbara Region
- 141,724ha in the Goldfields Region
- 1,344,608ha in the Kimberley Region
- 7071ha in the South Coast Region
- 35,137ha in the Midwest Region
- 117ha in the Wheatbelt Region
- 178,240ha in the three south-west forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren).

The causes of these fires were:

- lightning – 24 per cent (below the 10-year average of about 23 per cent)
- deliberately lit or arson-caused fires – 37 per cent (below the 10-year average of about 43 per cent)
- accidental fires – 14 per cent
- escapes from private burns – 6 per cent
- escapes from Departmental burns – 1 per cent

- other causes – 3 per cent
- unknown – 15 per cent.

During 2014–15, Parks and Wildlife worked in conjunction with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and local government bushfire brigades at major fires including Bullsbrook, Lower Hotham and O'Sullivan.

Agency pre-formed incident management teams were deployed as a full unit to two fires during the 2014–15 fire season; the Lower Hotham and O'Sullivan bushfires.

Prescribed burning

The indicative burn target for 2014–15 in the south-west forest regions was 200,000ha. The Department achieved 147,082ha, including about 6381ha that were burnt for pine plantation protection.

While burning in spring was again limited by unsuitable weather, favourable conditions in autumn allowed more burns to go ahead, especially in the Department's Swan and South West regions. As a result, Parks and Wildlife achieved its best prescribed burning outcome in five years within the south-west forest regions.

A further 1,977,727ha 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.



A water bomber in action at a fire in Beeliar Regional Park, south of Perth.
Photo – Leigh Sage/Parks and Wildlife



Staff conduct a prescribed burn in the Wheatbelt. *Photo – Parks and Wildlife*

Aerial bushfire suppression operations

The Department contracted eight fixed-wing water bombers in the forest regions from November 2014 to early-April 2015. Two additional Air Tractor 802 aircraft were also on contract and rotated through bases at Manjimup, Albany, Bunbury and Jandakot alongside the other water bombers 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 during 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 1410 operational hours in attending 190 bushfires and dropped 2291 loads, delivering 6.87 million litres of foam, water and retardant. By comparison, in 2013–14, the aircraft flew 704 operational hours and dropped 1297 loads.

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 4291 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 2014–15. 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. The courses included:

- Fire Fighting Crew Member
- Level 2 Fire Fighter
- Sector Commander and First Arriving Officer
- Operations Officer
- Public Information Officer
- Incident Controller.

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.

Annual mandatory pre-season training was presented across the Department in preparation for the 2014–15 fire season. A total of 784 Parks and Wildlife and FPC personnel participated and met training requirements in operational and non-operational areas including the use of two-way radios, storage and use of fire blankets, and burnover drills.

In addition to the above, fire aviation personnel provided training for more than 120 Parks and Wildlife 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
- Water Bomber Reloader.

Air Attack Supervisor and Air Base Manager training was also provided to DFES staff.

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, Bushfires Northern Territory, Kakadu National Park and Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife.

Aerial Incendiary Bombardier training was provided to staff from the Kimberley Land

Council, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy and Forestry South Australia.

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 2014–15 included constructing and maintaining firebreaks, modifying 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.



Volunteer firefighters played a crucial role in supporting crews from Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. *Photo – Jennifer Eliot/Parks and Wildlife*



The intensity of the fire was among the worst that seasoned firefighters had experienced. *Photos – Department of Fire and Emergency Services*



Smoke across the road made driving conditions difficult. *Photo – Rod Annear/Parks and Wildlife*



Crews clock in and out to ensure everyone is accounted for at all times. *Photo – Jennifer Eliot/Parks and Wildlife*



Western Australia's air crane was deployed to attack the fire from above. *Photo – Parks and Wildlife*

Case study

Government goal: Social and environmental responsibility

Fighting the largest south-west bushfire in 50 years

What started as a lightning strike on 30 January 2015 escalated into the largest fire in the south-west since the Dwellingup fires of 1961. The situation demonstrated the resilience of Western Australian people and is an example of a successful multi-agency firefighting effort.

After two days of extreme lightning activity, a fire was detected burning in Shannon National Park in an area that was hard to access. Parks and Wildlife began fire suppression immediately and within five minutes of the fire being reported two fixed-wing water bombers, one bulldozer and two trucks had been deployed to the area. Weather conditions sparked other lightning strikes in the area and these firefighting resources were redeployed to another fire threatening Muir Highway and adjoining farming communities in Tone State Forest, south-east of Manjimup, and more than a dozen other fires ignited by lightning across the Warren Region.

The fire in Shannon National Park, named Fire 19 O'Sullivan, continued to burn and while firefighters and support personnel had managed to track part of the fire, unfavourable winds, temperatures in the mid-30s and low humidity hampered efforts to safely contain it. Within 30 hours the fire had grown in size and intensity with flames up to 30m high and spot fires occurring 200m ahead of the main fire.

Fire management systems were elevated with Emergency Warnings issued for Northcliffe and Windy Harbour as the fire behaviour escalated and the fire threatened the town sites.

For the next 10 days, staff from Parks and Wildlife worked closely with crews from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Forest Products Commission, the State Emergency Services, local volunteer bushfire brigades, local government authorities, WA Police, Western Power, Main Roads WA, the Salvation Army, Australian Defence Force, St John Ambulance, departments of Health, Agriculture, Child Protection and Family Services and Education, the Water Corporation, Telstra and private contractors.

Local teams were supported by 264 interstate firefighters who formed three separate deployments from Victoria, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and the Northern Territory. They worked side-by-side on the frontline and behind the scenes to battle the mammoth blaze that threatened lives, properties and townships while crews elsewhere were battling blazes in other parts of the State, including another major fire incident near Boddington.

Firefighters with more than 30 years' experience described the fire as the most intense they could recall. At its most extreme, the fire travelled at a rate of 2.5km per hour.

Favourable weather conditions on 4 February turned the tide. Four days after the fire started, fire crews got the break they were looking for and they managed to gain some traction in containing the fire. It was contained on 10 February but the mop-up process went on until the end of March. Work on repairing trails, bridges and other infrastructure is expected to take up to two years.

By the time it was extinguished, the fire had burnt through 98,700ha and the fire zone had a perimeter of 295km. Suppression efforts required a staggering contingent of resources, including 1670 people, 164 fire appliances, seven fixed-wing aircraft, three helicopters (including one air crane) and two large aerial tankers.

More than 650 Parks and Wildlife staff were involved either in direct or support roles with officers from as far north as Kununurra and inland to the Goldfields assisting in the fire suppression efforts. Crews received invaluable support from local community members and businesses in the form of offers of help, donations of food and products, and wishes of support.

The fire impacted forest resources, particularly regrowth stands of karri. The losses to infrastructure were small considering the severity of this bushfire, which had the potential to cause extreme devastation. The outcome is a credit to the expertise of senior fire managers and strategists and the teamwork of the countless people involved across a number of agencies in a variety of capacities.

Supporting our Department

Prescribed fire planning and risk management

The Department continued to engage and collaborate with the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) in the pursuit of continual improvement. Through its ongoing assurance program, OBRM scrutinised Parks and Wildlife's prescribed fire planning processes in two regions: the Pilbara and the Kimberley. These reviews confirmed that the Department's alignment of burn planning processes with ISO 31000:2009, the international standard for risk management, remains sound. OBRM also examined the circumstances surrounding an escape from a prescribed burn in the South West Region, concluding that risks were identified and appropriately treated, with evidence of diligence and sound decision making by personnel. No further actions that could have prevented the escape were identified.

Interagency bushfire management

During 2014–15, significant Departmental fire management resources were dedicated to improving interagency bushfire management arrangements through IBMC and associated sub-committees.

The sub-committees servicing the IBMC include:

- Bushfire Research (chair moved from Parks and Wildlife to DFES)
- Public Information (chaired by DFES)
- Training (chaired by DFES)
- Fire Operations (chaired by Parks and Wildlife)
- Aerial Fire Suppression (chaired by DFES)
- Information and Communications Technology (chaired by DFES).

Outside 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 8119 students, teachers and parents took part in fire-related education programs at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre, the Dwellingup Forest Heritage Centre, the Henderson Centre, Wellington Discovery Forest and the 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.

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 2014–15, six visitors died in the extensive areas managed by Parks and Wildlife. Three of those deaths were due to drowning while participating in rock fishing activities along the south coast.

During 2014–15:

- 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-seven staff completed a nationally accredited course provided by the Department as part of the *Visitor Risk Management* program.



Mandu Mandu beach, Cape Range National Park. Photo – Sally Bostwick/Parks and Wildlife

- Parks and Wildlife continued to contribute 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, anchor points, angel rings (life buoys) and new signs were installed in various locations in national parks around Esperance.
- In partnership with Recfishwest, suitable locations for life buoys have been selected in the proposed Edel Land (Steep Point) National Park in the Shark Bay area. Recfishwest has also provided a number of personal flotation devices at Steep Point which are available for loan at no cost to the users.
- Work was completed on a new hazard sign manual to ensure that hazard signs used by the Department are in line with the latest Australian standards and industry best practice. This manual was introduced across the Department in November 2014.
- The Department's public website was updated by Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch to improve the accessibility of safety-related information.

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 manage 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 regard to recordkeeping training and use of the electronic document and records management system *InfoBase*. Comprehensive training on the use of *InfoBase* is available to all staff. Training is designed 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.

The branch also provides various records services to other agencies including the Department of Environment Regulation, the Swan River Trust and the Conservation Commission.

Geographic Information Services Branch

The Geographic Information Services Branch provided 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 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
- producing maps and other information products to meet operational and public needs
- managing corporate geospatial databases for the Department and bureau clients
- developing standards for the use of geospatial data and information within the Department.

The branch's activities and highlights for 2014–15 are outlined below:

Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis Section

Strategic assessment of the Perth–Peel regions

- Identifying potential Carnaby's cockatoo feeding habitat using high-resolution digital aerial photography to provide detail on and help monitor its status, and aid in planning urban developments.
- Mapping known and likely distribution of plant and animal habitat to help assess the habitat potential of urban and peri-urban remnants.

Supporting our Department

Fire

- Providing spatial analysis and software for a fire risk assessment of fuel reduction priorities and options in Perth urban and peri-urban areas.
- Undertaking a statistical fire analysis for the *Landscape Conservation Initiative* to aid fire management in the Kimberley.
- Annual mapping of fire scarring in the Pilbara and Western Desert to assess size and number of previous prescribed burns to aid in management planning.
- Undertaking a statistical fire history analysis for the Swan Region to compare current fire frequency with optimal frequency to aid in management planning.

Vegetation monitoring

- Analysing seasonal time series remote sensing data on Dirk Hartog, Bernier and Dorre islands to help plan feral animal and weed control.
- Developing Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) image processing tools for Forest Management Branch to significantly reduce the field time for assessing tree height and size (read more on page 44).
- Using time series satellite imagery to monitor and summarise vegetation cover change in the major habitat types under the *Landscape Conservation Initiative*.

Animal monitoring

- Analysing horse and donkey movements in Fortescue Marsh wetlands to develop understanding of feral herbivore behaviour and aid land management.
- Mapping out potential links between existing western ringtail possum habitat on the Swan Coastal Plain to help expand their range and determine where to focus rehabilitation works.
- Undertaking spatial analysis in the Kimberley to prioritise work to reduce the risk of damage from feral cattle.

Marine

- Using remote sensing to report to the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority on mangrove condition, Penguin Island coastal vegetation and seagrass extent.
- Taking and analysing aerial photographs and time-series satellite imagery of Ningaloo Marine Park to map alluvial sediment plumes after floods, assess water quality, and determine the impact on coastal biological communities.

Mapping and Data Capture Section

- Preparing 10 national park maps for visitor information.
- Progressing the revision of the 2008 South West Emergency Services Directory.
- Consolidating and continuing to input information about the Department's strategic road network into the State's Topographic Geodatabase at Landgate

- Producing maps for reserve creation and Indigenous Land Use Agreements associated with the *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy*.
- Producing navigational maps for the public for the Department's long trails.
- Preparation of maps to support a wide range of departmental activities including the *Western Shield* wildlife conservation program, roadside conservation program and park management plans.

Database and Application Development Section

- Completing the Land Acquisition Database with the Office for Information Management. This application and database brings together all Departmental land acquisitions, purchases and amendments so that they can be managed in a single environment.
- Completing the leases data viewer, a web browser-based tool allowing new or amended leases to be viewed as they are updated.
- Researching a mobile data capture application including testing mobile data collection technology that store field data into corporate databases.



Wild horse collaring, Fortescue Marsh. Photo – Hamish Robertson/Parks and Wildlife

Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters

At 30 June 2015, the total area under Parks and Wildlife's care was 28,544,745ha, representing a net increase of 1681ha during 2014–15.

The terrestrial area managed (that is, not including marine reserves) is approximately 10.3 per cent of the land area of Western Australia.

The table below provides a summary of all tenure classifications.

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total
National park	153,177	1,406,089	568,869	2,429,390	861,419	143,990	117,219	562,459	1292	6,243,904
Conservation park	183,020	459,942	15,755	149,348	677	13,560	24,407	76	1559	848,344
Nature reserve	6,299,182	174,653	740,140	251,019	1,569,517	12,967	54,590	87,265	1,057,862	10,247,195
State forest	781	-	-	-	4055	542,231	466,476	262,642	28,066	1,304,251
Timber reserve	28,509	-	26,224	-	5231	26,474	28,501	8215	-	123,154
Marine park	-	866,700	868,860	330,215	-	123,000	16,391	1446	-	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	286,463	1976	7810	644	31,207	28,618	1600	1599	441,483
Miscellaneous reserve	<1	568,010	505	1779	3767	124	6006	244	15	580,450
Freehold (CALM Exec Body)	-	<1	1550	<1	91	19,884	50	4658	<1	26,233
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				4851						4851
Sections 16 & 16A managed land	-	37,941	-	-	-	121	7903	40	-	46,005
Freehold land acquired for conservation	-	-	10,354	-	6201	3678	10,870	1662	3388	36,153
Totals	8,620,840	3,880,546	5,743,479	4,104,300	2,451,602	917,236	761,031	930,307	1,135,404	28,544,745

Supporting our Department

National parks

The area of the 99 national parks solely vested in the Conservation Commission of WA at 30 June 2015 was 6,243,904ha, a net decrease of 2739ha. The majority of the decrease was 2596ha due to Landgate recalculating the area of Karijini National Park.

Area of national parks vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia at 30 June 2015

NAME	AREA (ha)	NAME	AREA (ha)	NAME	AREA (ha)	NAME	AREA (ha)	NAME	AREA (ha)
Alexander Morrison	8500	Easter	2985	Kalbarri	182,931	<i>Mount Roe</i>	127,726	Walpole-Nornalup	19,448
Avon Valley	4366	Eucla	3560	Karijini	624,700	Murujuga*	0	<i>Walyunga</i>	1814
Badgingarra	13,108	Fitzgerald River	297,244	Kartamilyi	1,283,706	Nambung	19,268	Wandoo	46,493
Beelu	4617	Forest Grove	1379	Kennedy Range	141,660	Neerabup	944	Warren	2981
Blackwood River	20,477	Francois Peron	52,587	Korong	6344	Peak Charles	39,959	Watheroo	44,481
Boorabbin	28,153	Frank Hann	67,539	Lake Muir	9625	Porongurup	2621	<i>Waychinicup</i>	3982
Boorara-Gardner	11,008	Geikie Gorge	3136	Lawley River	17,572	Preston	12,665	Wellington	17,415
Boydaminup	5439	Gloucester	878	Leeuwin-Naturaliste	21,284	Prince Regent National Park	576,400	West Cape Howe	3605
Bramley	3895	Goldfields Woodlands	64,628	Lesmurdie Falls	56	Purnululu	239,723	Whicher	6343
Brockman	52	Goongarrie	60,397	Lesueur	27,235	Scott	3273	William Bay	1734
Cape Arid	279,449	Gooseberry Hill	33	Midgegooroo	2492	Serpentine	4387	Wiltshire-Butler	11,645
Cape Le Grand	31,801	<i>Greater Beedelup</i>	19,379	Millstream Chichester	238,167	Shannon	52,598	Windjana Gorge	2050
Cape Range	47,655	<i>Greater Kingston</i>	21,092	Milyeannup	18,692	Sir James Mitchell	247	Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater	1460
Collier Range	235,162	Greenmount	202	<i>Mirima</i>	2068	Stirling Range	115,921	Yalgorup	13,141
D'Entrecasteaux	118,779	Gull Rock	2104	Mitchell River	115,325	Stokes	9726	Yanchep	2876
Dalgarup	2377	Hassell	1265	Moore River	17,254	Tathra	4322	Yelverton	729
Dirk Hartog Island	62,928	Hawke	14,004	Mount Augustus	9168	Torndirrup	3936		
Dordagup	6408	Helena	12,255	Mount Frankland	37,359	Tuart Forest	2049		
Drovers Cave	2681	Hilliger	16,962	<i>Mount Frankland North</i>	22,053	Tunnel Creek	91		
Drysdale River	448,264	Jane	6863	<i>Mount Frankland South</i>	42,283	<i>Un-named</i>	1571		
John Forrest	2700	Kalamunda	375	Mount Lindesay	39,541	<i>Un-named</i>	79	TOTAL	6,243,904

* Managed as national park under section 8A of the CALM Act 1984 with an area of 4851ha (see page 57 for more information). Names in italics are unofficial.



North-west Burrup Peninsula, Murujuga National Park. *Photo – Laurina Bullen/Parks and Wildlife*



Flatback turtle hatchlings. *Photo – Andrea Whiting*

Section 8A

Section 8A was introduced into the CALM Act on 8 December 2012.

This section of the CALM Act empowers Parks and Wildlife to enter into agreements to jointly manage land with another party or parties, on land not vested in either the Conservation Commission of Western Australia 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 100th national park on 17 January 2013. The area of the national park is 4851ha and is recorded in the section 8A tenure category in the tenure table. There was no change during the year.

Conservation parks

The area of conservation parks at 30 June 2015 was 848,344ha. There was no change during the year.

Nature reserves

The area of nature reserves at 30 June 2015 was 10,247,195ha, representing a net increase of 1341ha. The majority of the increase was 1312ha due to a new nature reserve being created in the Shire of Serpentine–Jarrahdale.

State forest

The area of State forest at 30 June 2015 was 1,304,251ha, representing a net decrease of 158ha. The majority of the decrease was 136ha due to upgrades to Mowen Road in the shires of Augusta–Margaret River and Nannup.

Timber reserves

The area of timber reserves at 30 June 2015 was 123,154ha. There were no changes during the year.

Marine reserves

The area of marine parks at 30 June 2015 was approximately 2,206,612ha. There were no changes during the year.

The area of marine nature reserves at 30 June 2015 was approximately 132,000ha. There were no changes during the year.

Marine management areas

The area of marine management areas at 30 June 2015 was approximately 143,385ha. There were no changes during the year.

Supporting our Department

Marine reserves vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority as at 30 June 2015

Name	Area (ha) approx
Barrow Island Marine Park	4169
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	9500
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	6545
Swan Estuary Marine Park	346
Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park	1446
TOTAL	2,481,997

Area figures are approximate only. Quality of mapping of marine reserve boundaries is variable – improved mapping of watermark boundaries and historical boundaries may result in revised area figures in the future.

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

The area of sections 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) reserves at 30 June 2015 was 441,483ha. This represents an increase of 5363ha. 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 5087ha.

Miscellaneous reserves

The area of miscellaneous reserves at 30 June 2015 was 580,450ha. This represents a decrease of 3ha. This decrease was due to an excision to a reserve in the Shire of Shark Bay.

Other land

The area of freehold land held by the Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Executive Body at 30 June 2015 was 26,233ha. This represents a decrease of 938ha. The majority of the decrease was 927ha due to the surrender of land in the Shire of Nannup.

The area of former pastoral lease land being held under an interim management arrangement prior to formal reservation is 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 2015 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 agreement between the lessees and the Department at 30 June 2015 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 2015 was 8064ha. 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 2015 was 36,153ha. This represents a net decrease of 1185ha. The decrease was due to the transfer of 1312ha into a newly created nature reserve in the Shire of Serpentine–Jarrahdale. Reservation of these areas pends the completion of administrative processes.

Conservation land acquisitions

During the year Parks and Wildlife purchased three parcels of land of high conservation value covering a combined total area of about 263ha 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.

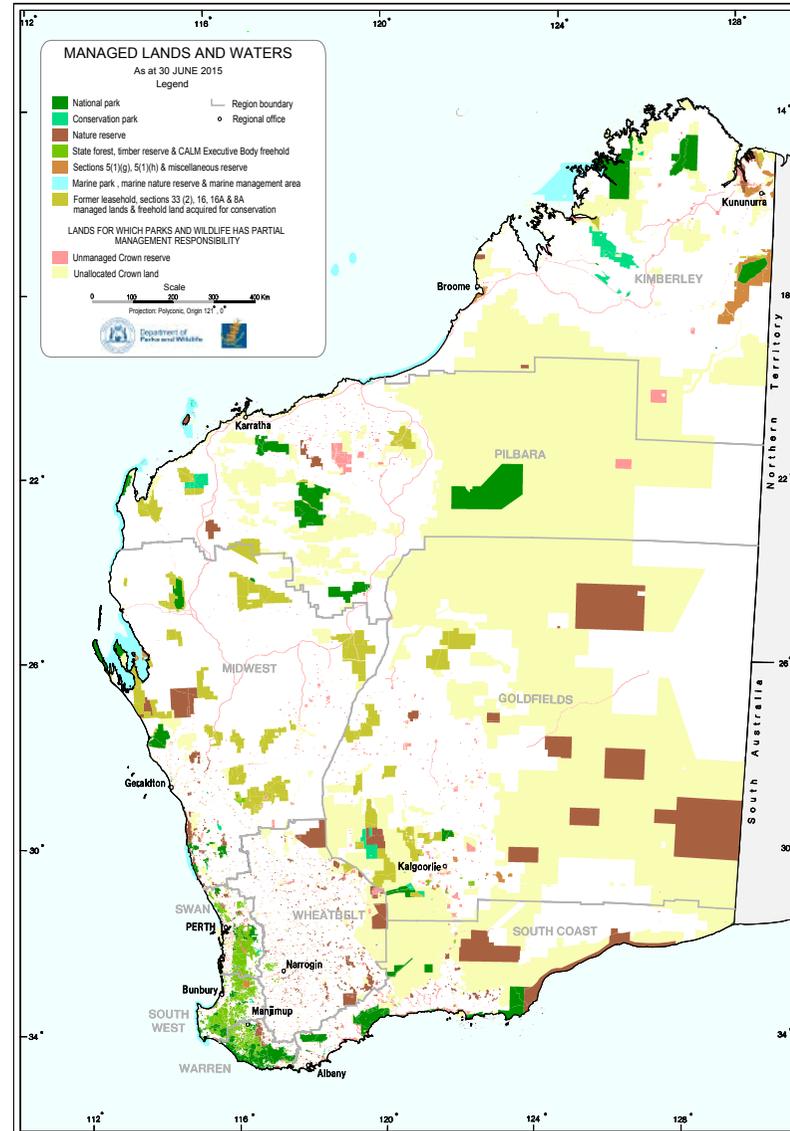
The purchases were funded from environmental offset funds (provided from a variety of sources as a result of approved development projects and land clearing). The total expenditure was \$1.501 million.

Purchases finalised during the year were:

- a 32ha property in Broadwater in the City of Busselton.
- a 94ha property south-west of Pinjarra in the Shire of Murray.
- a 137ha property west of Mogumber in the Shire of Victoria Plains.

In addition, an 18ha parcel of land north-east of Gracetown in the Shire of Augusta–Margaret River was donated to the Department for addition to the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters at 30 June 2015



Montebello Islands Marine Park. Photo – Parks and Wildlife

Significant issues and trends

- Implementation of the State Government's new *Parks for People Caravan and Camping* initiative will continue, directed at parks in the State's south-west and Midwest with a total project budget of \$21.05 million over four years. The number of low-cost camping and caravanning facilities in those regions is being significantly expanded, to promote the State's world-class parks system, and help people enjoy their parks safely by providing a range of facilities and services.
 - 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.
 - Parks and Wildlife will continue to prepare management plans and implement conservation actions for terrestrial and marine reserves across the State. This includes continuing to implement the Government's *Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy* to provide the largest ever investment in conserving the Kimberley's natural assets, protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage and rock art, and developing sustainable nature-based tourism. New marine parks will be established at Roebuck Bay, Horizontal Falls and in the north Kimberley, along with an extension to the proposed North Kimberley Marine Park to the Northern Territory border. 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.
 - New funding has been allocated to undertake additional prescribed burning to enhance protection of communities. 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.
 - Priority will continue to be given to facilitating preparation of a new Biodiversity Conservation Act to replace the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*. Western Australia has a unique and highly significant biodiversity that faces constant threats and complex challenges, requiring integrated multi-disciplinary approaches to conservation and management.
 - The State's forests will continue to be managed to conserve the plants and animals they contain, to protect water catchments, for recreation, for a sustainable timber industry, for mining and other public uses. This will be done under the framework of the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*, with a number of initiatives incorporated into the plan.
- Research and monitoring, consistent with the plan, will be conducted.
- 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.
 - Integration of the operations of the Swan River Trust and the Department commenced from 1 July 2015 to improve management of WA's environment and the Swan-Canning Riverpark. The continuing pressures of low oxygen levels, reduced flushing, high salinity and algal blooms in the rivers will be tackled through programs ranging from land management and restoration in upper catchments to in-river interventions such as artificial oxygenation.
 - Detailed design will be undertaken for the first stage of the new Bunbury headquarters building for the Department and related conservation and recreation facilities as a significant Government commitment to regional development.



Kimberley Yawuru rangers manually removing the weed neem. Photo – Tracy Sonneman/Parks and Wildlife



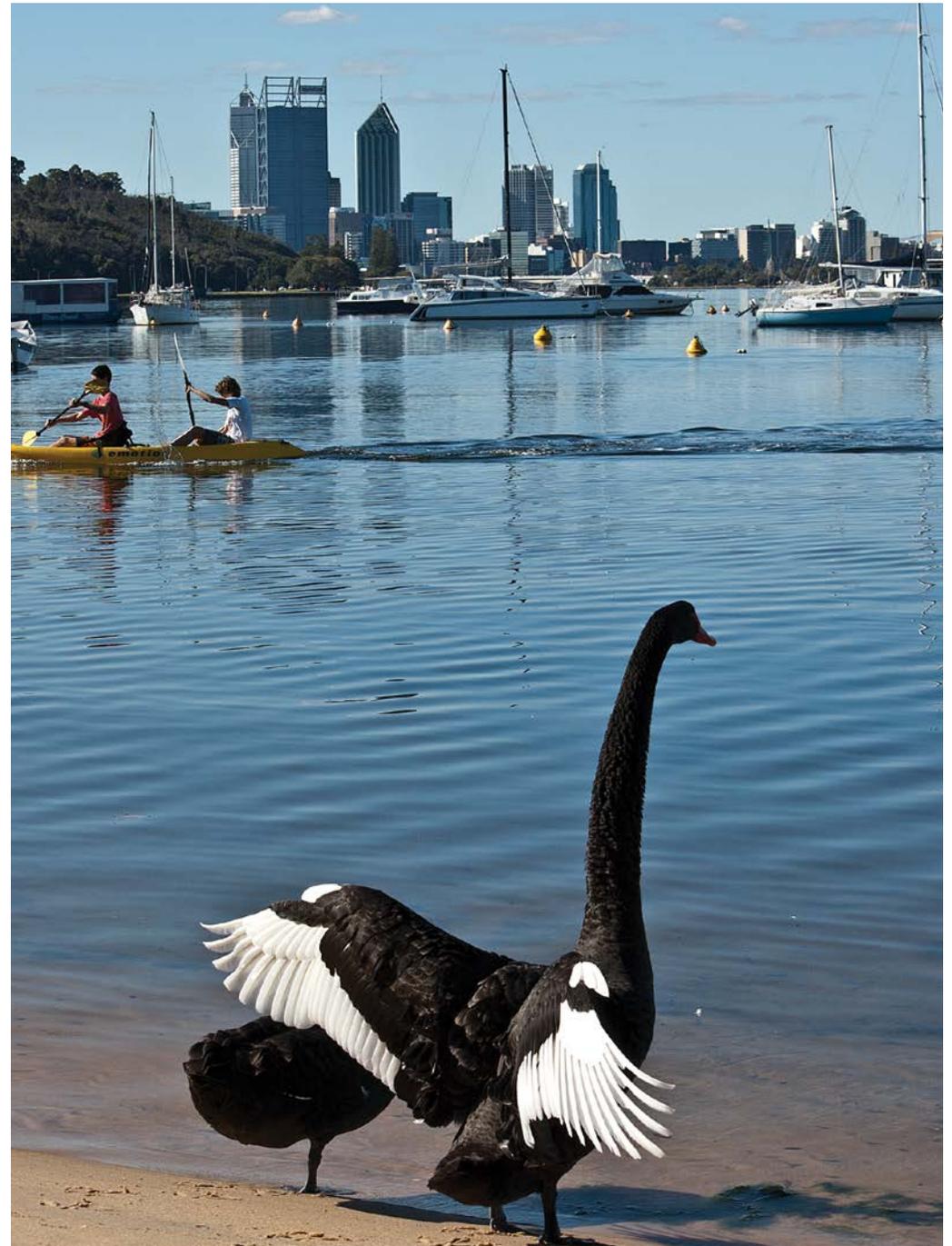
Prescribed burning in Yanchep Pine Plantation. Photo – Leigh Sage/Parks and Wildlife



Parks and Wildlife ranger Scott Thomson with campground hosts Bill and Rose Boucher, Osprey Bay campground, Cape Range National Park. *Photo – Jennifer Eliot/Parks and Wildlife*

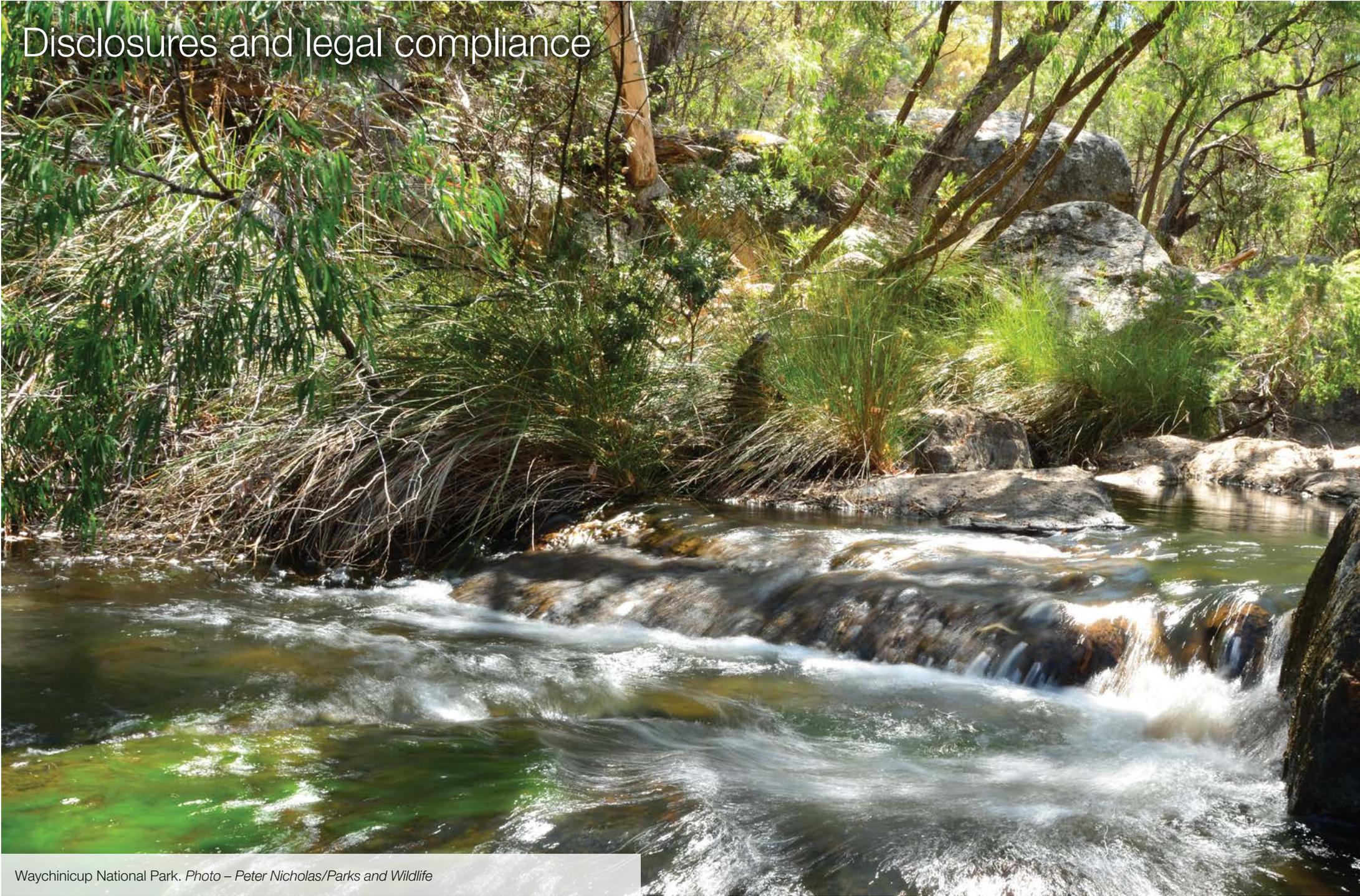


Traditional owners fishing in the proposed Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park. *Photo – Chris Nutt/Parks and Wildlife*



Black swans at Matilda Bay, Swan-Canning Riverpark. *Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife*

Disclosures and legal compliance



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



Certification

Certification of Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

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 2015 and the financial position as at 30 June 2015.

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

John Byrne
Chief Finance Officer
8 September 2015

Jim Sharp
Accountable Authority
8 September 2015

Auditor General's opinion



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 2015, 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 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Report on Controls

I have audited the controls exercised by the Department of Parks and Wildlife during the year ended 30 June 2015.

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 2015.

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 2015.

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 2015.

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.

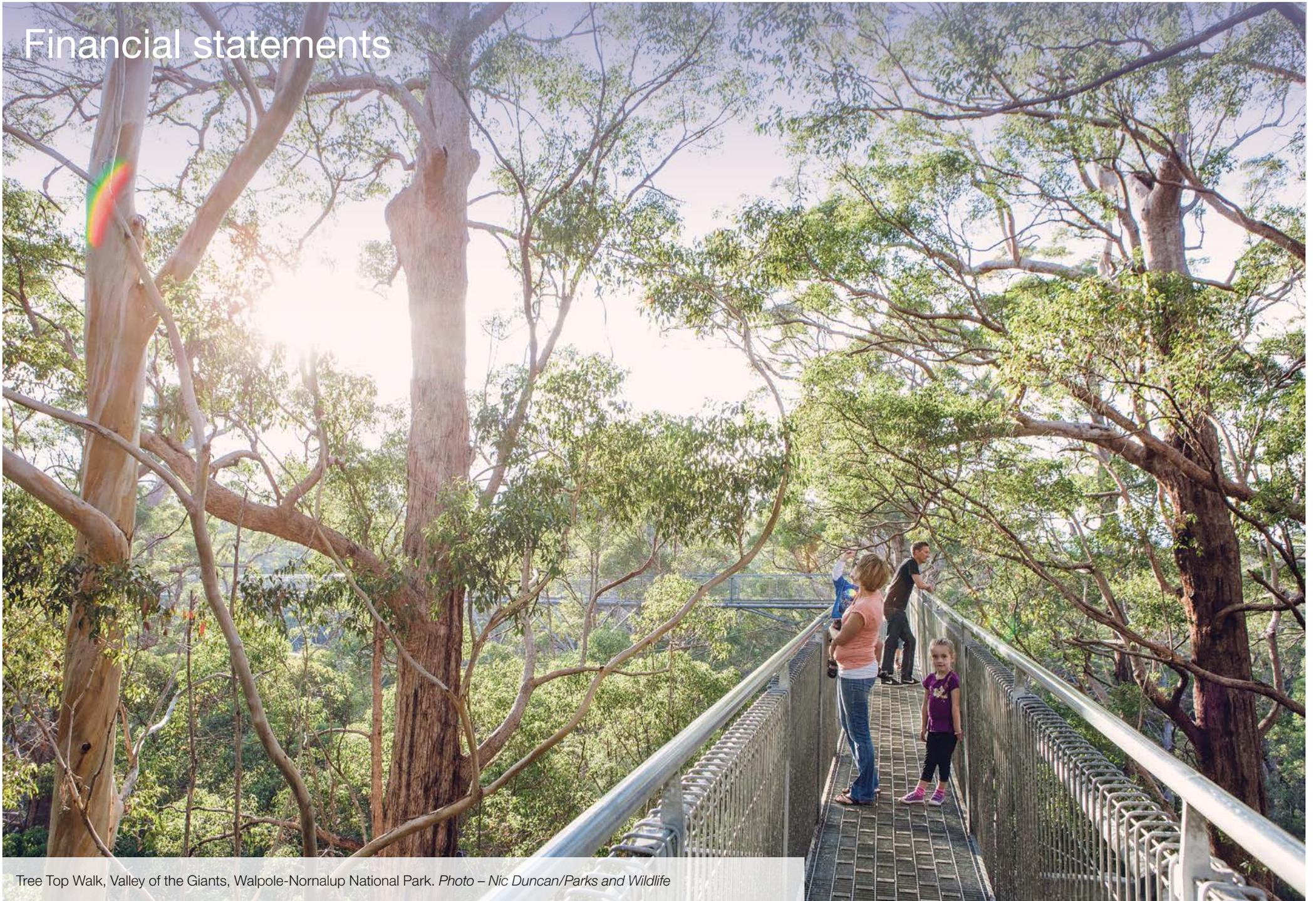
Matters Relating to the Electronic Publication of the Audited Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

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 2015 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
10 September 2015

Financial statements



Tree Top Walk, Valley of the Giants, Walpole-Nornalup National Park. *Photo – Nic Duncan/Parks and Wildlife*

Financial statements

Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	6	157,809	156,058
Supplies and services	7	80,205	79,877
Depreciation expense	8	25,892	23,170
Accommodation expenses	9	4,751	4,229
Grants and subsidies	10	1,354	390
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	15	0	188
Other expenses	11	32,410	26,402
Total cost of services		302,421	290,314
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	12	45,575	35,228
Commonwealth grants and contributions	13	1,275	1,477
Other grants and contributions	14	20,470	36,353
Interest revenue		2,083	2,412
Other revenue	16	10,936	9,864
Total Revenue		80,339	85,334
<i>Gains</i>			
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	15	765	0
Total Gains		765	0
Total income other than income from State Government		81,104	85,334
NET COST OF SERVICES		221,317	204,980
Income from State Government			
Service appropriation	17	219,941	213,168
Services received free of charge		991	1,570
Assets not previously recognised		1,110	573
Royalties for Regions Fund		4,792	2,114
Total income from State Government		226,834	217,425
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		5,517	12,445
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit and loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(590,645)	22,938
Total other comprehensive income		(590,645)	22,938
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(585,128)	35,383

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

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

Statement of Financial Position For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	29	3,575	3,244
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18 & 29	77,241	69,706
Inventories	19	1,195	1,284
Receivables	20	15,115	11,229
Amounts receivable for services	21	9,509	9,404
Other current assets	22	1,781	1,489
Total Current Assets		108,416	96,356
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18	0	5,820
Amounts receivable for services	21	121,258	111,050
Property, plant and equipment	23	3,096,794	3,678,182
Total Non-Current Assets		3,218,052	3,795,052
TOTAL ASSETS		3,326,468	3,891,408
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	25	8,437	10,874
Provisions	26	26,069	26,486
Other current liabilities	27	7,423	5,439
Total Current Liabilities		41,929	42,799
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	26	9,174	9,375
Total Non-Current Liabilities		9,174	9,375
TOTAL LIABILITIES		51,103	52,174
NET ASSETS		3,275,365	3,839,234
EQUITY			
Contributed Equity	28	2,971,689	2,950,430
Reserves		285,714	876,359
Accumulated surplus		17,962	12,445
TOTAL EQUITY		3,275,365	3,839,234

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 2015

	Note 28	Contributed Equity \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2013		2,963,577	853,421	0	3,816,998
Surplus/(deficit)		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)
Balance at 30 June 2014		2,950,430	876,359	12,445	3,839,234
Balance at 1 July 2014		2,950,430	876,359	12,445	3,839,234
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	5,517	5,517
Other comprehensive income		0	(590,645)		(590,645)
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	(590,645)	5,517	(585,128)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		11,631	0	0	11,631
Other contributions by owners		10,503	0	0	10,503
Distributions to owners - Department of Environment Regulation		(875)	0	0	(875)
Total		21,259	0	0	21,259
Balance at 30 June 2015		2,971,689	285,714	17,962	3,275,365

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

Statement of Cash Flows For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		200,224	193,451
Capital appropriations		704	5,614
Holding account drawdowns		9,404	8,987
Cash and cash equivalents distributed to owner		(707)	(26,289)
Royalties for Regions Fund		15,719	13,464
Net cash provided by State Government		225,344	195,227
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(158,231)	(159,709)
Supplies and services		(82,028)	(76,985)
Accommodation		(4,768)	(4,267)
Grants and subsidies		(15)	(940)
GST payments on purchases		(12,725)	(12,842)
GST payments to taxation authority		(50)	(57)
Other payments		(32,851)	(27,740)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		36,100	43,437
Commonwealth grants and contributions		1,495	1,620
Interest received		2,288	2,399
GST receipts on sales		5,417	5,038
GST receipts from taxation authority		6,617	8,212
Other receipts		39,650	44,865
Net cash (used) in operating activities	29	(199,101)	(176,969)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(25,127)	(46,496)
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		930	815
Net cash provided by/(used) used in investing activities		(24,197)	(45,681)
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		2,046	(27,423)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		78,770	106,193
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	29	80,816	78,770

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 2015

	Parks Management	Parks Management	Wildlife Management	Wildlife Management	Forest Management	Forest Management	Total	Total
	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES								
Expenses								
Employee benefits expense	54,284	50,121	74,003	77,134	29,522	28,803	157,809	156,058
Supplies and services	31,534	26,761	33,011	38,392	15,660	14,723	80,205	79,876
Depreciation expense	15,467	12,913	5,458	5,874	4,967	4,384	25,892	23,171
Accommodation expenses	2,148	1,671	2,172	2,144	431	414	4,751	4,229
Grants & subsidies	1,344	14	10	369	0	7	1,354	390
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	0	234	0	316		(362)	0	188
Other expenses	11,899	6,094	8,421	10,113	12,090	10,195	32,410	26,402
Total cost of services	116,676	97,808	123,075	134,342	62,670	58,164	302,421	290,314
Income								
User charges and fees	26,169	18,180	7,677	10,458	11,729	6,590	45,575	35,228
Commonwealth grants and contributions	240	80	1,031	1,397	4	0	1,275	1,477
Other grants and contributions	3,835	4,905	16,573	31,336	62	112	20,470	36,353
Interest revenue	340	317	1,679	2,082	64	13	2,083	2,412
Other revenue	4,943	3,750	3,180	3,381	2,813	2,733	10,936	9,864
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	630	0	61	0	74	0	765	0
Total income other than income from State Government	36,157	27,232	30,201	48,654	14,746	9,448	81,104	85,334
NET COST OF SERVICES	80,519	70,576	92,874	85,688	47,924	48,716	221,317	204,980
Income from State Government								
Service appropriation	71,695	69,752	103,791	93,390	44,455	50,026	219,941	213,168
Services received free of charge	283	418	452	705	256	447	991	1,570
Assets not previously recognised	470	243	501	230	139	100	1,110	573
Royalties for Regions Fund	2,628	1,189	2,164	925	0	0	4,792	2,114
Total income from State Government	75,076	71,602	106,908	95,250	44,850	50,573	226,834	217,425
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the period	(5,443)	1,026	14,034	9,562	(3,074)	1,857	5,517	12,445

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

Financial statements

Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service As at 30 June 2015

	Parks Management	Parks Management	Wildlife Management	Wildlife Management	Forest Management	Forest Management	Total	Total
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS								
Current assets	33,082	16,188	68,326	70,077	7,008	10,092	108,416	96,357
Non-current assets	973,109	895,592	893,483	1,113,286	1,351,460	1,786,173	3,218,052	3,795,051
Total assets	1,006,191	911,780	961,809	1,183,363	1,358,468	1,796,265	3,326,468	3,891,408
LIABILITIES								
Current liabilities	14,890	15,553	19,342	19,793	7,697	7,453	41,929	42,799
Non-current liabilities	3,272	3,206	4,483	4,679	1,419	1,490	9,174	9,375
Total liabilities	18,162	18,759	23,825	24,472	9,116	8,943	51,103	52,174
NET ASSETS	988,029	893,021	937,984	1,158,891	1,349,352	1,787,322	3,275,365	3,839,234

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 2015

	2015 Estimate \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000	2014 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 96 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	198,955	219,401	20,446	219,401	212,645	6,756
Royalties for Regions Fund	6,737	4,792	(1,945)	4,792	2,114	2,678
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes - <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	540	540	0	540	523	17
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	206,232	224,733	18,501	224,733	215,282	9,451
Capital						
Item 153 Capital appropriations	704	704	0	704	5,614	(4,910)
Royalties for Regions Fund	10,871	10,927	56	10,927	11,350	(423)
Total capital	11,575	11,631	56	11,631	16,964	(5,333)
GRAND TOTAL	217,807	236,364	18,557	236,364	232,246	4,118
Details of Expenses by Service						
Parks Management	93,731	116,676	22,945	116,676	97,808	18,868
Wildlife Management	139,370	123,075	(16,295)	123,075	134,342	(11,267)
Forest Management	52,889	62,670	9,781	62,670	58,164	4,506
Total Cost of Services	285,990	302,421	16,431	302,421	290,314	12,107
Less Total Income	(83,758)	(81,104)	2,654	(81,104)	(85,334)	4,230
Net Cost of Services	202,232	221,317	19,085	221,317	204,980	16,337
Adjustments	4,000	3,416	(584)	3,416	10,302	(6,886)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	206,232	224,733	18,501	224,733	215,282	9,451
Capital Expenditure						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	24,229	25,127	898	25,127	46,496	(21,369)
Adjustment for other funding sources	(12,654)	(13,496)	(842)	(13,496)	(29,532)	16,036
Capital appropriations	11,575	11,631	56	11,631	16,964	(5,333)
Details of Income Estimates						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	90	78	(12)	78	73	5
	90	78	(12)	78	73	5

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

Note 35 "Explanatory statement" and Note 43 "Explanatory statement for Administered Items" provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2015 and between the actual results for 2015 and 2014.

Financial statements

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 2015 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).

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*. Partial exemption permitting early adoption of AASB 2015-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Disclosures of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities has been granted. Aside from AASB 2015-7, there has been no early adoption of any other Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued or amended (but not operative) by the Department for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2015.

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).

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'.

Financial statements

(d) Contributed equity

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

Transfer of net assets to/from other agencies, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal. The transfer of assets and liabilities and the net contribution by owners arising from the restructure of administrative arrangements have been recognised at fair value.

(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 most recent determination, as quantified in the 2014–15 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$81.104 million in 2015 (\$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.

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 (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

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 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 buildings 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.

Financial statements

Fair value of restricted use land is determined by comparison with market evidence for land with similar approximate utility (high restricted use land) or market value of comparable unrestricted land (low restricted use land).

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 and adjustments in estimating fair value are made in assessing whether to apply the existing use basis to assets and in determining estimated economic 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 on a class of assets basis 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)	2.5–4 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 a specialised asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

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

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

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

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

Most Crown land holdings are vested in Conservation Commission of Western Australia by the Government. Crown land holdings vested in the Conservation Commission of Western Australia are included as assets of The Department as they are under the operational control of The Department. 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.

Financial statements

(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.

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.

Financial statements

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 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

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

3. Judgments made by management in applying accounting policies

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

Financial statements

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, or adopted, for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2014 that impacted on the Department.

AASB 10	<p><i>Consolidated Financial Statements</i></p> <p>This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i> and Int 112 <i>Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities</i>, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.</p> <p>The 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.</p>
AASB 11	<p><i>Joint Arrangements</i></p> <p>This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 131 <i>Interests in Joint Ventures</i>, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
AASB 12	<p><i>Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities</i></p> <p>This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes disclosure requirements in AASB 127 <i>Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements</i>, AASB 128 <i>Investments in Associates</i> and AASB 131 <i>Interests in Joint Ventures</i>. There is no financial impact.</p>
AASB 1031	<p><i>Materiality</i></p> <p>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.</p>

AASB 1055	<p><i>Budgetary Reporting</i></p> <p>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.</p>
AASB 2011-7	<p><i>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]</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to consequential changes arising from the issue of AASB 10, AASB 11, AASB 127 <i>Separate Financial Statements</i> and AASB 128 <i>Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures</i>. There is no financial impact for the Department.</p>
AASB 2012-3	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 132]</i></p> <p>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. There is no financial impact.</p>
AASB 2013-9	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments.</i></p> <p>Part B of 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. It has no financial impact.</p>
AASB 2014-1	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards</i></p> <p>Part A of this Standard consists primarily of clarifications to Accounting Standards and has no financial impact for the Department.</p> <p>Part B of this Standard has no financial impact as the Department contributes to schemes that are either defined contribution plans, or deemed to be defined contribution plans.</p> <p>Part C of this Standard has no financial impact as it removes references to AASB 1031 Materiality from a number of Accounting Standards.</p>
AASB 2015-7	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Disclosures of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities</i></p> <p>This Standard relieves not-for-profit public sector entities from the reporting burden associated with various disclosures required by AASB 13 for assets within the scope of AASB 116 that are held primarily for their current service potential rather than to generate future net cash inflows. It has no financial impact.</p>

Financial statements

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* or by an exemption from TI 1101. By virtue of a limited exemption, the Department has early adopted AASB 2015-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Disclosures of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities. 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		
			AASB 2014-1	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards</i></p> <p>Part E of this Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 and consequential amendments to other Standards. It has not yet been assessed by the Department to determine the application or potential impact of the Standard.</p>
			AASB 2014-4	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 & 138]</i></p> <p>The adoption of this Standard has no financial impact for the Department as depreciation and amortisation is not determined by reference to revenue generation, but by reference to consumption of future economic benefits.</p>
AASB 9	<i>Financial Instruments</i>	1 Jan 2018	AASB 2014-5	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to the consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 15. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>
	This Standard supersedes AASB 139 <i>Financial instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> , introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.		AASB 2014-7	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014)</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to the consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 9 (December 2014). The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>
	The mandatory application date of this Standard is currently 1 January 2018 after being amended by AASB 2012-6, AASB 2013-9 and AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.		AASB 2014-8	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014) – Application of AASB 9 (December 2009) and AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 9 (2009 & 2010)]</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i> (December 2009) and AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i> (December 2010), arising from the issuance of AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i> in December 2014. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>
AASB 15	<i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	1 Jan 2017	AASB 2015-2	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 [AASB 7, 101, 134 & 1049]</i></p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 101 to provide clarification regarding the disclosure requirements in AASB 101. Specifically, the Standard proposes narrow-focus amendments to address some of the concerns expressed about existing presentation and disclosure requirements and to ensure entities are able to use judgement when applying a Standard in determining what information to disclose in their financial statements. There is no financial impact.</p>
	This Standard establishes the principles that the Department shall apply to report useful information to users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from a contract with a customer. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.			
AASB 2010-7	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Int 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 & 127]</i>	1 Jan 2018		
	This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010.			
	The mandatory application date of this Standard has been amended by AASB 2012-6 and AASB2014-1 to 1 January 2018. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.			
AASB 2013-9	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments</i>	1 Jan 2015		
	Part C of this omnibus Standard defers the application Part C of this omnibus Standard defers the application of AASB 9 to 1 January 2017. 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			

Financial statements

AASB 2015-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality 1 Jul 2015

Materiality This Standard completes the withdrawal of references to AASB 1031 in all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, allowing that Standard to effectively be withdrawn. There is no financial impact.

AASB 2015-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, 124 & 1049] 1 Jul 2016

The amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 to include application by not-for-profit public sector entities. Implementation guidance is included to assist application of the Standard by not-for-profit public sector entities. There is no financial impact.

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
6. Employee benefits expense		
Wages and salaries ^(a)	139,935	137,236
Superannuation – defined contribution plans ^(b)	13,266	14,280
Redundancy payments	4,608	4,542
	157,809	156,058
<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>		
7. Supplies and services		
Communications	3,982	3,961
Consultants and contractors	4,300	9,863
Services and contracts	36,601	31,184
Materials	16,293	15,069
Repairs and maintenance	5,091	4,974
Travel	4,915	3,868
Regional employee housing	3,570	4,492
Staff Costs (including uniforms & protective clothing)	4,552	5,479
Other	901	987
	80,205	79,877
8. Depreciation expense		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	11,697	10,953
Infrastructure	4,643	3,560
Buildings	9,463	8,604
Software	89	53
	25,892	23,170
9. Accommodation expenses		
Lease rentals	2,569	2,053
Electricity, power and water	2,182	2,176
	4,751	4,229

Financial statements

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
10. Grants and subsidies		
Australian Wildlife Conservancy	0	295
Department of Regional Development	0	100
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	0	35
Shire of Plantagenet (return of funding previously provided)	0	(40)
Shire of Ravensthorpe	1,339	0
Great Southern Development Commission	3	0
Director of National Parks	2	0
Capel Land Conservation District	10	0
	1,354	390

11. Other expenses		
Employment on-costs ^(a)	1,366	2,258
Operating lease – motor vehicle	8,621	9,480
Other lease, rental and hire expenses	22,423	14,664
	32,410	26,402

(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.

12. User charges and fees		
User charges	15,988	15,359
Fees	29,587	19,869
	45,575	35,228

13. Commonwealth grants and contributions		
Recurrent	1,275	1,477
	1,275	1,477

The Department received revenue of \$1.275 million from the Commonwealth Government during the year in relation to 25 separate conservation projects. \$0.196 million of this was carried over at 30 June 2015 to be spent in 2015-16. Any unspent funds remaining at the conclusion of individual projects are returned to the relevant granting entity.

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
14. Other grants and contributions		
Capital	2,105	13,403
Recurrent	18,365	22,950
	20,470	36,353

The Department received revenue of \$20.470 million from a range of private and state granting entities during the year in relation to 145 separate conservation projects. \$2.944 million of this was carried over at 30 June 2015 to be spent in 2015-16. Any unspent funds remaining at the conclusion of individual projects are returned to the relevant granting entity.

15. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets		
<i>Proceeds from Disposal of Non-Current Assets</i>		
Plant, property, equipment & vehicles	930	813
Buildings	0	1
<i>Carrying amount of Non-Current Assets</i>		
Plant, property, equipment & vehicles	(137)	(884)
Buildings	(28)	(118)
Net gain/(loss)	765	(188)

16. Other revenue		
Publications	392	351
Mining compensation	5,987	6,082
Plant fund expenditure recoup	921	829
Communication sites	361	346
Forest and beach shack leases	1,305	338
Workers compensation payroll recoup	449	335
Apiary sites	210	211
Diesel fuel rebate	354	180
Sale of minor assets	191	124
Insurance refunds	64	81
Other	702	987
	10,936	9,864

17. Income from State Government		
Appropriation received during the period:		
- Service Appropriations ^(a)	219,941	213,168
	219,941	213,168

Financial statements

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Assets found during the period:		
- Buildings	1,058	380
- Property, plant and equipment	52	75
- Infrastructure	0	60
- Vehicles	0	58
Total assets found	<u>1,110</u>	<u>573</u>
Services received free of charge from other State Government agencies during the period:		
- Landgate	467	971
- State Solicitor's Office (Department of the Attorney-General)	180	200
- Department of Agriculture and Food	36	44
- Department of Water	0	16
- Main Roads Western Australia	0	15
- Department of Finance	280	290
- Department of Corrective Services	27	34
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services	1	0
	<u>991</u>	<u>1,570</u>
Royalties for Regions Fund:		
- Regional Community Services Fund ^(b)	4,792	1,844
- Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund ^(b)	0	270
	<u>4,792</u>	<u>2,114</u>
	<u>226,834</u>	<u>217,425</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

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<i>Current</i>		
Cash amounts in suspense account ^(a)	77,241	69,706
	<u>77,241</u>	<u>69,706</u>
<i>Non Current</i>		
Accrued salaries suspense account ^(b)	0	5,820
	<u>0</u>	<u>5,820</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) Funds held in the suspense account for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year which will occur in 2015-16.

19. Inventories

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<i>Current</i>		
Inventories held for resale:		
Souvenirs	447	316
Inventories held for distribution:	0	0
Publications	748	968
	<u>1,195</u>	<u>1,284</u>

20. Receivables

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<i>Current</i>		
Receivables	13,079	9,480
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(635)	(403)
GST receivable	1,905	1,165
Accrued revenue	766	987
	<u>15,115</u>	<u>11,229</u>

Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Balance at start of year	403	397
Impaired receivables transferred to Department of Environment Regulation as a result of administrative restructure	0	(40)
Doubtful debts expense	256	70
Amounts written off during the year	(24)	(24)
Amounts recovered during the year	0	0
Balance at end of year	<u>635</u>	<u>403</u>

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

21. Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Current	9,509	9,404
Non-current	121,258	111,050
	<u>130,767</u>	<u>120,454</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.

Financial statements

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
22. Other assets		
<i>Current</i>		
Prepayments	1,781	1,489
	1,781	1,489
23. Property, plant and equipment		
Assets measured at fair value:		
Land		
At fair value ^(a)	2,842,960	3,425,629
	2,842,960	3,425,629
Buildings		
At fair value ^(a)	123,755	121,106
	123,755	121,106
Plant and equipment		
At cost	126,165	124,130
Accumulated depreciation	(62,733)	(57,812)
	63,432	66,318
Infrastructure		
At cost	70,301	52,492
Accumulated depreciation	(34,113)	(26,034)
	36,188	26,458
Vehicles		
At cost	34,611	32,783
Accumulated depreciation	(20,452)	(19,997)
	14,159	12,786
Works of art		
At cost	555	555
	555	555
Assets under construction	15,745	25,330
	3,096,794	3,678,182

(a) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2014 by the Western Australian Land Information Department (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2015 and recognised at 30 June 2015. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$176,667,950 and buildings: \$2,720,000. 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

	Land	Buildings	Plant and equipment	Infrastructure	Vehicles	Works of art	Assets under construction	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
2015								
Carrying amount at start of year	3,425,629	121,106	66,318	26,458	12,786	555	25,330	3,678,182
Assets not previously identified	0	1,058	52	0	0	0	0	1,110
Additions	1,776	2,607	4,731	3,424	3,312		9,370	25,220
Disposals	0	(748)	(686)		(70)			(1,504)
Transfers ^(a)	8,860	6,535	2,870	10,949	64		(18,955)	10,323
Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	(593,305)	2,659	0	0	0	0	0	(590,645)
Depreciation	0	(9,463)	(9,853)	(4,643)	(1,933)	0	0	(25,892)
Carrying amount at end of year	2,842,960	123,755	63,432	36,188	14,159	555	15,745	3,096,794
2014								
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
Additions	13,519	2,575	8,245	4,242	4,504	19	12,608	45,712
Disposals	0	(118)	(806)	0	(78)	0	0	(1,002)
Transfers ^(a)	1,341	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,341
Transfers ^(b)	(1,550)	1,569	3,788	2,428	44	0	(9,672)	(3,393)
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)
Carrying amount at end of year	3,425,629	121,106	66,318	26,458	12,786	555	25,330	3,678,182

- (a) The Department received \$10.32 million of assets in 2014-15 and \$1.34 million of assets in 2013-14 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.

Information on fair value measurement is provided in Note 30

Financial statements

24. Impairment of assets

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
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There were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment at 30 June 2015.

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	1,743	4,333
Accrued expenses	1,539	1,568
Accrued salaries	4,660	4,465
Accrued superannuation	398	411
Parental payment	97	97
	8,437	10,874

26. Provisions

Current

Employee benefits provision

Annual leave ^(a)	10,492	11,065
Long service leave ^(b)	12,930	12,732
	23,422	23,797

Other provisions

Employment on-costs ^(c)	2,647	2,689
	2,647	2,689
	26,069	26,486

Non-current

Employee benefits provision

Long service leave ^(b)	8,243	8,423
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Other provisions

Employment on-costs ^(c)	931	952
	9,174	9,375

(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 end of the reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	6,505	11,065
More than 12 months after the reporting period	3,987	0
	10,492	11,065

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

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	12,930	12,732
More than 12 months after the reporting period	8,243	8,423
	21,173	21,155

(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	3,641	411
Amounts transferred to Department of Environment Regulation as a result of administrative restructure	0	(756)
Additional provisions recognised	(63)	2,962
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefits	0	1,024
Carrying amount at end of period	3,578	3,641

27. Current liabilities

Current

Unearned revenue	7,423	5,439
	7,423	5,439

Financial statements

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
28. Equity		
The Western Australian 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	2,950,430	2,963,577
<i>Contributions by owners</i>		
Capital appropriation	704	5,614
<i>Other contributions by owners</i>		
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	2,524	7,500
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Community Services Account	8,403	3,850
<i>Transfer of net assets from other agencies</i>		
Western Australian Planning Commission	8,697	196
Government Regional Officer Housing	1,056	0
Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia	400	0
Main Roads Western Australia	182	1,170
Swan River Trust	168	0
Total contributions by owners	2,972,564	2,981,907
<i>Distributions to owners</i>		
Transfer of net assets to other agencies and Government	(875)	(31,477)
Total distributions to owners	(875)	(31,477)
Balance at end of period	2,971,689	2,950,430
Reserves		
Asset revaluation surplus:		
Balance at start of period	876,359	853,421
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	(593,305)	17,679
Buildings	2,660	5,259
Balance at end of period	285,714	876,359
Accumulated surplus		
Balance at start of period	12,445	0
Result for the period	5,517	12,445
Balance at end of period	17,962	12,445

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
29. Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows		
Reconciliation of cash		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,575	3,244
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (note 18 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents')	77,241	75,526
	80,816	78,770
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities		
Net cost of services	(221,317)	(204,980)
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation expense	25,892	23,170
Resources received free of charge	991	1,570
Adjustments for other non cash items	1,339	0
(Gain)/Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	(765)	188
<i>(Increase)/decrease in assets:</i>		
Current receivables ^(a)	(3,600)	6,459
Inventories	89	685
Prepayments	(291)	812
Other current assets	453	10,332
<i>Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:</i>		
Current payables ^(a)	(534)	(1,840)
Provisions	(618)	(11,894)
Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(b)	(740)	351
Net assets transferred to Department of Environment Regulation	0	(1,822)
Net cash used in operating activities	(199,101)	(176,969)

(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.

Financial statements

30. Fair Value Measurements

Assets measured at fair value: 2015	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Fair Value at end of period \$'000
Land (Note 23)	0	176,668	2,666,292	2,842,960
Buildings (Note 23)	0	2,720	121,035	123,755
	0	179,388	2,787,327	2,966,715

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

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.

Non-current assets held for sale have been written down to fair value less costs to sell. Fair value has been determined by reference to market evidence of sales prices of comparable assets.

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)

2015	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000
Fair Value at start of Period	2,144,133	117,545
Additions	10,472	7,545
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(68,955)	5,223
Transfers from/(to) Level 2	580,642	-
Disposals	-	(27)
Depreciation Expense	-	(9,251)
Fair Value at end of Period	2,666,292	121,035

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)

2014	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000
Fair Value at start of Period	1,829,052	116,516
Additions	13,135	4,391
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	301,946	5,104
Disposals	-	(115)
Depreciation Expense	-	(8,351)
Fair Value at end of Period	2,144,133	117,545

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. During the year the Western Australian Land Authority (Valuation Services) changed valuation methods from market value (Level 2) to current use (Level 3) approach for a certain parcel of land totalling \$580 million to reflect the more accurate classification of land.

Land (Level 3 fair values)

Fair value for restricted use land is based on comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility (high restricted use land). The relevant comparators of land with low level utility is selected by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services) and represents the application of a significant Level 3 input in this valuation methodology. The fair value measurement is sensitive to values of comparator land, with higher values of comparator land correlating with higher estimated fair values of land.

Buildings (Level 3 fair values)

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.

Valuation using depreciation replacement cost utilises the significant Level 3 input, consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset which is estimated by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The fair value measurement is sensitive to the estimate of consumption/obsolescence, with higher values of the estimate correlating with lower estimated fair values of buildings and infrastructure.

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.

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

Description	Fair value 2015 \$'000	Fair value 2014 \$'000	Valuation technique(s)	Unobservable inputs
Land (\$2,666,292)	2,666	2,144	Market approach	Selection of land with similar approximate utility
Buildings (\$121,035)	121	118	Depreciated Replacement Cost	Consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset

Reconciliation of opening and closing balances are provided in note 23.

Financial statements

31. Services provided free of charge

During the period the following services were provided to other agencies free of charge for functions outside the normal operations of the Department:

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Department of Environment Regulation – Payment of insurance premiums to Risk Cover	0	40
	0	40

32. Commitments

Non-cancellable operating lease commitments

Commitments for minimum lease payments are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	5,770	5,838
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	8,755	9,570
Later than 5 years	447	2,209
	14,972	17,617

The Department's fleet leases account for \$6.6 million of the non- cancellable operating lease commitments for 2015. 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.

Capital Expenditure Commitments

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

Within 1 year	4,096	1,144
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0	0
	4,096	1,144

33. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

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 \$497,277 having regard to the excess payable under the Department's general liability insurance policy. The total contingent liability for the Department's insurer is \$78,593,032. 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 81 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

From 1 July 2015, the role and functions of the Swan River Trust were merged with the Department.

35. Explanatory Statement

Major variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2015 and between the actual results for 2014 and 2015 are shown below. Major variances are considered to be those greater than 10% or \$10 million.

	Variance Note	Estimate 2015	Actual 2015	Actual 2014	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2015 and 2014
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Statement of Comprehensive Income (Controlled Operations)						
<i>Expenses</i>						
Employee benefits expense		158,949	157,809	156,058	(1,140)	1,751
Supplies and services		77,661	80,205	79,877	2,544	328
Depreciation expense	1,A	19,717	25,892	23,170	6,175	2,722
Accommodation expenses	2,B	3,181	4,751	4,229	1,570	522
Grants and subsidies	3,C	900	1,354	390	454	964
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	D	0	0	188	0	(188)
Other expenses	4,E	25,582	32,410	26,402	6,828	6,008
Total cost of services		285,990	302,421	290,314	16,431	12,107
Income						
<i>Revenue</i>						
User charges and fees	5,F	31,811	45,575	35,228	13,764	10,347

Financial statements

	Variance Note	Estimate 2015	Actual 2015	Actual 2014	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2015 and 2014
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Commonwealth grants and contributions	6,G	3,600	1,275	1,477	(2,325)	(202)
Other grants and contributions	7,H	28,101	20,470	36,353	(7,631)	(15,883)
Interest revenue	8,I	2,988	2,083	2,412	(905)	(329)
Other revenue	9,J	17,258	10,936	9,864	(6,322)	1,072
Total Revenue		83,758	80,339	85,334	(3,419)	(4,995)
<i>Gains</i>						
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	10,K	0	765	0	765	765
Total Gains		0	765	0	765	765
Total income other than income from State Government NET COST OF SERVICES		202,232	221,317	204,980	19,085	16,337
Income from State Government						
Service appropriation	11	199,495	219,941	213,168	20,446	6,773
Services received free of charge	12,L	1,448	991	1,570	(457)	(579)
Assets not previously recognised	13,M	0	1,110	573	1,110	537
Royalties for Regions Fund	14,N	6,737	4,792	2,114	(1,945)	2,678
Total income from State Government SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD		5,448	5,517	12,445	69	(6,928)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	15,O	0	(590,645)	22,938	(590,645)	(613,583)
Total other comprehensive income		0	(590,645)	22,938	(590,645)	(613,583)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		5,448	(585,128)	35,383	(590,576)	(620,511)

	Variance Note	Estimate 2015	Actual 2015	Actual 2014	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2015 and 2014
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Statement of Financial Position (Controlled Operations)						
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	16,P	2,773	3,575	3,244	802	331
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	Q	78,084	77,241	69,706	(843)	7,535
Inventories	17	1,969	1,195	1,284	(774)	(89)
Receivables	R	16,793	15,115	11,229	(1,678)	3,886
Amounts receivable for services		9,509	9,509	9,404	0	105
Other current assets	18,S	13,613	1,781	1,489	(11,832)	292
Total Current Assets		122,741	108,416	96,356	(14,325)	12,060
Non-Current Assets						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	19,T	766	0	5,820	(766)	(5,820)
Amounts receivable for services	U	121,258	121,258	111,050	0	10,208
Property, plant and equipment	20,V	3,650,924	3,096,794	3,678,182	(554,130)	(581,388)
Total Non-Current Assets		3,772,948	3,218,052	3,795,052	(554,896)	(577,000)
TOTAL ASSETS		3,895,689	3,326,468	3,891,408	(569,221)	(564,940)
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Payables	W	9,108	8,437	10,874	(671)	(2,437)
Provisions	21	31,734	26,069	26,486	(5,665)	(417)
Other current liabilities	22,X	8,662	7,423	5,439	(1,239)	1,984
Total Current Liabilities		49,504	41,929	42,799	(7,575)	(870)

Financial statements

	Variance Note	Estimate 2015	Actual 2015	Actual 2014	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2015 and 2014		Variance Note	Estimate 2015	Actual 2015	Actual 2014	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2015 and 2014
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Non-Current Liabilities													
Provisions		9,982	9,174	9,375	(808)	(201)	Supplies and services		(76,213)	(82,028)	(76,985)	(5,815)	(5,043)
Total Non-Current Liabilities		9,982	9,174	9,375	(808)	(201)	Accommodation	28,AD	(3,181)	(4,768)	(4,267)	(1,587)	(501)
TOTAL LIABILITIES		59,486	51,103	52,174	(8,383)	(1,071)	Grants and subsidies	29,AE	(900)	(15)	(940)	885	925
NET ASSETS		3,836,203	3,275,365	3,839,234	(560,838)	(563,869)	GST payments on purchases	30	(10,500)	(12,725)	(12,842)	(2,225)	117
EQUITY							GST payments to taxation authority	31,AF	0	(50)	(57)	(50)	7
Contributed Equity	23,Y	2,884,763	2,971,689	2,950,430	86,926	21,259	Other payments	32AG	(25,582)	(32,851)	(27,740)	(7,269)	(5,111)
Reserves	24,Z	853,446	285,714	876,359	(567,732)	(590,645)	Receipts						
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		97,994	17,962	12,445	(80,032)	5,517	User charges and fees	33,AH	31,811	36,100	43,437	4,289	(7,337)
TOTAL EQUITY		3,836,203	3,275,365	3,839,234	(560,838)	(563,869)	Commonwealth grants and contributions	34	3,600	1,495	1,620	(2,105)	(125)
Statement of Cash Flows (Controlled Operations)							Interest received	35	2,988	2,288	2,399	(700)	(111)
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT							GST receipts on sales		5,500	5,417	5,038	(83)	379
Service appropriation	25	179,778	200,224	193,451	20,446	6,773	GST receipts from taxation authority	36,AI	5,000	6,617	8,212	1,617	(1,595)
Capital appropriations	AA	704	704	5,614	0	(4,910)	Other receipts	37,AJ	45,359	39,650	44,865	(5,709)	(5,215)
Holding account drawdowns		9,404	9,404	8,987	0	417	Net cash (used) in operating activities		(180,795)	(199,101)	(176,969)	(18,306)	(22,132)
Cash and cash equivalents distributed to owner	26,AB	0	(707)	(26,289)	(707)	25,582	CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
Royalties for Regions Fund	27,AC	17,608	15,719	13,464	(1,889)	2,255	Payments						
Net cash provided by State Government		207,494	225,344	195,227	17,850	30,117	Purchase of non-current physical assets	AK	(24,229)	(25,127)	(46,496)	(898)	21,369
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES							Receipts						
Payments							Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets	38,AL	500	930	815	430	115
Employee benefits		(158,677)	(158,231)	(159,709)	446	1,478	Net cash provided by/(used) used in investing activities		(23,729)	(24,197)	(45,681)	(468)	21,484

Financial statements

	Variance Note	Estimate 2015	Actual 2015	Actual 2014	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2015 and 2014
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		2,970	2,046	(27,423)	(924)	29,469
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		78,653	78,770	106,193	117	(27,423)
			0	0		
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD		81,623	80,816	78,770	(807)	2,046

Major Estimate and Actual (2015) Variance Narratives for Controlled Operations

- Depreciation expense exceeded estimate by \$6.2 million (31.3%) due to an expansion in park recreation facilities built over recent years.
- Accommodation expenses exceeded estimates by \$1.6 million (49.4%) due to greater accommodation requirements in the West Kimberley District.
- Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by \$0.5 million (50.4%) due to recreation facilities transferred to the Shire of Ravensthorpe.
- Other expenses exceeded estimates by \$6.8 million (26.7%) due mainly to increased expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- User charges and fees exceeded estimates by \$13.8 million (43.3%) due mainly to the recovery of costs incurred on bushfire suppression.
- Commonwealth grants and contributions under estimates by \$2.3 million (64.6%) reflecting a trend over recent years of reduced grant funding from the Commonwealth.
- Other grants and contributions under estimates by \$7.6 million (27.2%) reflecting a reduction to the estimated receipts for environmental offsets.
- Interest revenue under estimates by \$0.9 million (30.3%) due to falling interest rates.
- Other revenue under estimates by \$6.3 million (36.6%) due to an over estimate of expected receipts, and this was addressed in the 2014-15 Mid-Year Review.
- Gains on disposal of non-current assets exceeded estimates by \$0.8 million due to asset sales revenue being included in the estimates on the basis that sales are achieved for the depreciated value, i.e. no gain/(loss).
- Service appropriation exceeded estimates by \$20.4 million (10.2%) due principally to funding provided for unbudgeted bushfire suppression expenditure and for severances paid under the Targeted Separation Scheme.
- Services received free of charge under estimates by \$0.5 million (31.6%) due to a reduction in services provided by Landgate.
- Assets not previously recognised exceeded estimates by \$1.1 million due to no estimate being made by the Department for this item because of its irregular occurrence.
- Royalties for Regions Fund under estimates by \$1.9 million (28.9%) due principally to a re-cash flow of the Marine Parks Management project budget to 2015-16 and forward estimates.
- Changes in asset revaluation surplus under estimates by \$590.6 million due to a write down of the Department's land values by the Valuer General.
- Cash and cash equivalents exceeded estimates by \$0.8 million (28.9%) mainly due to an increase in the cash balance for departmental commercial tourism accounts.
- Inventories under estimates by \$0.8 million (39.3%) mainly due to a decline in the level of Departmental publications held for distribution.
- Other current assets under estimates by \$11.8 million (86.9%) due to an overestimate of unearned revenue included in the 2014-15 Budget Statements.
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents, non-current, under estimates by \$0.8 million (100%) due to the transfer of the balance to restricted cash and cash equivalents, current, for the 27 salary pay fortnights due in 2015-16.
- Property, plant and equipment under estimates by \$554 million (15.2%) due to a revaluation of the Department's land values by the Valuer General.
- Provisions under estimates by \$5.7 million (17.9%) due to lower than estimated employee leave entitlements liabilities.
- Other current liabilities under estimates by \$1.2 million (14.3%) due to lower than estimated unearned revenue amounts.
- Contributed equity exceeded estimates by \$86.9 million (3%) due to an overstatement in the 2014-15 Budget Estimates, for comparative purposes, in relation to the former Department of Environment and Conservation.
- Reserves under estimates by \$567.7 million (66.5%) due to a write down in the Department's land values by the Valuer General.
- Service appropriation exceeded estimates by \$20.4 million (11.4%) due principally to funding provided for unbudgeted bushfire suppression activities and for severances paid under the Targeted Separation Scheme.
- Cash and cash equivalents distributed to the owner varied to the estimates by -\$0.7 million due principally to the transfer of the funding provision held by the Department for 27 salary pay fortnights due in 2015-16 being transferred to the Department of Environment Regulation.
- Royalties for Regions Fund under estimates by \$1.9 million (10.7%) due principally to a re-cash flow of the Marine Parks Management project budget to 2015-16 and forward estimates.
- Accommodation expenses exceeded estimates by \$1.6 million (49.9%) due to greater accommodation requirements in the West Kimberley District.
- Grants and subsidies payments under estimates by \$0.9 million (98.3%) due to a reclassification of payments as fee for service, formerly classified as grant expenditure.
- GST payments for purchases exceeded estimates by \$2.2 million (21.2%) due mainly to increased expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- GST payments to taxation authority exceeded estimates by \$0.05 million due to no budget provision normally being allocated for negligible line items.
- Other payments exceeded estimates by \$7.3 million (28.4%) due mainly to increased expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- User charges and fees exceeded estimates by \$4.3 million (13.5%) due to higher than anticipated revenue from recoupable services.
- Commonwealth grants and contributions under estimates by \$2.1 million (58.5%) reflecting a trend over recent years of reduced grant funding from the Commonwealth.
- Interest received under estimates by \$0.7 million (23.4%) due to falling interest rates.
- GST receipts from taxation authority exceeded estimates by \$1.6 million (32.3%) reflecting increased expenditures incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- Other receipts under estimates by \$5.7 million (12.6%) due to an overestimate of expected receipts from grants.
- Proceeds from sale of non-current assets exceeded estimates by \$0.4 million (86%) due to greater than anticipated sale of heavy fleet vehicles.

Financial statements

Major Actual (2015) and Comparative (2014) Variance Narratives for Controlled Operations

- E) Depreciation expense increased by \$2.7 million (11.7%) due to an expansion in park recreation facilities built.
- B) Accommodation expenses increased by \$0.5 million (12.3%) due to greater accommodation requirements in the West Kimberley District.
- C) Grants and subsidies increased by \$1 million (247.2%) due to recreation facilities being transferred to the Shire of Ravensthorpe.
- D) Loss on disposal of non-current assets was \$0.188 million in 2013-14 compared to a gain in 2014-15, refer to Note K.
- E) Other expenses increased by \$6 million (22.8%) due mainly to increased expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- F) User charges and fees increased by \$10.3 million (29.4%) due to the recovery of costs incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- G) Commonwealth grants and contributions decreased by \$0.2 million (13.7%) reflecting a trend over recent years of reduced grant funding from the Commonwealth.
- H) Other grants and contributions decreased by \$15.9 million (43.7%) due mainly to significant one-off funding provided in 2013-14 by Main Roads WA for conservation land purchase.
- I) Interest revenue decreased by \$0.3 million (13.6%) due to falling interest rates.
- J) Other revenue increased by \$1 million (10.9%) mainly due to an increase in beach shack lease revenue.
- K) Gains on disposal of non-current assets was \$0.765 million in 2014-15 compared to a loss in 2013-14, refer to Note D.
- L) Services received free of charge decreased by \$0.6 million (36.9%) due to a reduction in services provided by Landgate.
- M) Assets not previously recognised increased by \$0.5 million (93.7%) due mainly to the recognition of buildings located in the Goldfields Region.
- N) *Royalties for Regions* Fund increased by \$2.7 million (126.7%) due to funding received for marine park projects.
- O) Changes in asset revaluation surplus reduced by \$613.6 million due to a write down of the Department's land values by the Valuer General.
- P) Cash and cash equivalents increased by \$0.3 million (10.2%) mainly due to an increase in the cash balance for departmental commercial tourism accounts.
- Q) Restricted cash and cash equivalents, current, increased by \$7.5 million (10.8%) mainly due to the movement from restricted cash and cash equivalents, non-current, and is for the provision to meet the additional cost of 27 pay fortnights occurring in 2015-16, refer to Note T.
- R) Receivables increased by \$3.9 million (34.6%) mainly due to unpaid invoices relating to bushfire suppression activities.
- S) Other current assets increased by \$0.3 million (19.6%) due to an increase in prepayments.
- T) Restricted cash and cash equivalents, non-current, decreased by \$5.8 million (100%) for the movement to restricted cash and cash equivalents, current, and is for the provision to meet the additional cost of 27 pay fortnights occurring in 2015-16, refer to Note Q.
- U) Amounts receivable for services increased by \$10.2 million (9.2%) in accord with the estimates.
- V) Property, plant and equipment decreased by \$581 million (15.8%) due to a revaluation of the Department's land values by the Valuer General.
- W) Payables decreased by \$2.4 million (22.4%) mainly due to the timing of trade payables being processed.
- X) Other current liabilities increased by \$2 million (36.5%) mainly due to the unearned revenue provision for mining compensation being increased.
- Y) Contributed equity increased by \$21.3 million (0.7%) mainly due to capital appropriations of \$11.6 million and the transfer of land from the West Australian Planning Commission of \$8.9 million.
- Z) Reserves decreased by \$590.6 million (67.4%) due to a write down in the Department's land values by the Valuer General.
- AA) Capital appropriations decreased by \$4.9 million (87.5%) largely due to a one-off budget allocation of \$3 million in 2013-14 for retrofitting heavy fleet vehicles for fire safety and application of the Asset Investment Program Efficiency Measure in 2014-15, a budget reduction of \$1.3 million.
- AB) Cash and cash equivalents distributed to owner were \$25.6 million (97.3%) less in 2014-15 due to the transfer of cash balances in 2013-14 to the newly established Department of Environment Regulation.
- AC) *Royalties for Regions* Fund increased by \$2.3 million (16.7%) due principally to funding received in 2014-15 for the Marine Parks Management project.
- AD) Accommodation expenses increased by \$0.5 million (11.7%) due to greater accommodation requirements in the West Kimberley District.
- AE) Grants and subsidies decreased by \$0.9 million (98.4%) due largely to a reclassification of payments as fee for service, formerly classified as grant expenditure.
- AF) GST payments to taxation authority decreased by \$0.007 million (12.3%) due to lower expenditure levels.
- AG) Other payments increased by \$5.1 million (18.4%) due mainly to increased expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- AH) User charges and fees decreased by \$7.3 million (16.9%) mainly due to movements in accounts receivable for debtors.
- AI) GST receipts from taxation authority decreased by \$1.6 million (19.4%) due to reduced expenditure on goods and services occurring in 2014-15.
- AJ) Other receipts reduced by \$5.2 million (11.6%) due mainly to significant one-off funding provided in 2013-14 by Main Roads WA for conservation land purchase.
- AK) Purchase of non-current assets decreased by \$21.4 million (46%) due to significant expenditure incurred during 2013-14 on conservation land purchase and for the *Royalties for Regions* project Conservation Parks Infrastructure and Roads.
- AL) Proceeds from sale of non-current assets increased by \$0.1 million (14.1%) due to the sale of heavy fleet vehicles.

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.

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'.

Financial statements

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.

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000

(b) Categories of financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

Financial Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	3,575	3,244
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	77,241	75,526
Loans and receivables ^(a)	143,977	130,518

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	8,437	10,874
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(a) The amount of loans and receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

Financial statements

(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.

Aged analysis of financial assets

	Carrying Amount \$'000	Not past due and not impaired \$'000	Up to 1 month \$'000	Past due but not impaired				Impaired financial assets \$'000
				1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000	
2015								
Cash and cash equivalents	3,575	3,575	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	77,241	77,241	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables ^(a)	13,210	11,553	244	551	410	447	0	5 ^(b)
Amounts receivable for services	130,767	130,767	0	0	0	0	0	0
	224,793	223,136	244	551	410	447	0	5
2014								
Cash and cash equivalents	3,244	3,244	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	75,526	75,526	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables ^(a)	10,064	6,153	893	865	951	1,202	0	0
Amounts receivable for services	120,454	120,454	0	0	0	0	0	0
	209,288	205,377	893	865	951	1,202	0	0

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

(b) It is expected that of the staff advances that are 61+ days overdue that only \$5,207.83 of the amount owing will be recovered. The carrying amount of the receivable before deducting the impairment loss was \$10,415.66

Financial statements

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 Effective Interest Rate %	Interest rate exposure				Maturity dates					
		Carrying Amount \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Variable interest rate \$'000	Non- interest bearing \$'000	Nominal Amount \$'000	Up to 1 month \$'000	1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2015											
<i>Financial Assets</i>											
Cash and cash equivalents	2.70	3,575	0	3,575	0	3,575	3,575	0	0	0	
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.70	77,241	0	71,528	5,713	77,241	77,241	0	0	0	
Receivables ^(a)		13,210	0	0	13,210	13,210	13,210	0	0	0	
Amounts receivable for services		130,767	0	0	130,767	130,767	0	9,509	35,177	86,081	
		224,793	0	75,103	149,690	224,793	94,026	0	9,509	35,177	86,081
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>											
Payables		8,437	0	0	8,437	8,437	8,437	0	0	0	
		8,437	0	0	8,437	8,437	8,437	0	0	0	

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

Financial statements

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

	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Interest rate exposure				Maturity dates					
		Carrying Amount \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Variable interest rate \$'000	Non- interest bearing \$'000	Nominal Amount \$'000	Up to 1 month \$'000	1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	More than 5 years \$'000
2014											
<i>Financial Assets</i>											
Cash and cash equivalents	2.81	3,244	0	3,244	0	3,244	3,244	0	0	0	
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.81	75,526	0	75,526	0	75,526	75,526	0	0	0	
Receivables ^(a)		10,064	0	0	10,064	10,064	0	0	0	0	
Amounts receivable for services		120,454	0	0	120,454	0	1,200	8,204	47,545	63,505	
		209,288	0	78,770	130,518	209,288	88,834	1,200	8,204	47,545	63,505
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>											
Payables		10,874	0	0	10,874	10,874	0	0	0	0	
		10,874	0	0	10,874	10,874	0	0	0	0	

(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
2015					
<i>Financial Assets</i>					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,575	(36)	(36)	36	36
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	77,241	(772)	(772)	772	772
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(808)	(808)	808	808

	Carrying amount \$000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$000	Equity \$000	Surplus \$000	Equity \$000
2014					
<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
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(787)	(787)	787	787

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:

Remuneration Band (\$)	2015	2014
160,001 – 170,000	0	1
170,001 – 180,000	1	1
180,001 – 190,000	1	1
190,001 – 200,000	0	1
200,001 – 210,000	2	0
210,001 – 220,000	2	1
220,001 – 230,000	0	1
230,001 – 240,000	0	1
250,001 – 260,000	1	0
360,001 – 370,000	0	1
430,001 – 440,000	1	0

	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Base remuneration and superannuation	1,518	1,472
Annual leave and long service leave accruals	116	58
Adjustment for accruals	(4)	6
Other benefits	245	236
Total remuneration of senior officers	1,875	1,772

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

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, controls, financial statements and key performance indicators	183	186
	183	186

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	740	1,017
Marine Parks and Reserves Authority	103	198
	843	1,215

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	127	357
Receipts	48	115
Payments	(1)	(345)
Balance at end of period	174	127

Financial statements

	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000

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	9,038	10,688
Receipts	2,546	2,511
Payments	(3,782)	(4,161)
Balance at end of period	7,802	9,038

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 \$24,294.82 was written off as bad debts and \$30,387.39 of the Department's asset and public property register under the authority of:

The Accountable Authority	55	40
The Minister	0	0
Executive Council	0	0
	<u>55</u>	<u>40</u>

Of the \$54,682.21 approved for write off during the year \$30,387.39 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.	30	16
Amounts recovered	0	0
	<u>30</u>	<u>16</u>

Financial statements

42. Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service

	Parks Management		Wildlife Management		Forest Management		Total	
	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES								
<i>Income</i>								
Regulatory fees and charges	0	0	37	31	0	0	37	31
Other revenue	0	0	41	42	0	0	41	42
Total administered income	0	0	78	73	0	0	78	73
<i>Expenses</i>								
Transfer payments ^(a)	0	0	78	73	0	0	78	73
Total administered income	0	0	78	73	0	0	78	73

^(a)Transfer payments represent the transfer of non-retainable regulatory fees to the Consolidated Account.

Financial statements

43. Explanatory Statement for Administered Items

	Variance Note \$000	Estimate 2015 \$000	Actual 2015 \$000	Actual 2014 \$000	Variance between estimate and actual \$000	Variance between actual results for 2015 and 2014 \$000
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS INCOME						
For transfer:						
Regulatory fees and charges	1,A	30	37	31	7	6
Other Revenue	2	60	41	42	(19)	(1)
Total Administered Income		90	78	73	(12)	5
EXPENSES						
Transfer payments	3	90	78	73	(12)	5
Total Administered Expenses		90	78	73	(12)	5
NET INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS		90	78	73	(12)	5

Financial statements

Major Estimate and Actual Variance Narratives for Administered Items

- 1) Regulatory fees and other charges exceeded estimates by \$0.007 million (23.3%) due to increased enforcement activity.
- 2) Other revenue was under estimates by \$0.019 million (31.7%) due to fewer kangaroo shooter royalty tags being issued than was estimated.
- 3) Transfer payments were under estimates by \$0.012 million (13.3%) and reflect payments to the Consolidated Account of income items mentioned in Variance Notes 1) and 2) above.

Major Actual (2015) and Comparative (2014) Variance Narratives for Administered Items

- A) Regulatory fees and other charges exceeded estimates by \$0.006 million (19.4%) due to increased enforcement activity.

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 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Sharp', written in a cursive style.

Jim Sharp

Accountable Authority

8 September 2015

Key performance indicators

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	<p>1. Parks Management</p> <p>Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Average level of visitor satisfaction with their visit</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 1.1 Average cost per hectare of managing parks</p>
	Conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity	<p>2. Wildlife Management</p> <p>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</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 2.1 Average cost per hectare of managing wildlife habitat</p>
		<p>3. Forest Management</p> <p>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</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 3.1 Average cost per hectare of managing forest</p>

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 prior to 1 July 2013 relate to the former Department of Environment and Conservation.

Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators

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

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.

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Target	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%	85.0%
Actual	88.8%	88.0%	89.1%	87.9%

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 (1,100 in 2014–15; confidence level 95%; margin of error 2.95%) 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 (1,053 conducted) are administered via a structured interview via department staff and volunteers. 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. Park wide surveys are collected either in paper form or online and are self-completed, voluntary and anonymous. 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 (47 conducted) and included in the overall statewide KPI for satisfaction. Tests of significance are conducted where appropriate 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 2014–15 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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Target	739	750	763	772
Actual	739	754	763	772

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. One fauna species, a freshwater mussel, and eight species of flora were listed as threatened (extant), and one species of flora as presumed extinct. One flora species was 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.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Target	0	1	0	1
Actual	4	3	2	1

Note to indicator: One species of flora was de-listed during the year following the outcome of field surveys identifying the species as more common and secure than previously thought. 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 International Union for Conservation of Nature, 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 is set at a low level.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Target	3	1	3	2
Actual	2	9	3	2

Note to indicator: Two listed species had a decline in conservation status during the year. These were one species of flora (a banksia) that is subject to a number of threatening processes, and the western ringtail possum which has continued to decline due to habitat loss and predation by dogs and 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 were nine changes identified in 2012-13 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.

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Target	70.0%	68.0%	69.0%	68.0%
Actual	69.0%	69.3%	69.4%	68.9%

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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Target	20.4%	20.4%	22.2%	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

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Target	63.2%	57.9%	53.0%	53.0%
Actual	47.4%	52.6%	53.0%	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	2014–15
Target	1,310,000m ³	132,000m ³
Actual	1,157,348m ³	71,195m ³

Note to indicator: The 2013-14 Actual is the cumulative removal of first and second grade jarrah sawlogs over the 10 year period of the 2004-2013 Forest Management Plan. The 2014-15 Budget is 10 per cent of the cumulative 10 year limit in the 2014-2023 Forest Management Plan. The 2014-15 Actual removals of first and second grade jarrah sawlogs are lower than the pro-rata limit reflecting market conditions. Removal of first and second grade jarrah sawlogs under the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* is reconciled on a calendar year basis. Minor adjustments (if required) for variations in product specifications will be applied in the reporting for the mid-term performance review of the Forest Management Plan. The actual cumulative total 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

	2013–14	2014–15
Target	540,000m ³	59,000m ³
Actual	539,540m ³	40,580m ³

Note to indicator: The 2013-14 Actual is the cumulative removal of first and second grade karri sawlogs over the 10 year period of the 2004-2013 Forest Management Plan. The 2014-15 Budget is 10 per cent of the cumulative 10 year limit in the 2014-2023 Forest Management Plan. The 2014-15 Actual removals of first and second grade karri sawlogs are lower than the pro-rata limit reflecting market conditions. Removal of first and second grade karri sawlogs under the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* is reconciled on a calendar year basis. Minor adjustments (if required) for variations in product specifications will be applied in the reporting for the mid-term performance review of the Forest Management Plan. The actual cumulative total is obtained from the Logging Operations Information System (LOIS), a computer database which tracks log products removed from harvest coupes.

Key efficiency indicators

Key Efficiency Indicators

Service 1: Parks Management

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.

	2013–14	2014–15
Target	\$3.34	\$3.29
Actual	\$3.43	\$4.09

Note to indicator: The increase in this indicator was above target due principally to additional expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression operations than was originally estimated.

Service 2: Wildlife Management

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.

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Target	\$5.25	\$5.42	\$4.94	\$4.81
Actual	\$4.45	\$4.72	\$4.71	\$4.31

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, however, a reduction in the employee benefits expense of the service contributed in a reduction in the efficiency indicator.

Service 3: Forest Management

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.

	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15
Target	\$38.55	\$40.64	\$41.10	\$40.93
Actual	\$41.26	\$43.02	\$45.02	\$48.50

Note to indicator: The increase in this indicator was above target due principally to 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 \$24.229 million for 2014–15 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 2014–15

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	2015-16	1822	20,000
<i>Kimberley Science and conservation strategy</i> tourism initiatives	2016-17	1242	3115
Caravan and Camping (<i>Parks for People</i>)	2016-17	14,070	21,050
Great Kimberley Marine Park	2016-17	1490	2740
New Kimberley National Park	2016-17	1030	1030
RECURRING CAPITAL PROGRAMS	Expected year of completion	2014–15 expenditure \$'000	
Conservation land acquisition	Ongoing	1776	
Firefighting fleet and equipment	Ongoing	7109	
Plant and equipment purchase and replacement	Ongoing	4884	
Tourism road improvements	Ongoing	929	
Park improvement program	Ongoing	2788	

Employment and industrial relations

Staff profile

	2014–15	2013–14
Full-time permanent	1054	1090
Full-time contract	278	272
Part-time measured on a FTE basis	147	204
On secondment	2	5
Total	1481	1570

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 2014–15 was to negotiate the replacement of the three agency-specific fire agreements and the AWU (Western Australian Public Sector) General Agreement. Work has also commenced for the renegotiation of the Rangers General Agreement with the United Voice.

Staff development

Nationally recognised training

During 2014–15, the Department of Parks and Wildlife's Registered Training Organisation (National ID 0397) received 541 enrolments for nationally recognised qualifications, accredited courses and/or units of competency and issued 27 Certificates of Qualification and 393 Statements of Attainment. These enrolments and completions resulted from learning and development programs offered by the Department and attended by personnel employed by the Department or agencies that form part of its bureau service.

Corporate training

The department received 1308 enrolments for corporate training programs delivered in 2014–15.

Leadership Management Framework

Parks and Wildlife in 2014–15 ran *Aspiring Leaders*, a program targeted at middle management, in particular those working at PSA levels 5 and 6 (or equivalent) and who aspire to increased management responsibility. Nineteen participants graduated from the program.

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 2014–15, the Department's workers' compensation contribution was \$1,594,216 compared with \$1,124,229 for the previous year. The number of lost time injuries in 2014–15 was 41 (up from 30 in 2013–14), with 49 medical treatment injuries (down from 57 in 2013–14).

Governance disclosures

Enabling legislation

On 1 July 2013 the Department of Parks and Wildlife was established under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

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
Shark Bay World Heritage Committee				
Member	Diana Walker	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$1251
Member	Robert Morgan	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$834
Member	Therese Morris	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$834
Member	Susan Graham-Taylor	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$1251
Member	Andrew Hill	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$1911
Conservation Commission of Western Australia				
Chair	Brian Easton	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$30,520
Deputy chair	William Mitchell	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$11,395.15
Member	Brian Middleton	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$6520
Member	Wade De Campo	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$6520
Member	Regina Flugge	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$6520
Member	Ross Dowling	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$6520
Marine Parks and Reserves Authority				
Member	Kellie Pendoley	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$9205.61
Member	Ida Holt	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$9205.61
Member	John Colero	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$8465.61
Member	Diana Walker	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$9205.61
Member	Christopher Doepel	Sessional	01.07.14 to 30.06.15	\$14,295.61
Total				\$124,454.00

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 2014–15 was: \$120,334.23

Expenditure was incurred in the following areas:

Advertising agencies \$43,642.52

Adcorp Australia Limited	\$43,642.52
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Direct mail organisations Nil

Market research organisations Nil

Polling organisations Nil

Media advertising organisations

\$76,691.71

Airport Publications	\$935.00	Experience Perth	\$975.00
Albany and Great Southern Weekender	\$1738.00	Facebook	\$329.23
Albany Advertiser Pty Ltd	\$1000.01	Impact Publications	\$82.50
Albany Chamber of Commerce Industry Inc	\$90.25	Kalamunda Directory	\$250.00
Andimaps	\$846.00	Lasso Kit Pty Ltd	\$440.00
Artha Publishing	\$45.00	Lizart Productions	\$790.00
Augusta Margaret River Tourism Association	\$1500.00	Marsh Advertising Agencies	\$297.00
Aussie Drawcards Pty Ltd	\$350.00	Michael Hemmings Photography	\$1800.00
Australia's South West Inc	\$3085.00	Penguin Island Cruises Pty Ltd	\$10,519.89
Café Capers WA	\$1320.00	RACQ Operations Pty Ltd	\$800.00
Carat Australia Media Services Pty Ltd	\$1096.91	Scoop Publishing	\$990.00
Citizen Factoring	\$1575.00	Shire of Mundaring	\$314.29
City of Albany	\$7521.84	State Law Publisher	\$6291.46
Community Newspaper	\$1065.61	The Western Australian Newspaper	\$9392.48
Cooks Tours Pty Ltd	\$1870.00	Thomson Reuters (Professional) Aust Ltd	\$220.00
Denmark Bulletin	\$1290.00	Times Publications	\$1210.00
Denmark Chamber of Commerce	\$1595.00	Walpole Community Resource Centre	\$1873.50
Denmark Tourism Inc	\$708.00	Walsh Media	\$3520.00
Denmark Visitor Centre	\$2085.00	Wanneroo Business	\$279.99
Executive Media Pty Ltd	\$5585.00	West-Oz Web Services	\$1014.75

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, 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. This includes a process for lodging complaints and public consultations held in an accessible manner.

Under the Department's *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2012–17* (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, 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 2014–15, there were a number of noteworthy works in progress or completed by the Department to improve access to visitor facilities:

- The construction of wheelchair-accessible paths and lookouts is underway at The Gap and Natural Bridge in Torndirrup National Park, with The Gap lookout giving an incredible view of the ocean from above.
- A new accessible toilet at Hidden Valley in Mirima National Park near Kununurra has been installed. This complements the accessible boardwalk and plant trail developed in recent years.
- Completed projects under *Parks for People* include new and redeveloped campgrounds Logue Brook, Gnaala Mia, Conto, Osprey Bay, Nanga Brook, and Miners. All of these were opened in 2014–15 and include accessible camp sites, toilets and camp shelters.
- Construction of partly-accessible campgrounds is underway at the proposed Credo Conservation Park and Potters Gorge.
- Design and planning is continuing at Shannon, Lucky Bay, Boranup and Miliyanha campgrounds and Baden Powell day-use area, which all include designated accessible camp sites and facilities such as toilets, camp shelters and trails.
- Construction of the Wendy Bearfoot Memorial is underway at a lookout in Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve to celebrate her life. Access to the lookout is also being improved.
- A car park and interpretation area at Castle Rock in Porongurup National Park was completed, including access to interpretation, picnic facilities and toilets.
- Planning is ongoing for improved visitor access at Cape Naturaliste lighthouse in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. Plans include improving access around the site and linking to the *Access for More* section of the Cape to Cape Track. Work is being completed in partnership with the Geographe Bay Tourism Association.
- Development of the *Golden Valley Tree Park master plan* is underway with the local Balingup community group to improve access and functionality of recreation spaces and infrastructure.
- Planning began at Redgate Beach, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, for improved access to the toilets and coastal viewing points next to the car park.
- Plans have been drawn up to extend an accessible path at Serpentine Falls in Serpentine National Park.
- In conjunction with the Shire of Denmark, construction is underway for the upgrade of the Walpole town jetty and parking area. Plans include accessible parking and access to viewing areas, decks and picnic areas.
- In collaboration with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, planning is underway for improved access at Deep Gorge in Murujuga National Park.
- The Department is helping lessees improve or provide for access for people with disability within their lease areas at Wharncliffe Mill, Wellington Forest Cottages and the Western Australian Rifle Association's proposed development in Pinjar.

Other legal requirements

Additional key initiatives and achievements from the DAIP include:

- reviewing the accessibility of the Department's recreation sites in the Pilbara, South Coast and Midwest regions, with plans underway to make access information available on the Department's Explore Parks website for all recreation sites
- 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
- engaging a training provider to deliver access and inclusion training to frontline staff in Walpole and Denmark as part of broader customer service training
- establishing an annual event on the International Day of People with Disability to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and contributions that people with disability make to the Department.

Compliance statements

Public Sector Commission reporting under s31 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* for 2014–15.

Compliance issue	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
<p>Public sector standards</p> <p>Three breach claims were lodged in 2014–15. All breach claims were against the <i>Employment Standard</i>.</p> <p>Two of the claims were resolved internally and were subsequently withdrawn. The third claim was referred to the Public Sector Commission, however, no breach of standard was found.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Human Resources Awareness</i> Raising refresher sessions have continued.</p> <p>Policies and guidelines relevant to the Standards have been reviewed and updated and are available on the People Services Branch intranet site.</p>
<p>Code of Ethics</p> <p>There were no reports of non-compliance with the WA Code of Ethics.</p>	<p>The <i>Code of Ethics</i> is contained within Park and Wildlife's <i>Code of Conduct</i>. The <i>Code of Conduct</i> was revised and released in May 2015 and includes more information on employee responsibilities involving information security and confidentiality.</p>
<p>Department's Code of Conduct</p> <p>Eight allegations of breaches of the <i>Code of Conduct</i> were raised in 2014–15.</p> <p>Five of the allegations raised in 2014–15 were finalised in 2014–15.</p> <p>Three alleged breaches have been carried over to 2015–16.</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>

Other legal requirements

Recordkeeping plans

The Department's compliance with the *State Records Act 2000* is supported by the Corporate Information Services (CIS) Branch in the Corporate Services Division.

Management of corporate documents and information is specified in the Department's recordkeeping plan and mandatory records and document training for employees is part of the induction process. Additional training is available to employees upon request to CIS and is tailored to meet business unit needs.

Recordkeeping roles and responsibilities are also included in the Department's *Code of Conduct* and ethical and accountable decision-making training.

CIS regularly reviews recordkeeping policy and operational documents such as the Department's recordkeeping manual. The electronic document and records management system, *InfOBase*, is deployed to all staff.

Government policy requirements

Substantive equality

The Department implements the 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 contain a statement of policies or proposed guidelines to be followed and a summary of the operations proposed to be undertaken in the area. Management plans are developed with input from public and stakeholder meetings, formal advisory committees and community advisory committees, newsletters and broad public invitations to comment on draft plans.

The Department actively involves Aboriginal groups in jointly managing conservation lands and waters in order to protect the value of these areas to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people. In 2014–15, Parks and Wildlife:

- conducted information sessions with Aboriginal people throughout the south-west, with the aim of building relationships and understanding of positive changes to the CALM Act in relation to Aboriginal customary activities

- progressed negotiations with traditional owners in the Kimberley to create jointly managed marine and terrestrial reserves
- strengthened partnerships with Aboriginal stakeholders through employment and training opportunities, including joint management programs run for Wiluna Martu, Goldfields Land and Sea Council and Spinifex rangers
- progressed native title negotiations including the preparation and implementation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in accordance with Government priorities
- consulted with Aboriginal organisations and people including park councils
- continued to deliver cultural awareness training to staff as part of the Department's *Reconciliation Action Plan and Aboriginal Employment Strategy*
- rolled out new signage across the State acknowledging the traditional owners of the land upon which Departmental buildings stand.

The Department further ensures that:

- cross-cultural training is 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.

Government policy requirements

Workplace health, safety and injury management

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

The Department's health and safety policy requires managers to demonstrate, maintain, monitor and review health and safety in the workplace and places a responsibility on employees to achieve 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 health and safety committees, safety and health representatives, directors, managers, supervisors and all employees are responsible for ensuring that Parks and Wildlife occupational safety and health policies, programs and procedures are followed.

Consultation with employees

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

The Department's health and safety policy and guidelines guide the consultation process, which is facilitated by the Department's well-established network of management-appointed 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, safety and health representatives, managers, supervisors and the Employee Relations and Safety Section.

Ensuring a best practice approach towards workplace health and safety is an ongoing process. Safety and health committees meet quarterly and minutes are sent to the Regional and Fire Management Services Director and the Employee Relations and Safety Section.

A new workplace health and safety induction was rolled out to all current and new employees during 2014–15, including the introduction of mandatory manual handling training.

A new alcohol and drug policy has also been introduced to reflect the need for staff to be impairment-free.

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 health and safety practices and well-being initiatives, the Department's injury management system strives for an early return to work for employees as medically appropriate.

It is acknowledged that an effective injury management system benefits the employee through comprehensive assistance in times of injury. An effective process has been established through local management of the 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 health and safety management system

Following an external audit of the Department's health and safety 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 aimed 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. The plan rates existing health and safety management systems and directs attention to areas for 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.

Government policy requirements

Other initiatives in work health and safety

The Department continued to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining physical fitness and positive mental health through programs designed to encourage and assist 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 full-time 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.

Health and safety performance indicators

Measure	Actual results		Results against target	
	2012–13	2014–15	Target	Target achieved
Number of fatalities	1	0	0	Yes
Lost time injury and/or disease incident rate	1.88	2.86	0 or 10% reduction	No
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate	13.51	5	0 or 10% reduction	Yes
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:			Greater than or equal to 80%	
i) within 13 weeks	89%	87.5%		Yes
ii) within 26 weeks	97%	87.5%		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.



Department of
Parks and Wildlife

