

An aerial photograph of a river flowing through a deep canyon. The river is a vibrant blue-green color, and a small waterfall is visible where it flows over a rocky ledge. The canyon walls are covered in dense, green vegetation. In the background, the river continues to flow through a valley with rolling hills and more greenery under a clear sky.

Department of Parks and Wildlife
2016–17 Annual Report



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (formerly the Department of Parks and Wildlife).

Photo credits listed as 'DBCA' throughout this report refer to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

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

Front cover: An aerial view of Horizontal Falls Marine Park.

Photo – Jim Sharp

Back cover: Karijini National Park.

Photo – Rick Dawson/DBCA



Thelymitra campanulata. Photo – Mark Brundrett/DBCA

Contents

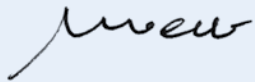
Letter to the Minister	2	Supporting our department	62	Governance disclosures	122
Foreword	3	Public Information and Corporate Affairs	62	Unauthorised use of credit cards	122
Overview of agency	4	Legal matters	64	Contracts with senior officers	122
Executive summary	5	Office for Information Management	64	Board and committee remuneration	123
Operational structure	7	Visitor risk management	64	Other legal requirements	130
About the department	7	Marine operations	65	2017-18 annual estimates	130
Enabling legislation	7	Corporate Services Division	66	Advertising (<i>Electoral Act 1907</i> , s175ZE)	132
Responsible Minister	7	Significant issues and trends	71	Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes	133
Legislation administered by the department at 30 June 2017	7	Disclosures and legal compliance	73	Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes	134
Proposed changes to legislation administered	8	Certification	73	Recordkeeping plans	134
Notices, appointments, orders and approvals	8	Auditor General's opinion	74	Government policy requirements	135
Performance management framework	11	Financial statements	79	Government building training policy	135
Agency performance	12	Certification	113	Substantive equality	135
Report on operations	13	Key performance indicators	114	Workplace health and safety	136
Service 1: Provision of Parks and Visitor Services	13	Key efficiency indicators	115		
Service 2: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	23	Ministerial directives	119		
Service 3: Conservation Partnerships	32	Other financial disclosures	120		
Service 4: Forest Management Plan Implementation	39	Pricing policies	120		
Service 5: Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry	42	Capital works: incomplete and completed	120		
Service 6: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	44	Employment and industrial relations	121		
Service 7: Bushfire Suppression	48				
Service 8: Protection of the Swan Canning River System	53				

Letter to the Minister

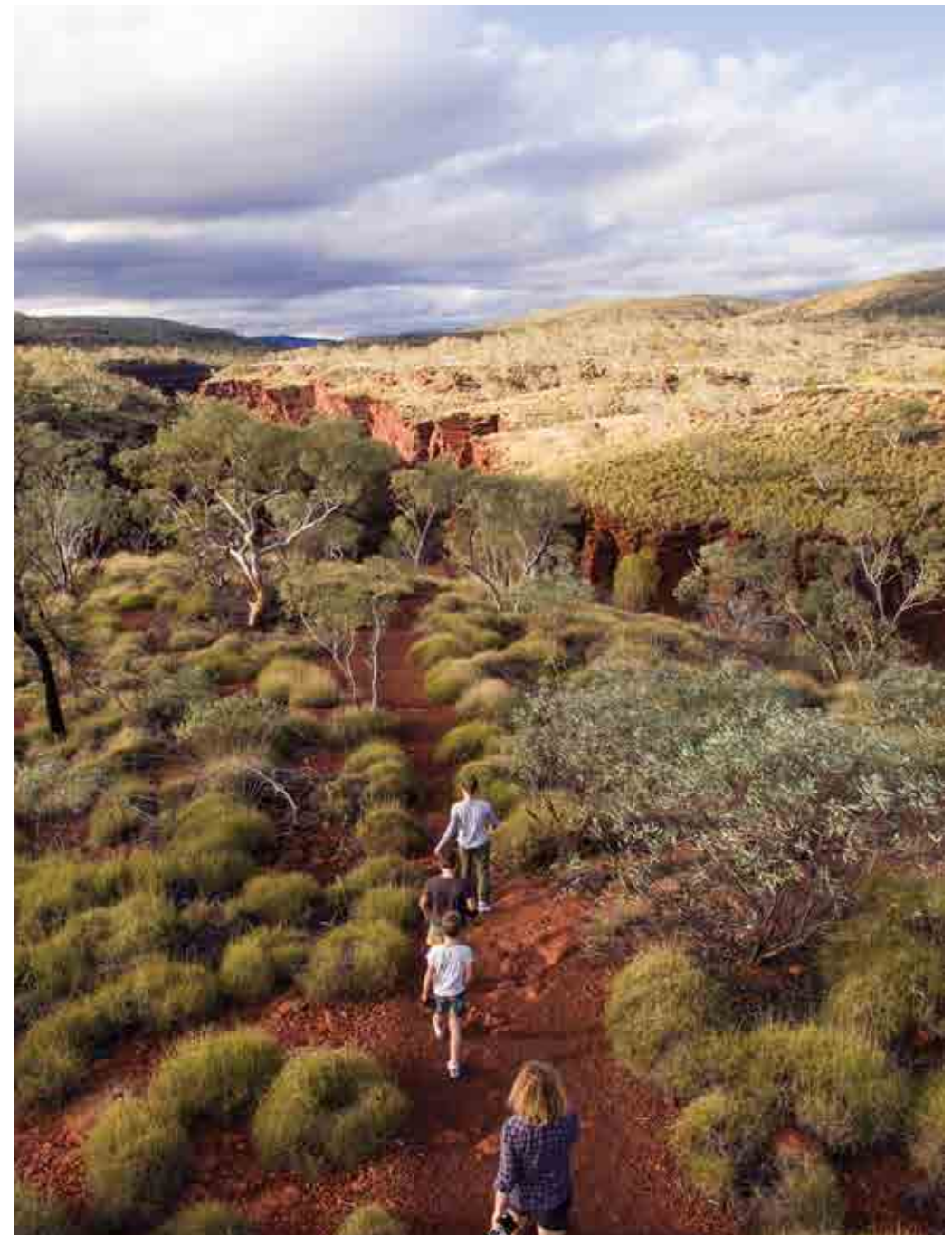
Hon Stephen Dawson MLC
Minister for Environment

In accordance with section 63 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I have pleasure in submitting for presentation to Parliament the Annual Report of the Department of Parks and Wildlife for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

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



Mark Webb
Director General
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Karijini National Park. Photo – Tourism WA

Foreword

It has been a year of outstanding conservation achievements for Parks and Wildlife in 2016–17, highlighted by the unprecedented expansion of the State's marine parks network.

The lookout at The Gap, Torndirrup National Park. Photo – Lynne Whittle/DBCA

In this period we have increased protection for the precious Kimberley wilderness, adding more than two million hectares of marine reserves through the creation of four Kimberley marine parks – Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay, Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls, North Lalang-garram and North Kimberley – nearly doubling the size of the State's marine reserve system to more than 4.6 million hectares.

For the first time in a single year, there were 20 million-plus visits to WA national parks and reserves, emphasising the importance of the department's goal of connecting people to the State's natural areas and its commitment to improve park facilities, including campgrounds at key locations like spectacular Lucky Bay at Cape Le Grand National Park. The 62 new camp sites are among more than 520 created since the agency was established in 2013.

The signing of six Indigenous Land Use Agreements has enabled the establishment of joint management arrangements, and ensures Kimberley traditional owners are actively engaged in the management of their

country and at the forefront of tourism and employment opportunities.

Enhanced park infrastructure and attractions such as The Gap and Natural Bridge development in Albany are boosting regional economies. In the Midwest, sealing of the last 22km of the Kalbarri National Park access road has been carried out, prior to the construction of two spectacular skywalks more than 100m above the Murchison River.

A successful trial swimming with humpback whales at Ningaloo in 2016 has enhanced nature-based tourism in the World Heritage-listed marine park, with significantly increased numbers of whale shark tour passengers also recorded.

In September, Western Australia gained modern, more effective environmental legislation following the enacting of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, a major milestone for the department and its conservation efforts.

Building and strengthening partnerships has been a key achievement in 2016–17, from the development of a new Pilbara Conservation Strategy aimed at improving conservation outcomes in collaboration with regional stakeholders, to the wildlife recovery work carried out by the award-winning *Western Shield* program.

As in previous years, the department received outstanding support from the community. Thousands of volunteers lent a hand for projects as diverse as dolphin monitoring on the Swan and Canning rivers, to answering the Wildcare Helpline, and acting as Campground Hosts welcoming visitors to parks.

Staff working on bushfire suppression and prescribed burning continued to diligently and professionally serve their communities – something that is only possible with the support and understanding of their families.



Yawuru ranger Preston Manado with Yawuru cultural monitor Wayne Edgar in Yawuru - Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park. Photo – Jennifer Eliot/DBCA

This annual report is the final one delivered by Parks and Wildlife, which on 1 July 2017 will become part of the State Government's newly-created Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

It gives me great pride to have contributed to the department's considerable achievements alongside staff, volunteers and stakeholders, as we built upon the significant body of work developed by Parks and Wildlife and its predecessor agencies over the past five decades.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Sharp".

Jim Sharp
Director General
Department of Parks and Wildlife

30 June 2017

Overview of agency



Geikie Gorge National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

Executive summary

The Department of Parks and Wildlife continues to work with the community and partners to ensure the natural assets of Western Australia are conserved and valued.

Major achievements in 2016–17 included history-making new biodiversity conservation legislation passing through Parliament, a two million-hectare expansion of Western Australia's marine reserve system with the creation of four new Kimberley marine parks, six Indigenous Land Use Agreements signed with Kimberley traditional owner groups and a record prescribed burning outcome.

Wildlife

Western Australia has gained contemporary environment laws which meet modern expectations for environmental protection, following the enacting of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. When fully proclaimed, the Act will replace the outdated *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929* and provide legislation which focuses on encouraging biodiversity conservation, while removing unnecessary regulatory barriers.

A Pilbara Conservation Strategy was released, outlining a landscape-scale approach to conservation across the Pilbara bioregion and identifying opportunities for partnerships to mitigate the impacts of bushfires, weeds and feral animals across tenure boundaries to protect conservation values.

A new 1000-hectare, predator-proof enclosure was constructed in the proposed Dryandra Woodland National Park to help protect numbats, woylies and other endangered species.

The department's commitment to developing and maintaining strong partnerships with research institutions such as the Western Australian Marine Science Institution and Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institution, along with industry, community and other organisations continued.

Conservation of threatened species was a focus, including the translocation of a second cohort of black-flanked rock wallabies into Kalbarri National Park, with support from WWF-Australia, boosting a small-but-growing population of the marsupials. (See case study on page 38.)

The *Western Shield Plan 2017–2026* was finalised, shaping the direction of the wildlife recovery program over the next decade by defining the program's mission, objectives and key strategies to protect and recover native wildlife susceptible to predation by foxes and feral cats. Approximately 3.8 million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest was baited for foxes and feral cats.

Parks

WA national parks and reserves received 20 million visits in a single year for the first time in 2016–17 and a visitor satisfaction level of 92.5 per cent. Each year Parks and Wildlife aims for a satisfaction rating above 85 per cent, a figure it has achieved for more than 10 consecutive years.

Four Kimberley marine parks – Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay, Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls, North Lalang-garram and North Kimberley – were created, nearly doubling the size of the State's marine reserve system to more than 4.6 million hectares.

Thirteen management plans were in preparation in 2016–17 and six Indigenous Land Use Agreements were signed with Kimberley native title groups, paving the way for joint management arrangements to be established.

The \$20 million Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure Project began with the sealing of 22km of roads to the Loop, Z Bend and Meanarra Hill sites at Kalbarri National Park.

One hundred and eighty two new camp sites were completed in 2016–17, bringing the total number of camp sites delivered over four years to more than 520 and greatly expanding opportunities for people to experience camping in the State's renowned national parks and reserves.

Fire

Bushfire preparedness and suppression on Parks and Wildlife-managed lands are among the department's key responsibilities.

This year, departmental staff attended and monitored 421 bushfires which burnt about 9171 hectares, a significant reduction on the previous year.

Prescribed burning throughout the State's south-west was boosted by the department's Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program, contributing to an achievement of more than 247,360ha during 2016–17, the best outcome in 29 years.

Throughout the rest of the State, a further 2,988,394ha of prescribed burning was completed. Many of these prescribed burns were conducted in collaboration with other land managers, including traditional owner groups.

Executive summary

Forest management

The Forest Management Plan 2014–2023 (FMP) guided departmental actions for the appropriate management of State forests and timber reserves for a range of uses, along with weed, pest animal and disease management (such as *Phytophthora dieback*), and also for wood production.

The plan's implementation included finalising interagency working arrangements with the Forest Products Commission and protocols for 24 key performance indicators, which will measure success in meeting the objectives of the FMP.

The third five-year progress review of the Regional Forest Agreement for the South-West Forest Region of Western Australia was released for public comment in November 2016.

Swan Canning Riverpark

Parks and Wildlife manages the Swan and Canning river system, including adjoining public land and reserves along the Southern, Avon and Helena rivers, to ensure the ecological health and community benefit of the rivers is protected.

Through the successful Swan Alcoa Landcare Program, more than \$367,000 was distributed to 19 groups for 47 landcare projects in 2016–17, while more than \$2.3 million was distributed to 22 priority riverbank projects

across 16 foreshore land managers as part of the Riverbank program (see case study on page 61).

The \$3 million Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary wetland, designed and implemented with the City of Bayswater, is now operational.

Parks and Wildlife continues to partner with research institutions, Government agencies and other organisations to deliver environmental programs to improve the health and resilience of the river system.

People

The department's relationships with people, including its staff, volunteers, community partners and business organisations, are central to achieving its goals to ensure WA's natural assets are conserved and valued now and into the future.

Learning and achievements by staff were supported and celebrated with a Graduation and Awards Ceremony held in June 2017. The event highlighted ongoing education through scholarships and the department's Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme. Presentations included the *Western Shield Award*, which recognises an employee who has demonstrated a long-term commitment and passion for native animal conservation. The Fire Management Reward and Recognition Program acknowledged excellence in fire management.



Sailing on the Swan River. Photo – Mandy Pike/DBCA



Ranger Nicholas Detchon in Coalseam Conservation Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

The department is supported by an outstanding volunteer base, which this year recorded a record-high number of hours contributed to parks and conservation in WA – 723,508 hours by 5,410 volunteers. This is also the highest ever number of active volunteers in any financial year.

Parks and Wildlife will become part of the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on 1 July 2017, together with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.

Operational structure

About the department

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.

Parks and Wildlife manages the State's 100 national parks, 17 marine parks and other reserves and State forests, which collectively cover more than 31 million hectares of diverse landscapes and seascapes, from coral reefs and tall forests, to deep gorges and open plains of wildflowers.

The department is responsible for conserving and protecting native animals and plants, and for managing many aspects of the access to, and use of, WA's natural areas.

The department is also responsible for fire preparedness and pest animal and weed control over almost 90 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves.

We are a regionally-focused agency and value the relationships we continue to build with our neighbours, visitors, volunteers, partners, the individuals and organisations who do business with us and the communities in which we work.

Enabling legislation

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

Responsible Minister

The department reported to the Minister for Environment Hon Albert Jacob MLA until the election of the McGowan Labor Government on 11 March 2017. Hon Stephen Dawson MLC was appointed on 17 March 2017 as the Minister for Environment and the department reported to Minister Dawson from this date.

The Minister and department exercised authority under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, *Sandalwood Act 1929* and other legislation administered by the department, listed right.

On 21 September 2016, the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* received Royal Assent as Act number 24 of 2016. Significant parts of the Act were proclaimed in the *Government Gazette* of 2 December 2016 and became operable from 3 December 2016. The remaining parts of the Act are to be proclaimed once the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Regulations are in place.

Legislation administered by the department at 30 June 2017

Acts

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *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*
- *Swan and Canning Rivers (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2006*
- *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*
- *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*

Regulations

- Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002
- Forest Management Regulations 1993
- Sandalwood Regulations 1993
- Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007
- Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970
- Wildlife Conservation (Reptiles and Amphibians) Regulations 2002

Changes made in 2016–17 to legislation administered

- On 31 August 2016 the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No.4) 2016 (published in the *Government Gazette* on 30 August 2016) amended the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 to introduce a new Part 11 – Transitional Regulations with a new Regulation 124. Regulation 124 established transitional arrangements to authorise the process steps undertaken for a State forest excision that had commenced before, but not been completed when the excision requirements changed due to the *Conservation and Land Management Amendment Act 2015*.

Operational structure

- On 1 September 2016 the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No. 3) 2016 (published in the *Government Gazette* on 5 July 2016) amended the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 to increase entrance fees to a number of facilities operated by the department.
- On 21 September 2016 the Governor Assented to the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The Biodiversity Conservation Act was prepared to replace, update and modernise the State's conservation and management of biodiversity including wild sandalwood. When fully proclaimed it will replace the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929*, which currently remain in force.
- On 3 December 2016, the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 Commencement Proclamation 2016* (published in the *Government Gazette* on 2 December 2016) gave effect to the long title and Parts: 1 (other than section 1 and 2); 5; 7; 8; 11; 13 (Division 1); 14 (other than section 256); 15; 17 (Division 1, other than sections 291(b), 292(2) to (4), 293 to 297, 299, 301, 302 and 304 to 309); Part 17 (Division 2 heading); section 319 and Schedule 1. These parts gave effect to provisions related to:
 - biodiversity management programs
 - biodiversity conservation agreements

- biodiversity conservation covenants
- nature-based tourism and recreation and,
- administrative functions relating to: some legal proceedings; the making of regulations, orders and guidelines; the giving of documents and other matters; consequential amendments to some other Acts; and the matters for which regulations may be made.
- On 24 January 2017, the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 were amended by the Environment Regulations Amendment (Public Health) Regulations 2016 (published in the *Government Gazette* on 10 January 2017) to replace the reference in Regulation 98G to the *Health Act 1911* with a reference to the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*.

Proposed changes to legislation administered

There were no major changes proposed for the existing legislation administered by the department during the year. Work has been ongoing since Assent was given to the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* on the preparation of drafting instructions for the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations. Completed regulations will be necessary to provide for full implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Biodiversity Conservation Act provides that both the

Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 and the *Sandalwood Act 1929* and their associated regulations will be automatically repealed once the relevant parts of the Biodiversity Conservation Act commence.

Notices, appointments, orders and approvals

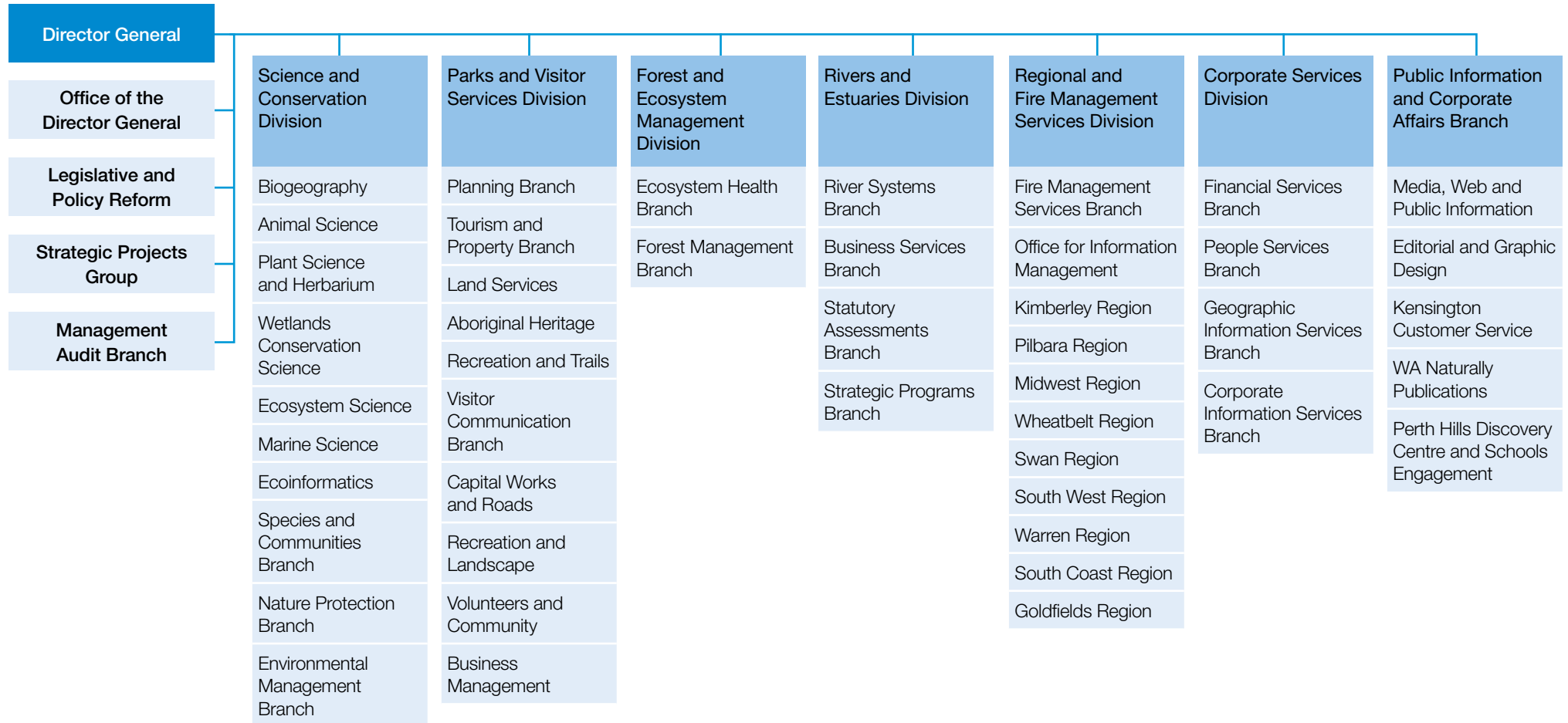
On 2 December 2016, the *Biodiversity Conservation Act Commencement Proclamation 2016* was published in the *Government Gazette* and the following provisions of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* came into operation on 3 December 2016:

- Long Title
- Part 1 (other than sections 1 and 2)
- Part 5
- Part 7 (other than section 120 (1) to (4))
- Parts 8 and 11
- Part 13 Division 1
- Part 14 (other than section 256)
- Part 15
- Part 17 Division 1 (other than sections 291(b), 292(2) to (4), 293, 294, 295, 296 and 297, 299, 301, 302 and 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, and 309)
- Part 17 Division 2 heading
- Section 319, and
- Schedule 1.

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 2016–17 reporting year:

- The *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2016*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 6 January 2017
- The *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2016*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 6 January 2017
- The *Wildlife Conservation (Reptiles and Amphibians) (Pet Herpetofauna) Notice (No. 2) 2016*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 23 August 2016
- The *Wildlife Conservation (Restricted Open Season for Wild Ducks Causing Damage) Notice 2016*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 30 December 2016
- The *Wildlife Conservation (Close Season for Marine Mammals) Amendment Notice 2016*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 25 October 2016, and
- The *Wildlife Conservation Amendment Regulations 2016*, which amended or introduced fees under regulations 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17 and 56H and was published in the *Government Gazette* on 26 August 2016.

Parks and Wildlife organisational chart



Correct at 30 June 2017

Operational structure

The following management plans were approved by the Minister for Environment under s60 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) during the 2016–17 reporting year:

- The *Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park Joint Management Plan 2016* was published in the *Government Gazette* on 7 October 2016.
- The *Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park Management Plan* was published in the *Government Gazette* on 11 October 2016.
- The joint management plan for the Lalang-Garram / Horizontal Falls and North Lalang-Garram Marine Parks was published in the *Government Gazette* on 2 December 2016.
- The joint management plan for the North Kimberley Marine Park was published in the *Government Gazette* on 23 December 2016.

During the reporting period, the Conservation and Parks Commission and the Director General gave notice in the *Government Gazette* of proposed amendments to the following management plans:

- Proposed amendments to the *Ngari Capes Marine Park Management Plan 2013–2023*, *Management Plan No. 74*, which were published in the *Government Gazette* on 23 September 2016.

- Proposed amendments to the management plan for the *Ningaloo Marine Park and Muiron Islands Marine Management Area 2005–2015*, *Management Plan No. 52*, which were published in the *Government Gazette* on 21 October 2016.

On 23 December 2016, the *Parks and reserves of the south-west Kimberley and north-west Pilbara draft joint management plan 2016* was made available for public comment and published in the *Government Gazette*.

Orders by the Governor in Executive Council under s13 of the CALM Act were published in the *Government Gazette* to reserve the following as Class A Marine Parks:

- On 4 October 2016, the Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park
- On 22 November 2016, the Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park
- On 22 November 2016, the North Lalang-garram Marine Park
- On 16 December 2016, the North Kimberley Marine Park.

On 14 February 2017, a further Order by the Governor in Executive Council, under s13 of the CALM Act, was published in the *Government Gazette*, altering the boundaries of the Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park.

On 23 December 2016, *Public Firewood Areas Order 2016* was published in the *Government Gazette* under r98 of the Forest Management Regulations 1993, designating specified areas of State forest as public firewood areas.

On 23 June 2017, *Public Firewood Areas Order 2017* was published in the *Government Gazette* under r98 of the Forest Management Regulations 1993, designating specific areas of State forest as public firewood areas.

Also during the 2016–17 reporting year, the following (Excision from State forest) Orders were made by the Governor under s9(3) (b) of the CALM Act and published in the *Government Gazette*:

- On 10 February 2017, *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from State forest) Order (No. 1) 2017* excised an area of 0.8383ha from State forest No.21 east of Kirup to facilitate upgrades to Upper Capel Road.
- On 10 February 2017, *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from State forest) Order (No. 2) 2017* excised an area of 0.1772ha from State forest No. 65 east of Banksia Grove to facilitate upgrades to the intersection between Neaves Road and Meadowlands Drive.

- On 10 February 2017, *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from State forest) Order (No. 3) 2017* excised an area of 0.3079ha of State forest No. 14 east of Waroona to facilitate the dedication of existing access to Lot 10 of Deposited Plan 42619.

Also during the 2016–17 reporting year, the following ‘Excision from Timber Reserves’ Order was made by the Governor under s10(3) (b) of the CALM Act and published in the *Government Gazette*:

- On 10 February 2017, the *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from Timber Reserve) Order (No. 1) 2017* excised an area of 0.1359ha from Timber Reserve No. 151/25 about 10km north-east of Westdale for the purpose of rationalising the tenure of Brookton Highway.

In the same period, the following Conservation and Land Management (revocation of State forest) Order was made by the Governor under r124(2) of the CALM regulations and published in the *Government Gazette*:

- On 23 December 2016, the *Conservation and Land Management (revocation of State forest) Order No. 1 2016* was published in the *Government Gazette* revoking 131.4928ha from State forest No.16, comprising of Lot 350 on Deposited Plan 404482 south-west of Waroona to facilitate the creation of a new State explosives facility.

On 27 January 2017, the *Rowley Shoals Marine Park (Classified Waters) Amendment Notice 2017* was published in the *Government Gazette*. This notice declared the types of recreational fishing incompatible with recreational purposes in the recreation areas of the marine park.

During the 2016–17 reporting year, the following amendments were made to the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002:

- Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No.3) 2016, which were published in the *Government Gazette* on 5 July 2016 and made amendments to fees in Schedule 1.
- Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No.4) 2016, which were published in the *Government Gazette* on 30 August 2016 and inserted Part 11 Transitional regulations, after regulation 123.

Performance management framework

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

The table to the right illustrates the relationship between agency-level desired outcomes and the most appropriate Government goal.

Changes from the 2015–16 reporting year

There were no changes to the performance management framework from 2015–16.

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.

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services
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 the State's national parks, marine parks, State forest and other reserves.	1. Provision of Parks and Visitor Services
	The State's native plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation are based on best practice science.	2. Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities 3. Conservation Partnerships
	The State's plants and animals and the lands and waters under the department's care are managed for tourism, water and wood production, and other approved uses.	4. Forest Management Plan Implementation 5. Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry
	Lands under the department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.	6. Prescribed Burning and Fire Management 7. Bushfire Suppression
	The ecological health and community benefit of the Swan and Canning rivers is protected.	8. Protection of the Swan and Canning Rivers System

Agency performance



Lucky Bay, Cape Le Grand National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

Report on operations

Service 1: Provision of Parks and Visitor Services

This service is responsible for 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 desired outcomes of the service are community awareness, appreciation of wildlife and the natural environment, and visitor enjoyment of park facilities.

The priorities of this service in 2016–17 were:

- continuing to establish a world-class parks system by improving the presentation of parks and developing recreation opportunities including the development of trails and expansion of campgrounds through capital investments
- continuing to expand the level of Aboriginal engagement and involvement through the use of customary practices and, where resourced, joint management
- continuing to implement park improvements to improve and expand camping and associated visitor experiences

- implementing the Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure Project to improve tourist access and provide world-class tourism attractions and experiences in Kalbarri National Park
- working closely with the community and regional development commissions to plan for strategic investments in park visitor infrastructure development
- working collaboratively with other Government agencies in the development and implementation of the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel regions
- building and strengthening community connections through the continued use of volunteers, working with recreation and other community user groups
- continuing to work with the tourism industry and associations to expand commercial opportunities to deliver high-quality visitor experiences that also contribute direct expenditure in regional communities
- continuing to plan for the management of Wedge and Grey reserves, and
- progressing the planning of the management of former pastoral lands, in particular along the Ningaloo coast.

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2016–17:

- 1. Planning and advocating for a world-class park system which maintains or enhances WA's natural environment, by:**
 - continuing to prepare CALM Act marine and terrestrial management plans, especially those associated with new reserves in the Kimberley
 - incorporating into management plans the CALM Act objective to protect and conserve the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons
 - continuing to undertake visitor planning, including recreation and interpretation master planning at strategic locations
 - continuing to plan for commercial activity opportunities assisting in the preparation of regional and local mountain bike trails strategies and master plans, and
 - continuing to undertake Parks and Visitor Services strategic planning and improve alignment with regional operational plans and works programming.

2. Designing and building recreation facilities and services while retaining an area's distinctive social, cultural, physical and natural attributes, by:

- continuing to prepare designs and specifications for recreation site development
- continuing with a program of renovation and redevelopment of existing recreation sites and park facilities
- investing in key visitor sites with potential to capture revenue
- continuing to offer a spectrum of high-quality visitor experiences
- developing opportunities to provide a range of trails including kayaking, walking, cycling, snorkelling and diving
- continuing to develop increased camping capacity in parks
- continuing to invest in roads used to access parks with a focus on protecting high-value road assets, and
- developing and implementing a bridge replacement program including the use of the modular bridge product.

Report on operations

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

- continuing to manage leases and licences
- continuing to undertake visitor risk management assessment and protection works
- developing emergency response plans
- continuing to maintain recreation assets with a focus on renovating visitor facilities
- continuing to manage and maintain high-value visitor centres
- developing and implementing a road maintenance program for each district
- developing and implementing a bridge maintenance program for south-west forest region districts
- continuing to undertake compliance and law enforcement activities as required, and
- in consultation with the community and the tourism industry, implementing the department's new mooring regulations and policy across marine parks throughout the State.

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

- continuing to provide high-quality information and interpretation for visitors which promotes awareness and appreciation of the natural environment
- developing and implementing park sign plans in accordance with the new sign design guidelines
- continuing to improve features in the Explore Parks and Park Stay WA websites, and
- continuing to apply new technology to enrich the visitor experience.

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

- continuing to promote the 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 to guide work units
- continuing to protect Aboriginal cultural sites when undertaking works

- continuing to implement Aboriginal customary activities policy, protocols and procedures
- where resourced, developing and implementing joint management arrangements with Aboriginal working parties and other organisations
- continuing to develop local area access arrangements including developing policy, protocols and procedures
- continuing to build and strengthen working relationships with Aboriginal communities, native title representative bodies and Aboriginal working parties, and
- continuing to promote commercial tourism and event opportunities with Aboriginal people.

6. Developing and nurturing lifelong connections between the community and parks in order to conserve and protect natural areas, by:

- continuing to build and strengthen relationships with volunteers and recreation user groups with a focus on long trails, mountain bike, horse riding and off-road vehicle groups
- continuing to build and strengthen relationships with partner groups, key stakeholders and State Government agencies, and

- continuing to offer community partnership models of campground management where appropriate

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

- continuing to undertake financial and administrative management as required
- continuing to implement the remote parks housing replacement and renovation program
- continuing to explore opportunities to generate revenue from fees and charges
- continuing to promote and explore opportunities for implementation of the department's Aboriginal Employment Strategy and Reconciliation Action Plan 2013–15.
- continuing to progress workforce planning in association with Parks and Visitor Services' strategic planning, and
- continuing to improve technology management and information connectivity.

27,000

whale shark tour passengers at Ningaloo Marine Park in 2016, an increase of 32 per cent on the previous year

20 million

visits to national parks and reserves managed by Parks and Wildlife

182

new camp sites completed in 2016–17

723,508

Number of volunteer hours contributed to parks and conservation

6

ILUAs signed and joint management arrangements finalised with native titleholders

Performance summary

Table 1: Service 1 performance summary

	2016–17 Target \$'000	2016–17 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Expense by service	85,225	86,076	851
Key Efficiency Indicator	2016–17 Target \$	2016–17 Actual \$	Variance \$
KPI 1.1: Average cost per hectare of parks	2.99	2.73	0.26

Key Effectiveness Indicator

Outcome: Community enjoyment of the State's national parks, marine parks, State forest and other reserves.

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

Target 2016–17: 85 per cent
Actual 2016–17: 92.5 per cent

More details regarding the key efficiency and key effectiveness indicators can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 114 to 117.



Circular Pool, Walpole Nornalup National Park.
Photo – Ariana Svenson/DBCA



Calytrix brevifolia. Photo – Mark Brundrett/DBCA

Report on operations

Performance highlights

Management planning

- Thirteen management plans were in preparation during 2016–17. This included the following draft and final management plans that were released either for public comment or implementation:
 - *Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls and North Lalang-garram marine parks joint management plan*
 - *North Kimberley Marine Park joint management plan*
 - *Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park joint management plan*
 - *Yawuru Birragun Conservation Park joint management plan*
 - *Parks and reserves of the south-west Kimberley and north-west Pilbara draft joint management plan* – released for public comment.

Aboriginal engagement

- There has been ongoing negotiation with traditional owners in the Kimberley to facilitate the creation of jointly managed reserves.
- In November 2016, a site visit was arranged with elders from Collie and staff from Forest and Ecosystem Management Division to identify historic lizard traps. This facilitated the registration of this site under the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

- The department continued to implement Aboriginal cross-cultural awareness training for staff, and external Bush Rangers and River Rangers unit leaders.
- Six Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) and joint management arrangements were finalised with native title holders, including Wilinggjin, Dambimangari, Balanggarra, Yawuru, Nyangumarta-Karajarri and Bunuba. These will assist in the creation and joint management of new marine and terrestrial parks.
- The Aboriginal Heritage Unit worked collaboratively with the department's South West Region to develop a regional Aboriginal Engagement Strategy.
- The department is continuing to work with key tourism stakeholders to support Culture in Parks, which promotes opportunities for Aboriginal cultural tourism and encourages Aboriginal people to become licensed to conduct Aboriginal cultural events and tours on land managed by the department. The number of licensed Aboriginal tour operators has increased from nine in 2015–16 to 17 in 2016–17.
- Around 200 traditional owners have been engaged in on-country land management works and training in the Kimberley.



The falls at Bell Gorge will become part of the new Wilinggjin National Park. Photo – DBCA



The Culture in Parks forum was held in March 2017. Photo – Karla Graham/DBCA



A high ropes adventure course began operating in Ludlow State forest.
 Photo – Forest Adventures South West



A swim with humpbacks trial was successfully held at Ningaloo Marine Park. Photo – Kelly Waples/DBCA



Camping at Honeymoon Pool, Wellington National Park. Photo – Lauren Cabrera/DBCA

Tourism and accommodation

- The department continued to implement a community partnership campground management model, enabling a private or community sector organisation to carry out the day-to-day management of a campground on a contract-for service basis. The model is being used at D'Entrecasteaux National Park, and Logue Brook and Potters Gorge campgrounds in Wellington National Park.
- In July 2016, a registration of interest was advertised to operate the Kalbarri Skywalk Kiosk in Kalbarri National Park. A proponent was selected and is providing input into the design of the kiosk.
- In December 2016, Forest Adventures South West began operation in the Ludlow State forest, offering a high ropes adventure course. This followed an unsolicited proposal submitted by Forest Adventures South West Pty Ltd.
- In the 2016 season (1 March to 31 July), the whale shark industry in the Ningaloo Marine Park had a record 1624 tours and a whale shark contact success rate of 97 per cent. The total number of passengers increased substantially from 20,834 passengers in the 2015 season to 27,700 in the 2016 season, an increase of 32 per cent.

- The inaugural swimming with humpback whales trial from August to November 2016 was positive, with 1,644 people experiencing in-water interactions with these animals at Ningaloo Marine Park. The trial will continue in 2017.
- In December 2016, the Woodman Point Beach Kiosk began operating in John Graham Recreation Reserve.
- The department, alongside community-based conservation groups, assisted in the establishment of the WA Parks Foundation. The Foundation was launched in October 2016 by the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC. A registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, it was included on the Register of Environmental Organisations in April 2017.

World Heritage management

- The department continued to provide day-to-day management of the Shark Bay, Ningaloo Coast and Purnululu National Park World Heritage areas, including providing executive support to property-specific advisory committees.
- In September 2016, a delegation from China's Danxiashan National Park was hosted at Purnululu National Park under WA's first sister park relationship – both parks being World Heritage-listed areas.

Report on operations

Recreation and trails

- Parks and Wildlife continued to work closely with key recreation bodies to develop strategic planning initiatives, including with the Department of Sport and Recreation for the Western Australian State Trails Blueprint 2017–2021, and Westcycle for the Perth and Peel Mountain Bike Master Plan.
- The department continued to partner with and support recreation stakeholders, including the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail foundations, Friends of the Cape to Cape Track, Westcycle, WA Mountain Bike Association, WA 4WD Association, Track Care WA, the Recreational Trailbike Riders' Association of WA and the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association.
- In November 2016, the department completed construction of 10km of dedicated mountain bike trails within Bramley National Park near Margaret River. Planning continued for additional mountain bike trail construction in Margaret River, Collie and Dwellingup.
- The department partnered with community clubs and organisations to install counters on new sections of trail, to collect improved information on trail-use and trends. A counter installed in January 2017 on the new Bramley mountain bike trails recorded over 4000 riders in the first month.
- The department assisted the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation to promote a world-record attempt for the fastest end-to-end ride of the Trail. The 'Bust the Biddi' brand for end-to-end rides was established and marketing collateral was gifted to the Foundation.
- The department's partnership with Track Care WA and WA 4WD Association continued, with volunteers working alongside staff on projects at Dirk Hartog Island National Park, historic Dampierwah State Farm in the Karara rangelands and the south-west forests.
- Bushfire recovery works at recreation sites, particularly on the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail, were completed with the establishment of new, fire-resistant rammed earth camping huts and toilets, replacement of destroyed and damaged bridges and boardwalks, and replacement of trail markers and signs.
- Improvements were completed on the Cape to Cape Track with a newly-constructed walking trail at Kilcarnup near Margaret River. The track was extended from Waterwheel to the Leeuwin lighthouse near Augusta.



10km of dedicated mountain bike trails were completed in Bramley National Park. Photo – Eerik Sandstrom, Common Ground Trails



Sixty new camp sites were created and a day-use site upgraded at Potters Gorge campground in Wellington National Park. Photo – DBCA

Visitor planning and communications

- The department worked with private conservation organisations, Aboriginal communities, the private sector and volunteers to promote people's enjoyment and safety in parks.
- Two new mobile applications were launched: [Marine Parks WA](#) and a virtual reality app.
- Commercial operators visiting Torndirrup National Park began trialling a new mobile application to assist with entry fee payments.
- Significant improvements were made to the [Explore Parks WA](#) website, while work commenced on upgrading the [Park Stay WA](#) website.
- Recreation planning occurred at Kalbarri and William Bay national parks, Yawuru conservation estate, Swan Canning Riverpark, Mesa campground (Cape Range National Park) and Yanchep National Park campground, as part of the department's ongoing recreation facility development.
- Master planning began for recreation assessments in the West Kimberley with Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation and within Kennedy Range National Park, and continues at Karara former pastoral leases, Ningaloo Coast pastoral lease exclusion area, Wedge and Grey shack settlements and Murujuga and Millstream Chichester national parks.

- In association with the Department of Sport and Recreation, the assessment of recreation opportunities at Harvey Dam concluded.

Improving facilities

- Maintenance continued on Parks and Wildlife's 37,000km road network, with road upgrade projects completed in Geikie Gorge, Shannon, Nambung and Lesueur national parks.
- The \$20 million Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure Project began with the construction of sealed roads to the Loop, Z Bend and Meanarra Hill sites. Design of the two skywalk lookout structures and other facilities at Z Bend and Meanarra Hill was finalised.
- Implementation of the \$5.9 million Public Recreation and Joint Management Arrangements for the Ningaloo Coast project continued with the establishment of an ILUA to enable the creation of a conservation and recreation reserve along the Ningaloo coast and joint management arrangements with traditional owners.
- As part of bushfire recovery works, a new \$850,000 pedestrian bridge over the Murray River on the Bibbulmun Track in Lane Poole Reserve was constructed. The bridge, named *Bilya Djena Bidi* (river foot bridge), replaces the Long Gully trestle bridge.

- The \$21.05 million Caravan and Camping initiative made significant progress in its fourth year of implementation. There were 182 new camp sites completed in 2016–17, with new and expanded campgrounds established in Wellington, Francois Peron, Leeuwin-Naturaliste and Shannon national parks and at Thundelarra homestead in the Karara rangelands. This brings the total number of camp sites delivered to more than 520.
- Work continued on the new \$2.5 million Jarrahdene campground in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park and expanded \$1.5 million Shannon campground in Shannon National Park.
- Construction of 21 new camp sites at Big Lagoon campground and upgraded day-use area in Francois Peron National Park was completed, along with 60 camp sites at the Potters Gorge campground and upgraded day-use area in Wellington National Park.
- The upgrade of the Mesa campground in Cape Range National Park and development of a new campground in Yanchep National Park commenced.

- Two tourism commercial accommodation leases were upgraded at Lions Dryandra Village in Dryandra Woodland and Lake Navarino Tourist Park. A total of six accommodation leases have been upgraded, exceeding the target of three.
- The second stage of the upgrade of the Dwaarlindjirraap (Baden Powell) day-use area in Lane Poole Reserve was completed with the construction of new stairs for swimmers and canoeists to access the Murray River.
- A new lookout structure has been constructed at Joffre Gorge in Karijini National Park.
- Improvements to infrastructure and facilities in John Forrest National Park continued with the provision of new signs and the replacement of pedestrian bridges.
- The redevelopment of the campground and day-use sites at Black Point in D'Entrecasteaux National Park was completed with 15 additional camp sites, improved access and new facilities such as toilets and stairs.
- \$1.7 million was invested to replace or repair 23 bridges across the south-west. Work on establishing a new crossing of the Murray River at Tumlo Crossing also began.

Report on operations

Signs and interpretation

- During 2016–17, 2981 signs were developed to final production, including 221 interpretive signs, 301 risk signs, 267 directional/identification signs and 2192 management signs.
- Interpretation signage was installed at 44 recreational sites in national parks and reserves, including at Rockingham Lakes and Canning River regional parks.
- Directional wayfinding, park and reserve boundary and identification signs were installed as part of 64 projects throughout the State.
- Sign planning for new and redeveloped campgrounds was also undertaken to ensure all signage requirements were identified to meet visitor and management needs.

Working with the community

- At 30 June 2017, the number of Parks and Wildlife registered volunteers was 15,921, of whom 5,410 contributed 723,508 hours to projects across the State. Volunteer activities included staffing the Wildcare Helpline, campground hosting, collecting seeds, clearing weeds, taking part in native plant and animal surveys and trail maintenance. There are 319 active volunteer projects currently underway around the State.
- Across the department, 21 new volunteer projects were created and 1,585 new volunteers were registered.

- Department partner the Perth Observatory Volunteer Group won the WA Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year Award in May 2017.
- 305 volunteers attended on-site training, including 132 at wildlife rehabilitation courses in Kensington, Albany and Kalgoorlie, while 18 campground hosts attended basic fire awareness training. Additionally, 210 volunteers completed online volunteer and wildlife training.
- The River Guardians community engagement program worked with 82 stakeholder groups and attended 17 environmental education events. River Guardians currently has 2908 members.
- The RiverWise Gardens program was delivered in Southern River, engaging 650 households, with 400 households receiving coaching on river-friendly gardening practices.

Park visitor statistics

- The 2016–17 visitor satisfaction index, averaged from visitor responses to surveys at selected parks, reserves and forest areas around the State, was 92.5 per cent. This outcome, with results from previous years of the survey program, is illustrated in Figure 1.
- The total number of visits to Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters increased to 20.37 million from 19.62 million last year (Figure 2, page 21).



Big Lagoon campground, Francois Peron National Park. Photo – Susan Pedersen/DBCA



Nanda ranger assistants Steven and Michael Davies with visitors at Kalbarri National Park. Photo – Sue Hancock

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

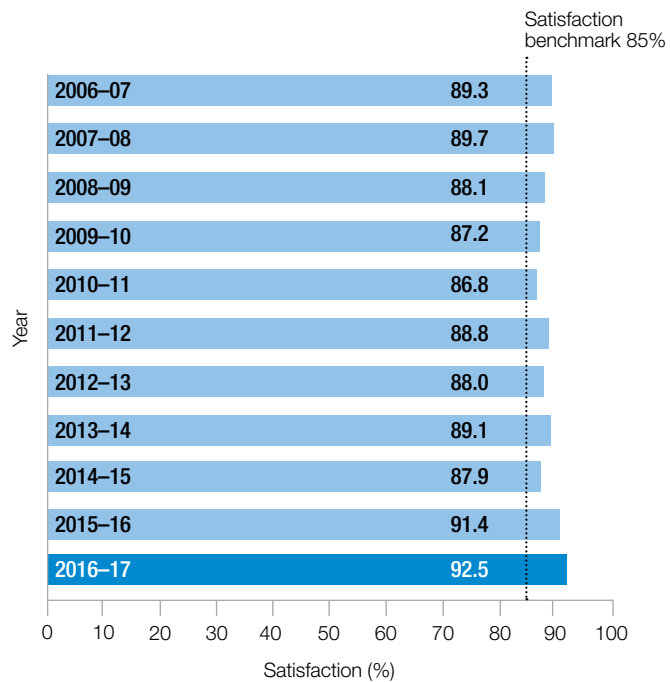
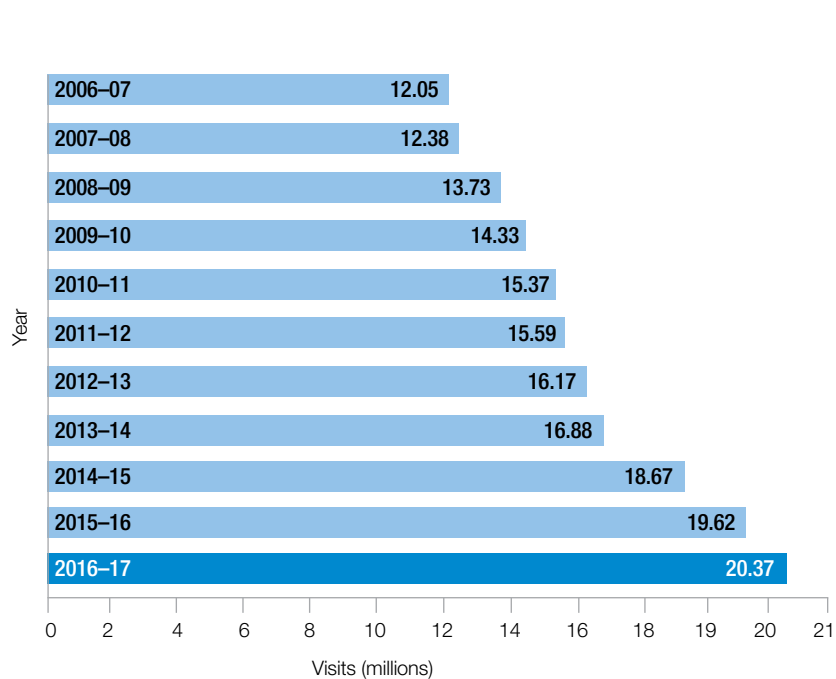


Figure 2. Total visits to Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters



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.

Case study

Gap visitation boosts Albany economy

The Gap and Natural Bridge at Albany's Torndirrup National Park continue to set the pace in nature-based tourism, with visitation almost doubling since the redeveloped site opened in April 2016.

Featuring a spectacular, grated viewing deck overhanging the 40m high Gap cliffs, together with a new Natural Bridge lookout, accessible pathways, interpretive signage, picnic area and parking, the site drew 372,500 visits in 2016–17.

In keeping with the department's goal of developing world-class parks which generate environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits, an assessment was carried out to estimate the level of visitor spending directly attributed to attractions like The Gap and Natural Bridge by nature-based tourism visitors.

The assessment estimated total visitor expenditure in the Albany region of \$153 million in 2016–17, of which

\$12.7 million was directly attributable to the nature-based tourism sector, including visitors to Torndirrup National Park.

It is highly likely these same visitors were attracted to other regional sites including the Granite Skywalk at Castle Rock in Porongurup National Park, West Cape Howe National Park and Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

A survey of visitors to The Gap and Natural Bridge in 2016 indicated a very high satisfaction visitor rating of 94 per cent and monitoring of online travel reviews shows ongoing appreciation for the site's facilities, safety and enhanced views.



The Gap lookout at Torndirrup National Park. Photo – Ronel Shephard



The Gap lookout at Torndirrup National Park. Photo – Ronel Shephard



The Natural Bridge lookout at Torndirrup National Park. Photo – Lynne Whittle/DBCA



The Gap lookout at Torndirrup National Park. Photo – Ronel Shephard

Report on operations

Service 2: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

This service is responsible for developing and implementing programs for the conservation and improved management of 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 priorities of this service in 2016–17 were:

- Continuing to develop and implement a legislative and policy framework that effectively supports wildlife conservation.
- Continuing to establish and effectively manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation reserve system to protect biodiversity and social values.
- Maintaining viable, intact and healthy ecological communities and populations of species, especially those that are threatened, significant or iconic, while allowing the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Reducing impacts of key threatening processes, including altered fire regimes and hydrology, and priority pest animals, weeds and plant diseases, on biodiversity, ecological processes and sustainable land uses.

- Undertaking scientific investigations that are effectively targeted to improve biodiversity knowledge and integrate science knowledge into wildlife management.
- Effectively collecting, storing and managing information and data so they are available and used to improve wildlife management.
- Promoting public and stakeholder awareness, understanding and support for biodiversity conservation, including through being involved in conservation programs.

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2016–17. The service is delivered by multiple divisions across the department.

1. Developing and implementing a legislative and policy framework that effectively supports wildlife conservation, through:

- progressing the Biodiversity Conservation Bill to replace the Wildlife Conservation Act
- developing and implementing strategic documents and programs prioritised to support policy implementation, and
- overseeing implementation of nine regional nature conservation plans.

2. Continuing to establish and effectively manage the conservation reserve system, by:

- continuing establishment of terrestrial, island and marine reserves in the Kimberley, reservation of lands purchased for conservation, implementation of proposals in the Forest Management Plan 2014–2023 and reservation in IBRA regions with less than 10 per cent in conservation reserves
- progressively implementing priority conservation and science actions in reserves
- continuing to effectively manage World Heritage-listed areas through the implementation of collaborative conservation management programs across various tenures
- continuing to implement the WA marine monitoring program in marine parks and reserves, and
- supporting and participating in audits and assessments undertaken by the Conservation and Parks Commission.

3. Maintaining viable, intact and healthy ecological communities and populations of species, especially those that are threatened, significant or iconic, while allowing the sustainable use of wildlife, through:

- developing and implementing approved wildlife recovery programs including recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities
- maintaining, reviewing and updating the lists of threatened and priority species and threatened and priority ecological communities
- continuing appropriate regulation and management of sustainable use of flora and fauna, hobby keeping of fauna and the trade in wildlife
- implementing legislative amendments and supporting programs to improve the management of sandalwood and enhance its sustainable use
- supporting Aboriginal people to undertake customary activities involving wildlife, and
- monitoring compliance with legislation for wildlife management and managing wildlife interactions to protect life and property.

Report on operations

4. Reducing impacts of key threatening processes, by:

- conducting appropriate monitoring and reporting to meet the ecosystem health and biodiversity key performance indicators in the Forest Management Plan 2014–2023
- reviewing and determining priorities for pest animal management, developing and conducting training and undertaking actions to achieve conservation of native fauna and other values
- reviewing and determining priorities for weed management, developing and conducting training and undertaking actions, including surveys to determine weed distribution and abundance, to achieve conservation of native flora and other values
- reviewing and determining priorities for plant disease management, developing and conducting training and undertaking actions to achieve conservation of native flora and other values, including through programs to manage *Phytophthora* dieback
- progressing integration of feral cat and fox baiting in *Western Shield* areas, using the Eradicat® feral cat bait
- developing key effectiveness indicators against pest, weed and disease program management priorities and wildlife management plans

- developing and implementing periodic reporting requirements to ensure service delivery is consistent with pest, weed and disease management priorities and wildlife management plans
- implementing priority and targeted actions to reduce the impacts of altered hydrology (e.g. climate variability, secondary salinity, acidification and eutrophication) on biodiversity and other values on CALM Act land
- implementing strategic actions to improve the resilience of threatened terrestrial and marine species and ecological communities under predicted climate change settings, and
- continuing to provide consistent and timely advice to industry, regulatory agencies and the Minister on land use, resource extraction and industrial development proposals to protect the conservation reserve system and key species and ecological communities.

5. Undertaking targeted scientific investigations and integrating science knowledge into wildlife management, through:

- ensuring science programs prioritise and address the gaps in knowledge in order to deliver improved management strategies for effective conservation, protection and management of flora, fauna, ecological communities and conservation reserves



The Pilbara Conservation Strategy outlines a landscape scale approach to biodiversity conservation across the Pilbara region. *Photo – Stephen van Leeuwen/DBCA*

- continuing to undertake terrestrial and marine biological surveys to systematically address gaps in knowledge and increase understanding of biodiversity components and patterns to better inform wildlife and conservation reserve management, including joint management with Aboriginal traditional owners
- determining priorities for and undertaking research relating to priority weeds, plant diseases and pest animals and related conservation and management actions
- better understanding the factors influencing the effectiveness of fox and feral cat baiting and developing more effective control regimes
- continuing to plan and implement translocations, including captive breeding programs and off-site seed storage where necessary, focusing on high-priority threatened flora and fauna and the development of success criteria
- managing and curating the Western Australian Herbarium, to improve representation of rare and poorly known taxa and taxa of the conservation estate, and conducting and supporting taxonomic research on WA plants, algae and fungi
- assisting the Western Australian Museum and other research institutions with research into faunal taxonomy, particularly in poorly known groups, such as terrestrial and marine invertebrates, and taxa of conservation concern, such as short range endemics
- undertaking research on population genetics, demography, eco-physiology and reproductive biology to improve management and conservation of threatened flora and fauna, and
- continuing to build partnerships and facilitate the development of models to determine the effects of climate change on biodiversity.

6. Effectively collecting, storing and managing information and data to improve wildlife management, by:

- maintaining systems to provide information on all plants, algae and fungi in WA
- continuing to develop and populate a survey database to provide access to information on biodiversity
- developing a geographical database to access information on the incidence and management of weeds, pests and diseases that may affect conservation values, and
- reviewing and implementing improvements to information management and licensing systems.

7. Promoting public and stakeholder awareness, understanding and support for biodiversity conservation including through being involved in conservation programs, by:

- strengthening the department's communications to enhance community understanding about the value of wildlife, its conservation requirements and the positive contribution that wildlife makes to people's lives
- improving communication with stakeholders to ensure conservation funding is targeted towards programs and actions that will provide high-value conservation outcomes, and
- facilitating conservation actions on land not managed by the department.

Performance summary

Table 2: Service 2 performance summary

	2016-17 Target \$'000	2016-17 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Expense by service	72,780	67,290	(5490)
Key Efficiency Indicator	2016-17 Target \$	2016-17 Actual \$	Variance \$
KPI 2.1: Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat	2.55	2.14	(0.41)

Key Effectiveness Indicator

Outcome: The State's native plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation are based on best practice science.

KPI 1. Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan.

Target 2016-17: 71%
Actual 2016-17: 72.9%

More details regarding the key efficiency and key effectiveness indicators can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 114 to 117.

Performance highlights

Wildlife legislation, policy and strategic programs

- On 21 September 2016, the Biodiversity Conservation Bill 2015 received Royal Assent and became the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Once fully proclaimed, the Act will replace the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and the *Sandalwood Act 1929* with modern conservation provisions that focus on encouragement, while removing unnecessary regulatory barriers. Notably, the Biodiversity Conservation Act has provided significant changes in the legislated ability for the State Government to protect and conserve biodiversity and biodiversity components. These include: a formal listing process for threatened species; recognition and listing of threatened ecological communities (with public and scientific input into listings and listing reviews); identification and highest level protection of critical habitats; involvement of, and encouragement for, landholders and managers in biodiversity conservation; partnerships in conservation; and, avoiding bureaucratic processes, duplicated assessments and decision-making.

Report on operations

- The Biodiversity Conservation Act provides the basis for new management arrangements for the harvest, transport, storage and processing of wild native sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*), including greatly increased penalties for unlawful harvests (up to \$1 million for corporations). The new sandalwood management arrangements will be implemented through the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Regulations.
- The Pilbara Conservation Strategy was released in February 2017. The strategy outlines a landscape-scale approach to conservation across the Pilbara bioregion and identifies opportunities for partnerships to mitigate the impacts of bushfires, weeds and feral animals across tenure boundaries to protect conservation values, including threatened and other important species, communities and ecosystems.
- 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.
- Parks and Wildlife continued to provide assistance to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Region, particularly in relation to biodiversity conservation.
- Parks and Wildlife partnered with the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) and other agencies to develop the Western Australian Biosecurity Strategy 2016-2035, released in November 2016, to provide strategic direction for the management of emerging and ongoing biosecurity issues that impact WA agriculture, fisheries, forests and the environment.

Marine science

- The department's marine monitoring program continued to collect and report on the condition of key ecological values in WA's marine parks and reserves, and the pressures acting on them. During 2016–17, work progressed on establishing coral and mangrove monitoring sites in the Kimberley marine reserves. Monitoring data was collected at the Montebello/Barrow islands and Ningaloo marine reserves (fish and coral), the Shark Bay marine reserves (seagrass and mangroves), Jurien Bay Marine Park (benthic communities and seagrass), the metropolitan marine reserves (little penguins, seagrass and fish) and Ngari Capes Marine Park (seagrass and deep reef communities).



Bandicoot Bay, Barrow Island. Photo – Judy Dunlop/DBCA



Humpback whale. Photo – Matt Swan/DBCA



A lake at Matuwa (Lorna Glen) formed after heavy rains. Photo – Judy Dunlop/DBCA



The *Western Shield* program helps recover and protect mammal species including the quokka. Photo – Kimberley Page/DBCA



Woylie release at Perup Sanctuary. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA



Golden bandicoot (*Isoodon auratus*). Photo – Judy Dunlop/DBCA

Western Shield

- The *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program continued to implement broadscale fox and feral cat control for native animal conservation. In total, about 3.8 million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest were baited, using about 600,000 fox baits and 500,000 Eradicat® feral cat baits.
- The *Western Shield* Plan 2017–2026 was finalised, shaping the direction of the program over the next decade by defining the program’s mission, objectives and key strategies to protect and recover native wildlife susceptible to predation by foxes and feral cats.
- Regular monitoring of baited areas continued to track the recovery of native species.

Wildlife sanctuaries and translocations

- Construction of a new 1000-hectare, predator-proof enclosure in the proposed Dryandra Woodland National Park was completed. This \$550,000 project is a major milestone for wildlife conservation in the region and will help protect the numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) and woylie (*Bettongia ogilbyi*), and other endangered species. Installation of the 1.8m high, 14.7km fence was followed by an intensive program to remove feral predators from the site as part of the *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program.

- 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 (*Isoodon auratus*) and boodie (*Bettongia lesueur*) were monitored. All species are breeding, and golden bandicoots are persisting outside the fenced enclosure. Martu traditional owners and Parks and Wildlife will continue to jointly manage this property on the Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara Indigenous Protected Area for conservation and cultural purposes.
- The Perup Sanctuary, established with State Natural Resource Management (NRM) program funding, continued to support robust populations of threatened woylies, numbats and western ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*).
- The Nangeen Sanctuary, located in Nangeen Hill Nature Reserve, continues to protect an important population of the black-flanked rock wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*) in the Wheatbelt, and was one of the sources for a translocation to Kalbarri National Park.
- The sanctuary in Waychinicup National Park plays an important role in the recovery of Gilbert’s potoroo (*Potorous gilbertii*) and protects other threatened species in the area.

Report on operations

- The department continued to partner with Perth Zoo to breed numbats, dibblers (*Parantechinus apicalus*) and western swamp tortoises (*Pseudemys umbrina*) for wild release. A program to rear orange-bellied (*Geocrinia vitellina*) and white-bellied frogs (*Geocrinia alba*) was also undertaken to supplement wild populations.
- A population of critically endangered western ground parrots at Perth Zoo, which was established to facilitate breeding, is increasing knowledge of this species in order to improve monitoring and protection of the wild population.
- The establishment of a new population of dibblers on Gunton Island continues with animals from the Perth Zoo breeding program.
- Zoo bred western swamp tortoises were experimentally released in two new sites in the South West and Warren regions.
- The department continues to support a coordinated corella control project to manage introduced white corellas in the Perth metropolitan area. The project is overseen by the Corella Coordination Working Group, chaired by the WA Local Government Association with representatives from several local governments, DAFWA and BirdLife WA. The project targeted control of introduced corellas in two centres of abundance and supported the development of an information portal.
- Work to reduce the threat of *Phytophthora* dieback to biodiversity continued, including phosphite spraying to protect threatened plant populations in Stirling Range National Park and 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.

Managing threats

- The department continued to implement the Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2014–19, with a focus on protecting native wildlife from the impacts of this pest animal and preventing the establishment of new satellite populations. The department has refocused the cane toad program to implement research outcomes, including taste aversion training of threatened northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*).
- Operations to prioritise, review and manage priority environmental weeds continued throughout the State, including through collaborative efforts with traditional owners and community and other groups. Environmental weed risk assessments were undertaken for a range of species considered to have agricultural potential in irrigated mosaic or dryland pastoral production systems in the Pilbara and Kimberley.



Bluff Knoll, Stirling Range National Park. Photo – Harry de Vries



Perth Zoo bred dibbler (*Parantechinus apicalus*).
Photo – Leanne O'Rourke/DBCA



Orange-bellied frog (*Geocrinia vitellina*).
Photo – DBCA

- Mobile mapping software applications were developed to standardise and improve the capture and management of weed occurrence and treatment data, and work continued to develop a weed management course to cover the requirements for weed identification, integrated weed management and the safe use of chemicals.
- A streamlined process to engage recognised recreational hunting and shooting groups as part of the department's pest animal control efforts was finalised. The department is negotiating with a number of groups to undertake pest animal control work to complement strategic management and conservation outcomes.

Threatened species

- The department is a member of a national working group to implement a common assessment method for listing threatened species in a consistent manner between the Australian Government and each state and territory, with the objective of developing a single national threatened species list. At 30 June 2017, a MOU agreeing to implement the common assessment method had been signed by the Australian, Western Australian, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory, Tasmanian, New South Wales and Queensland governments.

- Nominations for 71 species of flora and fauna have been referred to the Australian Government for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as part of the process to align threatened species listed under that Act with threatened species listed under the *Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.
- The WA Threatened Species Scientific Committee met during 2017 to assess nominations for changes to the lists of threatened flora and fauna under the *Wildlife Conservation Act*. The recommendations of the 2016 meeting were endorsed by the Minister for Environment and the new threatened species lists were gazetted on 6 January 2017.

Threatened plants

- Two species of flora were added to the *Wildlife Conservation Act* list of specially protected (threatened) flora; three species were removed from the list and added to the priority flora list; seven species had their threat category changed from critically endangered to endangered; and two species had the threat category changed from vulnerable to endangered. A summary of the changes to the Rare Flora Notice and the gazette notice are available on the [Parks and Wildlife Service website](#).

- At 30 June 2017, there were 424 extant threatened flora species (158 critically endangered, 131 endangered and 135 vulnerable), 15 listed as presumed to be extinct and 3149 taxa on the department's priority flora list.
- A total of 686 populations, comprising 247 species of threatened and priority flora, were surveyed or monitored, and 74 new populations of threatened flora and 184 new populations of priority flora were located. Of the 293 records added to the *Threatened and Priority Flora* database, 161 were for new populations.
- Interim recovery plans were approved for 20 species of threatened flora in 2016–17.
- The number of plant specimens held at the Western Australian Herbarium increased by 1.46 per cent (a net increase of 11,177 specimens), bringing the total number of specimens held to 779,457. A total of 300 names were added to the *WA Plant Census*.

- A total of 145 seed collections (81 species) were banked at the Threatened Flora Seed Centre during 2016–17; 81 of these collections were listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable (declared rare flora). The department continued to provide technical advice and assistance for projects involving seed collection and use. Collections of five critically endangered species were withdrawn from the seed bank and germinated for use in departmental translocation projects. The seed bank now contains collections of 334 threatened flora, 708 priority flora and 848 key restoration species.
- Parks and Wildlife continued to improve the conservation status of threatened plant species by infill planting and monitoring at translocation sites of six species and undertaking monitoring and maintenance of a further nine translocation sites.

Report on operations

Threatened animals

- Nine species of native animal were added to the Wildlife Conservation Act list of specially protected (threatened) fauna; six species were removed from the list; three species were moved to a higher threat category; one species was moved to a lower threat category. A summary of the changes to the Specially Protected Fauna Notice and the gazette notice are available on the [Parks and Wildlife Service website](#).
- At 30 June 2017, there were 248 threatened fauna species (53 critically endangered, 52 endangered and 143 vulnerable), 23 listed as presumed to be extinct, seven listed as conservation dependent, seven listed as otherwise specially protected, 103 migratory birds protected under international agreements and 216 species on the department's priority fauna list.
- There were 21,748 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.
- A recovery plan was completed for Gilbert's potoroo.

Threatened ecological communities

- At 30 June 2017, there were 66 extant ecological communities (TEC) listed by the department as threatened (21 critically endangered, 17 endangered and

28 vulnerable), and three listed as 'totally destroyed'. Another 391 ecological communities were on the priority list. Proclamation of relevant sections of the Biodiversity Conservation Act will provide for legislative protection for TECs in WA.

- Interim recovery plans were approved for the *Banksia attenuata* woodlands over species rich dense shrublands, and for the Eastern Stirling Range Montane Heath and Thicket Community.
- New occurrence information was added to the Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities database for 19,111 occurrences of 16 TECs and 70 priority ecological communities (PEC) distributed across the State, helping resolve the status of the PECs and providing improved information for land use planning. Surveys were completed in 52 occurrences of TECs and PECs throughout the State.

Wetlands

- Information sheets and mapping reviews for three Ramsar sites are in various stages of preparation. In response to a request from the Australian Government, preliminary assessments to determine the status of two Ramsar sites have been completed (Muir-Byenup System and Lake Gore) and a third assessment (Vasse-Wonnerup System) is underway.



Toolibin Lake. Photo – Deanna Rasmussen/DBCA

- An analysis of potential additions to the Directory of Important Wetlands of Australia dataset commenced, with 254 eligible sites identified and prioritised based upon ecological values.
- A biological survey and mapping was conducted for seven mound springs in the east Kimberley in collaboration with Bennelongia Environmental Consultants.
- The South West Wetlands Monitoring Program completed a report on depth, salinity and pH trends from 1977 to 2015 of 105 individual wetlands and analyses of changes in waterbird usage of selected south-west wetlands over 30 years. Analysis is underway of data collected between 1996 and 2014 on the biological responses of a selection of Wheatbelt wetlands to threats such as salinisation, acidification and climate change.
- A project to investigate the hydrogeochemistry of peat wetlands is providing information for prioritising wetland management by understanding the factors that underpin resilience to acidification (in response to declining rainfall) in the southern peat wetlands. A new hydrological model of Toolibin Lake, which will be used to assess and design management options, is nearing completion. Groundwater monitoring continued in the Bryde and Toolibin recovery catchments and in the Muir-Byenup Ramsar wetlands.
- The Toolibin Lake Catchment Recovery Plan 2015-2035 was completed, to guide the recovery of Toolibin Lake, a Ramsar wetland that supports the critically endangered *Melaleuca strobophylla-Casuarina obesa* TEC.

Off reserve conservation

- The partnership agreement with State NRM for the delivery of the *Land for Wildlife* program progressed. Field protocols for providing site advice to *Land for Wildlife* registrants are being developed in five out of seven WA NRM regions. During 2016–17, the program registered 23 new properties, bringing the total area of registered sites managed privately for conservation to 299,372ha.
- Under the voluntary *Nature Conservation Covenant Program*, covenants have been established on 268 titles covering a total of 20,791ha, including habitat for threatened species and ecological communities, a Ramsar-listed wetland and registered Aboriginal heritage sites.
- *Urban Nature* worked with more than 85 community groups, private landholders, local governments, State agencies and universities to facilitate best practice management of urban bushland. A project to manage and restore the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands resulted in the production and initial implementation of a hydrological management plan, weed mapping and management, track closures and the establishment of weed control trials around critically endangered flora. Re-establishment of critical habitat for bridled tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*) on Penguin Island commenced with the assistance of Penguin Island volunteers

- Coordination of the Banksia Woodland Restoration Project continued, with 50ha of banksia woodland established through topsoil transfer, planting and direct seeding to provide new feeding habitat for the endangered Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*). Plant density in most restoration areas had reached targets prior to the summer of 2016–17 and included substantial numbers of banksia trees, which are an important food source for Carnaby's cockatoo. Control of major environmental weeds occurred across 23 reserves. A monitoring framework using ground-based and remote sensing data continued to assess the longer-term effects of weed control and bushfire on banksia woodland biodiversity and condition.
- The Roadside Conservation Committee undertook a range of activities to raise awareness of roadside conservation and engage with stakeholders, including providing training for nine local governments.

Sustainable use of natural resources

- The commercial harvest of western grey and red kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus* and *M. rufus*) continued to be regulated under the State management plan approved by the Australian Government. Quotas were set for each management region following aerial population surveys. The closure of a major pet food processor in WA resulted in a reduced number of kangaroos being harvested in 2016–17.

- In September 2016, 10 tonnes of dead sandalwood and lesser grades of green wood was seized at Woolibar Station outside Kalgoorlie. The sandalwood has an estimated value of \$100,000. In March 2017, 60 litres of sandalwood oil with an estimated value of \$120,000 was seized in the Perth metropolitan area. Prosecution briefs are being prepared on both matters.
- In partnership with the department and Forest Products Commission, the Goldfields Land and Sea Council carried out a hand seeding trial to regenerate sandalwood on Credo Station, 70km from Coolgardie.

Licensing

To support the sustainable use of wildlife, the department issued 8102 licences under the Wildlife Conservation Act to take, collect, keep and breed, deal in, trap or export native animals, and 1862 licences to collect native plants. A total of 540 licences were issued to either scare, destroy, trap or relocate nuisance wildlife or dangerous wildlife and wildlife causing damage.

For information about prosecutions under the Wildlife Conservation Act, the Conservation and Land Management Act and associated regulations please see page 64.



Native sandalwood tree. Photo – DBCA



Male and female purple crowned fairy wren. Photo – Karen Bettink/DBCA

Report on operations

Service 3: Conservation Partnerships

This service works in partnership with research organisations, private companies, non-government organisations and community groups to develop and implement programs to conserve and improve the management of the State's wildlife, based on best practice science.

The desired outcome of the service is the conservation and sustainable use of Western Australia's wildlife through effective partnerships.

The priorities of the service in 2016–17 were:

1. Developing, negotiating and improving partnerships with other research bodies, such as universities, the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) and the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI), other Government agencies, natural resource management (NRM) bodies, local government, non-government organisations and community groups to leverage additional funding to support Government priorities.
2. Effectively managing a comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation reserve system to protect biodiversity and social values.
3. Maintaining viable, intact and healthy ecological communities and populations

of species, especially those that are threatened, significant or iconic, while allowing the sustainable use of natural resources.

4. Reducing impacts of key threatening processes, including altered fire regimes and hydrology, and priority pest animals, weeds and plant diseases, on biodiversity, ecological processes and sustainable land uses.
5. Undertaking scientific investigations that are effectively targeted to improve biodiversity knowledge and integrate science knowledge into wildlife management.

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2016–17. The service is delivered by multiple divisions across the department.

1. Developing, negotiating and improving partnerships to leverage additional funding to support Government and departmental priorities, by:

- developing and maintaining good working relationships with a range of organisations, groups and stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation
- continuing to apply for external funds to deliver on-ground management, monitoring and research to improve management of the State's biodiversity and conservation reserve system, according to Government priorities

- working with other bodies to develop funding applications that will contribute to delivering Government priorities, and
- implementing externally funded projects, including development project offsets, as agreed under governance and other arrangements.

2. Continuing to effectively manage the conservation reserve system, by using effective partnerships to assist in:

- progressively implementing priority conservation and science actions in reserves, and
- continuing to effectively manage World Heritage-listed areas through the implementation of collaborative conservation management programs across various tenures.

3. Maintaining viable, intact and healthy ecological communities and populations of species, especially those that are threatened, significant or iconic, while allowing the sustainable use of natural resources, by:

- using effective partnerships to implement approved wildlife recovery programs, including recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities.

4. Reducing impacts of key threatening processes, by:

- implementing priority and targeted actions for pest animal control and undertaking

actions to achieve conservation and protection of native fauna and other values

- implementing priority and targeted actions for weed control and undertaking actions including surveys to determine weed distribution and abundance to achieve conservation and protection of native flora and other values
- implementing priority and targeted actions for plant disease control and undertaking actions to achieve conservation and protection of native flora and other values, including programs to manage *Phytophthora* dieback, with a focus on identified protectable areas
- progressing integration of feral cat and fox baiting in *Western Shield* areas, using the Eradicat® feral cat bait
- implementing priority and targeted actions to reduce the impacts of altered hydrology on biodiversity
- acquiring knowledge and determining management effectiveness of prescribed burning and bushfire suppression in relation to managing fire for biodiversity and impact on known biodiversity and other values, and
- implementing strategic actions to improve the resilience of threatened terrestrial and marine species and ecological communities under predicted climate change models.

5. Undertaking targeted scientific investigations and integrating science knowledge into wildlife management, by:

- ensuring externally funded science programs address gaps in knowledge and reflect the applied nature of advice required by the department to deliver effective conservation, protection and management of flora, fauna, ecological communities and conservation reserves
- undertaking research on population genetics, demography, eco-physiology and reproductive biology to improve management and conservation of threatened flora and fauna
- continuing to deliver the Return to 1616 ecological restoration project at Dirk Hartog Island National Park
- continuing to undertake terrestrial and marine biological surveys to systematically address gaps in knowledge and increase understanding of biodiversity components and patterns to better inform wildlife and conservation reserve management, including joint management with Aboriginal traditional owners
- undertaking research on the marine environment, including large fauna, to inform and improve management programs
- continuing to coordinate the delivery of the WAMSI Kimberley Marine Research Program
- continuing to deliver the Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program
- continuing to undertake research and monitoring to inform the development and delivery of landscape-scale management, and
- continuing to facilitate the development of models to determine the effects of climate change on biodiversity.

Performance summary

Table 3: Service 3 performance summary

Key Efficiency Indicator	2016–17 Target \$'000	2016–17 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Expense by service	29,738	24,618	(5120)
Key Efficiency Indicator	2016–17 Target \$	2016–17 Actual \$	Variance \$
KPI 3.1: Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat	1.04	0.78	(0.26)



Ranger Sandy Benson in Millstream Chichester National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

Report on operations

Performance highlights

Strategic partnerships

- Parks and Wildlife is a partner in the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Northern Australian Environment Resources Hub. In 2016–17, the department progressed the development of a bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) project in the Fitzroy Catchment with traditional owners. As part of this Hub, the department also renewed its collaboration with CSIRO to research the ecology and impacts of the significant weed stinking passionflower (*Passiflora foetida* var. *hispida*) in the Fitzroy Catchment.
- The department contributed to eight projects implemented through the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub, focused on management and recovery of threatened plants and animals through improving threatened plant reintroduction success and species recovery; fire and introduced predator management; improving threatened species assessments and evaluating conservation policy options for data-challenges species; developing a national threatened species index and a Red Hot List for imperiled plants; translocation, reintroduction and fencing for threatened fauna; and saving species on islands.

- Work continued on the WAMSI Kimberley Marine Research Program, which is led by the department and comprises 25 integrated science projects that are providing new information on marine biodiversity, habitats, ecological processes and human use across the Kimberley. Research findings are being shared with managers and stakeholders, including traditional owners, to ensure the application of research findings and products to management decisions and actions.
- WABSI continued to grow with the appointment of a CEO, establishment of a secretariat and governance structures and appointment of node leaders. Parks and Wildlife is a foundation member and also provides a node leader.
- Pilbara Corridors, an initiative of Parks and Wildlife, Rangelands NRM and Greening Australia funded through the Biodiversity Fund, progressed towards completion in July 2017. All funded projects are on track to be delivered on time. The Pilbara Conservation Action Plan was launched.
- A stakeholder engagement process commenced to develop an adaptive management plan for the Great Victoria Desert. This initiative, funded by the Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust, was supported by Parks and Wildlife, Rangelands NRM, Conservation Management, Central Desert Native Title Services, Spinifex Land Management,

Yilka Aboriginal Corporation and Greening Australia.

- Discussions commenced with the Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation over the joint management of Matuwa Kurrara (MKK) Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). Meanwhile the department continued to work with the MKK management team, Central Desert Native Title Services (CDNTS) and Bush Heritage over research at Matuwa.

Biological surveys

- Reports from a biological survey of the poorly known Colville 1:100,000 map sheet area on the northern edge of the Nullarbor were completed. There were 148 plant taxa recorded for the area including four new records for the Nullarbor.
- Pilbara Corridors supported a survey of flora and invertebrates of Fortescue Valley wetlands to assist with spatial planning of wetland management on a number of pastoral stations.
- Reporting is largely complete for a project documenting the floristics and vegetation of Fortescue Marsh supported by Fortescue Metals Group and BHP. During 2016–17, a digital vegetation map was completed along with a report describing mapped vegetation units, floristic values, and analysis of the drivers of vegetation patterning.

- Reporting is largely complete for a BHP-supported biological survey of Mandora Marsh in the Great Sandy Desert, which resampled sites surveyed about two decades prior for terrestrial and wetland species and ecological communities. The survey has been extended into late 2017 to include an additional flora survey.
- Baseline information on botanical diversity and soils was collected to inform and improve State and national biodiversity monitoring and environmental accounts reporting programs, through sampling a series of AusPlots in the rangelands (21 sites) and south-western regions (17 sites).
- In partnership with the Gorgon Project, the island and marine conservation values of Barrow Island Nature Reserve and surrounding marine parks and reserves were monitored, researched and managed under an ongoing program.
- Surveys were undertaken for the Naturebank program at Millstream Chichester National Park, and fauna papers were published on the proposed Lake Mason Conservation Park and threatened bat species in the Kimberley.
- A further 1758 plant collections were lodged with the WA Herbarium from the Pilbara Biological Survey, bringing the total to 7069.



Ranger Iszaac Webb conducts a hooded plover survey at Margaret River. Photo – Christine Fleay/DBCA



Millstream Chichester National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

Managing threats

- With sponsorship from Alcoa, Tronox and Western Areas Ltd, the *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program continued to implement broadscale, integrated fox and feral cat baiting across conservation reserves and State forest.
- A Fortescue Metals Group offset research project at Fortescue Marsh demonstrated that feral cat occupancy can be significantly reduced through the application of Eradicat®.
- With funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, planning began to inform trials of a hybrid 1080 feral cat bait, known as Hisstory, in the Kimberley to determine its efficacy for feral cat control and any impacts on northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*).
- Significant progress was 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 program. The island was declared free of sheep in 2016, and during 2016–17 the department continued to remove goats and feral cats, involving extensive monitoring, follow-up trapping, and the use of specially-trained detector dogs.
- The South West Threatened Fauna Recovery Project, funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, continued to contribute to threatened species recovery through further integrating feral cat and fox baiting at Dryandra Woodland, the Upper Warren area, Kalbarri, Cape Arid, Fitzgerald River, Stirling Range and Waychinicup national parks, and Mt Manypeaks and Two Peoples Bay nature reserves.
- Parks and Wildlife worked with Rangelands NRM to deliver educational ranger workshops and handbooks to assist in surveillance and mitigation work under the Cane Toad Strategy for WA 2014-19. In collaboration with the University of Sydney and Rangelands NRM, the department investigated strategies to reduce cane toad breeding success and mitigate impacts on key native species in the Kimberley.
- BHP supported hydrological investigations and modelling to determine the nature of groundwater dependence of organic springs and mound springs of the Mandora Marsh area - a threatened ecological community - to inform assessment of water resources planning in the West Canning Basin.

Report on operations

- Control of donkeys, horses and camels continued at Fortescue Marsh in collaboration with Pilbara Corridors, Rangelands NRM, Fortescue Metals Group and local pastoralists. A continuing collaboration between Parks and Wildlife and the Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee, Roy Hill, Fortescue Metals Group, Pilbara Corridors and Rangelands NRM is undertaking control of parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) upstream of the marsh.
- The Pilbara Weed Strategy, a collaboration involving the department, CSIRO, Atlas Iron, Roy Hill and Pilbara Corridors, has captured more than 117,000 weed records from 139 weed species across the Pilbara.
- The department also continued its collaboration with CSIRO on the impacts of stinking passionflower on freshwater crocodile breeding habitat in Lake Kununurra. The department and CSIRO continued to investigate the ecological impacts of stinking passionflower in the Pilbara and Kimberley with funding support from Rio Tinto.
- Through the State NRM Project Dieback, administered by South Coast NRM, Parks and Wildlife upgraded tracks in Cape Arid and Fitzgerald River national parks to reduce the risk of further spread of *Phytophthora* dieback from known infestations.

- The Healthy Wetland Habitats program received 17 new expressions of interest, seven of which have progressed voluntary management agreements over 106.2 ha of wetland.

Threatened and important animals

- The Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program is funded through the Gorgon Project on Barrow Island and aims to increase conservation of the North West Shelf flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*) population. In 2016–17, the department conducted the first year of monitoring at Thevenard Island, continued satellite tracking adult females from nesting beaches and continued studies to better understand the impacts of artificial light on hatchling behaviour, fox predation on turtle hatchlings and eggs, and climate change on marine turtle incubation.
- Aerial and boat-based surveys of bottlenose (*Tursiops aduncus*), Indo-Pacific humpback (*Sousa sahalensis*) and potentially Australian snubfin (*Orcaella heinsohni*) dolphins were undertaken in Pilbara coastal waters, with particular focus on the Onslow and Dampier Archipelago areas, as part of offset projects associated with the Wheatstone and Pluto developments. These surveys will inform the conservation status of these species and future environmental impact assessments.



Volunteer Rebecca Evans and Hannah Hampson measure a flatback turtle at Thevenard Island. Photo – Liz Grant/DBCA



Western ground parrot being measured. Photo – Alan Danks



Bottlenose dolphins. Photo – Tourism WA

- In May 2017, a second cohort of black-flanked rock wallabies (*Petrogale lateralis*) was released in Kalbarri National Park as part of the South West Threatened Fauna Recovery Project, with support from WWF-Australia. Sub-adult and juvenile rock wallabies have recently been detected, indicating that the animals translocated in 2015–16 are breeding (see case study on page 38). Monitoring in south coast reserves as part of this project has recorded new occurrences of dibbler (*Parantechinus apicalus*), increases in chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroi*) and quenda (*Isoodon obesulus fusciventer*) and stabilisation of the population of critically endangered western ground parrots (*Pezoporus flaviventris*) in Cape Arid National Park following bushfires in 2015.
- A partnership with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy continues to support the reintroduction of threatened species into the Mount Gibson Sanctuary.
- In partnership with WWF-Australia, the department continued to survey and monitor the recovery of the quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) population in the February 2015 O’Sullivan fire area, near Northcliffe, and surrounding region. Additional 1080 ground baiting to control foxes continues to protect recovering fauna populations.
- Surveys and repeated monitoring of known populations of the northern quoll and bilby continued in the Pilbara with offset and other corporate funding from Atlas Iron, Millennium Minerals, Fortescue Metals Group, Main Roads WA, Iron Ore Holdings, Roy Hill and BHP.
- A landscape-scale cat baiting trial at Yarraloola continued, funded by a Rio Tinto offset, demonstrating that cat activity was reduced and that northern quolls were not at risk of consuming Eradicat®.
- With support from Roy Hill, workshops were undertaken to review the Pilbara northern quoll research program and to develop a Pilbara introduced predator research program.
- Surveys for northern quoll, bilby, black-flanked rock wallaby and other threatened species were undertaken across the Western Desert with support from the Martu traditional owners, Birriliburu IPA rangers, Kirrikurra IPA rangers and Kanyiminpa Jukurpa.
- Surveys for bilby on the Dampier Peninsula by the Nyul Nyul, Yawuru, Goolarabooloo, Jabirr Jabirr and Nyikina Mangala rangers commenced with offset funding support from Main Roads WA. Surveys for bilby and rare plants commenced in the west Kimberley to support assessment for irrigated agriculture development.
- A partnership with BirdLife WA to conduct the annual Great Cocky Count continued for the ninth consecutive year in April 2017.
- Research into habitat use and migratory patterns of Baudin’s cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and the forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) continued, with support from Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia (UWA).
- More than 100 artificial breeding hollows for Carnaby’s cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) were established at a number of important breeding sites, in partnership with BirdLife WA.
- A revision of *Tephrosia* in north-west WA, funded by a Rio Tinto offset, was completed.
- Completion of an Australian Government Biodiversity Fund project in collaboration with Warren Catchment Council and CSIRO, has led to restoration of about 120ha of degraded habitat along the Warren and Donnelly rivers.
- Field and lab work continued in a collaboration with UWA, the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Gondwana Link to evaluate the success of restoration plantings through assessment of reproductive success in comparison with native remnant vegetation.

Threatened and important plants

- The Western Australian Herbarium’s Pilbara plant identification program, in partnership with BHP and Rio Tinto, continued to provide an authoritative identification service to industry.
- The department’s Threatened Flora Seed Centre continued to be involved in international seed conservation projects, such as the Global Trees Project and the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership.
- In collaboration with Rio Tinto and BHP, the department undertook analysis of patterns of genetic diversity in plant species of the Pilbara to inform identification of appropriate seed source zones for restoration.



Small dragon orchid (*Caladenia barbarella* Eurardie). Photo – Mark Brundrett/DBCA

Case study

Rock wallaby numbers grow at Kalbarri National Park

Black-flanked rock wallabies (*Petrogale lateralis lateralis*) had been considered extinct from Kalbarri National Park for 20 years until two adult animals and a joey were found there in 2015. Since the surprising discovery, Parks and Wildlife has been working hard to re-establish this Midwest population of threatened rock wallabies.

Scientists and regional officers have translocated a total of 47 black-flanked rock wallabies from several locations in the Wheatbelt to Kalbarri National Park.

The most recent translocation in May this year involved Wheatbelt and Midwest staff and volunteers, with assistance from WWF-Australia, releasing 24 radio-collared rock wallabies at Hawk's Head.

There are high hopes the expanded rock wallaby population will continue to thrive, with very high survivorship of the 23 animals translocated in 2016.

Parks and Wildlife rangers have tracked these rock wallabies for more than a year, with 22 alive and remaining around the original Four Ways release site, indicating that it provides good habitat. Sub-adults and pouch young have also been recorded, confirming the animals are healthy and breeding.

Monitoring of all the rock wallabies is ongoing, with 56 remote cameras located around the release sites capturing important imagery.

Black-flanked rock wallabies are shy, wary animals which feed on grasses, leaves and herbs close to the shelter of rocks.

Their decline in Kalbarri National Park is thought to have been caused by goats competing for grasses, pushing the wallabies out of the protected gorge areas where they were vulnerable to fox and cat predation. The department has been culling goats in the park since 2006.

Since the discovery of surviving rock wallabies at Kalbarri in 2015, protection for this threatened species has stepped up.

Aerial fox baiting was carried out over the entire 194,400ha park under the *Western Shield* program, in December 2016 and May 2017.

Eradicat® feral cat baits were aerially deployed over the northern half of Kalbarri National Park for the first time in September 2016, a program supported by \$1.7 million in Australian Government funding for feral cat control in WA.

Parks and Wildlife monitors foxes and feral cats in Kalbarri National Park and a neighbouring station with around 60 remote cameras.

Seven feral cats have been fitted with GPS collars so scientists can learn more about their movements and monitor their impacts on native animals, helping the department apply the Eradicat® bait in the most effective way.



Principal research scientist Dr David Pearson attaches a radio transmitter to a rock wallaby held by Geraldton district wildlife officer CJ Green prior to translocation. Photo – DBCA



This rock wallaby joey captured in May 2017 indicates animals translocated in 2016 are breeding. Photo – David Pearson/DBCA

Report on operations

Service 4: Forest Management Plan Implementation

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 forests.

The overall priorities for 2016–17 related to implementing the requirements of the Forest Management Plan 2014–2023 (FMP), and ecologically sustainable management of the range of forest values and uses. The priorities of this service in 2016–17 were:

1. Focusing resources on addressing the requirements of the FMP, with particular consideration to weed, pest animal and disease management (including *Phytophthora* dieback) issues.
2. Contributing to the joint Commonwealth/Western Australian progress reporting on the Regional Forest Agreement process.
3. Refining monitoring, research and data collection and analysis to facilitate reporting on the FMP key performance indicators, and initiate preparation of the FMP mid-term performance report.

The service outcome is delivered by a number of divisions across the department through the following strategies and key activities:

1. Implementing Government policies and programs, including the management activities outlined in the FMP.

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 (FPC) 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, and
- 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, government agencies, natural resource management groups and external clients.

3. Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and other forest values in State forest and timber reserves, including:

- implementing and enhancing systems for approvals, monitoring rehabilitation and compliance (including setting management standards) for operations undertaken on State forest and timber reserves
- providing planning support to guide the location of fauna habitat zones, selection and management of public firewood collection areas and licensed flora harvesting areas
- monitoring areas burnt by bushfire and prescribed burning to support landscape-scale planning and reporting; and helping evaluate biodiversity assets at risk from effects of infrastructure construction or threatening processes
- delivering information about and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback and evaluating disease hygiene standards to minimise spread through planned disturbance operations, and
- undertaking research and monitoring (such as *FORESTCHECK*) and refining operational procedures to enhance the management of biodiversity, productive capacity, ecosystem health and vitality, and soil and water values.

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

- reviewing silviculture, soil and water management, and other relevant guidance documents
- conducting training for silvicultural and soil protection practices
- monitoring areas subject to timber harvesting and associated silvicultural treatments, and
- preparing three-year regional timber harvest plans, and reviewing annual regional timber harvest plans submitted by the FPC.

5. Maintaining partnerships, including with:

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

Report on operations

Performance summary

Table 4: Service 4 performance summary

	2016–17 Target \$'000	2016–17 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Expense by service	13,157	11,819	(1338)
Key Efficiency Indicator	2016–17 Target \$	2016–17 Actual \$	Variance \$
KPI 4.1: Average cost per hectare of managing forest	10.18	9.15	(1.03)

Key Effectiveness Indicators

Outcome: The State's plants and animals and the lands and water under the department's care are managed for tourism, water and wood production, and other approved uses:

KPI 1: Cumulative removal of jarrah sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan.

Target 2016–17: 396,000m³
Actual 2016–17: 259,575m³

KPI 2: Cumulative removal of karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan.

Target 2016–17: 177,000m³
Actual 2016–17: 122,366m³

Note: Removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs under the FMP 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 114 to 117.

Performance highlights

Major plans

- The FMP for south-west forests continued to be implemented. This included finalising interagency working arrangements with the FPC, and protocols for the 24 key performance indicators (KPI). The KPIs will measure the success in meeting the objectives of the FMP.
- Release of the third five-year progress review of the Regional Forest Agreement for the South-West Forest Region of Western Australia for public comment in November 2016.

Forest planning, management and monitoring

- The department provided specialist advice on the implications for ecologically sustainable forest management of proposed developments and planned operations, including timber harvesting, mining, utilities (e.g. water pipelines) and infrastructure work.
- Ongoing vegetation condition mapping and modelling of the impacts of the major 2015 and 2016 bushfires at O'Sullivan near Northcliffe, Lower Hotham near Boddington and Waroona–Yarloop was conducted to inform planning for potential timber salvage, regeneration and reconstruction operations.
- Prepared and published three-year timber harvest plans (2017 to 2019) for the Swan, South West and Warren regions.
- The utility of digital imagery captured by Remotely Piloted Aircraft (drones) for timber inventory, digital elevation modelling, and vegetation condition monitoring was investigated in karri and jarrah regrowth forests.
- Reviewed, updated and streamlined operational advice for preparing hygiene management plans to align foreseeable risks with suitable management responses and practices.
- Finalised a protocol and reviewed the process to assess the potential old-growth forest status of areas proposed for disturbance activities or nominated by the public.
- The ongoing preparation or review of operational guidance documents (required by the FMP), including:
 - goals for understorey diversity
 - planning and approval process for salvage harvesting
 - selecting the locations of fauna habitat zones
 - manual for silvicultural burning in karri
 - soils management manual and soil survey procedure
 - karri and jarrah regeneration survey procedures, and
 - preventing, containing and controlling spills (chemical hydrocarbon) procedures.

- The detection and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback was carried out on 31,680ha of land managed by Parks and Wildlife to help plan and manage disturbance operations and the prioritisation of disease treatments. This included work undertaken for the FPC (see Service 5) and included 10,864ha rechecked that had been previously mapped.
- The old-growth forest status of areas proposed for disturbance operations was reviewed, and an updated map showing the extent of, and changes to, areas of old-growth forest was published on the department's website in June 2017. Data and advice was also provided to the Conservation and Parks Commission on community nominations of old-growth forest areas.
- Fauna habitat zones in State forests were created to help maintain biodiversity values in areas subject to timber harvesting. Analysis of the potential location of 14 fauna habitat zones was carried out, 11 of which (comprising a gross area of 1829ha) were finalised in accordance with the FMP. The cumulative number of fauna habitat zones finalised is 131, comprising a gross area of 34,919ha. An updated map of fauna habitat zone locations was published on the department's website in June 2017.
- One hundred and three disturbance operations in the calendar year 2016, covering 8869ha of State forest and

timber reserves, were evaluated and monitored for compliance with the environmental outcomes sought in the FMP. This included 30 soil disturbance and erosion surveys across 26 active native forest coupes (covering 323ha and 140km of log extraction track), and 28 assessments of silvicultural outcomes in 25 forest coupes covering 112ha.

Research

- Monitoring continued at seven *FORESTCHECK* grids burnt in February 2015 by the Lower Hotham bushfire. These grids were re-measured to record the response of plant and invertebrate communities in these areas of the jarrah forest, subject to bushfire.
- Preparation of scientific papers based on analysis of *FORESTCHECK* data from 2002–12 and associated scientific papers progressed.
- A review of the *FORESTCHECK* program was carried out to inform the future approach to monitoring the impacts of disturbance activities on biodiversity and other values in the south-west forests.
- Research to inform silvicultural practices and potential adaptation strategies in a drying climate continued, with the re-measurement of groundwater boreholes in catchments in the Warren Region. This data will contribute to reporting against key performance indicators of the FMP.

- Analysis of long term monitoring data on populations of the gumleaf skeletoniser (*Uraba lugens*) found widespread defoliation events in the southern jarrah forest are associated with dry autumns and winters, and a continued drying trend. Monitoring outbreaks as an indicator of underlying environmental stress allows the department to manage potential effects through silvicultural intervention.



Preventing dieback spread through good hygiene practices. Photo – Jodie Watts/DBCA

131
fauna habitat zone locations finalised

103
disturbance operations evaluated and monitored in 2016

120
coupes analysed and mapped for proposed timber harvesting

31,680ha
of Parks and Wildlife-managed land interpreted and mapped for dieback

23,000ha
Parks and Wildlife-managed land interpreted and mapped for timber harvesting

Report on operations

Service 5: Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry

This service is responsible for developing and implementing programs which provide works and services that directly support commercial forest production activities on State forests and timber reserves.

The desired outcome of the service is the efficient provision of services to support the sustainable utilisation, effective regeneration and management of forest products.

The overall priorities for 2016–17 related to implementing the requirements of the Forest Management Plan 2014–2023 (FMP) and providing a range of on-ground works, technical support and services to the Forest Products Commission (FPC) under annual works agreements. The priorities of this service in 2016–17 were:

1. Effectively authorise access to State forest and timber reserves, including continuing to improve compliance monitoring and reporting processes. Related to this is the finalisation of the interagency working arrangement with the FPC, which includes hand-over and hand-back requirements for timber harvesting coupes, information sharing, disease management and roading arrangements.

2. Ensuring areas harvested are regenerated in a timely manner (where this is the primary silvicultural objective), and appropriate fire management and protection activities are implemented following harvest.
3. Providing coupe-level harvest planning, field survey, dieback interpretation and resource evaluation services to the FPC.
4. Participating in the Australian Forestry Standard and Forest Stewardship Council audit processes for FPC certification of wood products and forest management.

The service outcome was delivered by a number of the divisions across the department through the following strategies and key activities:

1. **Providing regulatory oversight of native forest timber harvesting processes, including implementation of management activities in the FMP relating to setting silvicultural standards, monitoring and yield regulation.**
2. **Performing on-ground works to support the regeneration and tending of harvested areas in native forest and plantations, including conducting silvicultural burns, planting, weed and pest animal management activities.**



Yarragil Brook, Yarragil block, near Lane Poole Reserve. Photo – Jake Cortis/DBCA

3. **Conducting native forest harvest planning, specialist hardwood and plantation inventory, field survey and *Phytophthora* dieback interpretation activities to service annual harvest plans.**
4. **Performing field measurement programs and data analysis to monitor harvest removals and silvicultural standards in timber harvest operations.**
5. **Contributing to biodiversity research and monitoring programs (including through *FORESTCHECK*) which assess the impacts of timber harvesting and informs regeneration and silvicultural practices, and supports the ongoing delivery of a sustainable forest products industry in Western Australia**



Pink star flower (*Calytrix decandra*). Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

Performance summary

Table 5: Service 5 performance summary

	2016–17 Target \$'000	2016–17 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Expense by service	10,346	8220	(2126)
Key Efficiency Indicator	2016–17 Target \$	2016–17 Actual \$	Variance \$
KPI 5.1: Average cost per hectare of forest available for timber harvesting	10.79	8.57	(2.22)

Performance highlights

- Projections of native forest timber resources available under the FMP were prepared to inform market development options for the forest products industry. This included potential timber resources available for salvage to facilitate regeneration of areas damaged by bushfires near Northcliffe, Boddington and Waroona–Yarloop.
- Preparation of the annual 2016 timber harvest plans for native forests involved extensive data analysis and coupe map production for 45 new and 75 continuing coupes in the south-west forests.
- In order to implement the annual plans, the department finalised the location of fauna habitat zones within State forest, reviewed areas for old-growth forest status, surveyed ecologically sensitive boundaries to assist field demarcation and continued to refine databases of vegetation extent, condition and silvicultural status using field checks and remote sensing.
- Dieback interpretation conducted by departmental staff to inform current or future native forest timber harvesting and roading operations was completed on 23,420ha during 2016.
- Silvicultural burns were conducted under appropriate weather conditions to regenerate areas within coupes where jarrah and karri harvesting operations had been completed.
- Maintenance of fire access roads, water points and firebreaks was completed for priority areas within pine plantations across four districts.
- Another round of measuring of experimental thinning in high-quality jarrah regrowth forest near Dwellingup was carried out. Findings have contributed to improved understanding of how tree growth and vigour are affected by stand density over a period of five decades.
- High-resolution digital imagery and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data were applied to enhance harvest coupe design, silvicultural planning and conformance reporting in tall native forests.
- Inventory of the standing timber remaining in pine plantations following thinning operations was conducted to perform projections of future growth and yield.

Report on operations

Service 6: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management

This service is responsible for using planned fire to achieve community and asset protection; and land, forest and wildlife management objectives.

The desired outcome of the service is community protection and the enhancement of land, forest and wildlife management outcomes by continual improvement in the planning and implementation of the prescribed burning and fire management programs.

For 2016–17, the overall priorities for this service and the strategies and key activities guiding their delivery across the State were:

1. Achievement of best practice prescribed burning and fire management procedures, by:

- applying principles of risk management and continual improvement to planning and conducting the prescribed burning program, to minimise the risk to the community from bushfires on department-managed land as much as is reasonably practical

- applying adaptive management principles to the practice of prescribed burning to enable adoption of new knowledge, including research findings, in the use of planned fire to deliver improved environmental, silvicultural and biodiversity outcomes
 - applying sound policy, technology, information management systems and the coordination of planning and operations to deliver identified fire management outcomes
 - enhancing quality assurance processes for the program at all levels, and
 - reviewing systems, processes and doctrine, and approaches to utilisation of available resources, to maximise the safe implementation of the prescribed burning program.
- ### 2. Implementation of new performance measures for the existing prescribed burning program, by:
- reporting on, and as appropriate, revising performance measures that enable better understanding of the department's prescribed burning program achievements and its contribution to both community protection and other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.

3. Achievement of improvements in staff development and succession planning for fire management, by:

- enhancing the Fire Management Development Program (FMDP) through the strategic recruitment, training and development of program staff, and extending FMDP opportunities to other staff, to provide a sustained level of capability required to effectively and efficiently deliver the fire management program
- developing time-bound succession plans to ensure the department retains the requisite fire research and senior fire leadership capacity, and
- training and developing existing staff from across all functional areas to have the skills and knowledge required to fulfil the department's fire management goals.



Prescribed burning in karri forest near Pemberton. Photo – Tim Foley/DBCA

Performance summary

Table 6: Service 6 performance summary

	2016–17 Target \$'000	2016–17 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Expense by service	39,218	50,803	11,585*
Key Efficiency Indicator	2016–17 Target \$	2016–17 Actual \$	Variance \$
KPI 6.1: Average cost per hectare burnt	15.69	15.70	0.01**

* The variance between actual and target expense by service for 2016–17 is largely a legacy issue associated with adjusted assumptions used for the allocation of base budgets and corporate costs across the various services resulting from expansion from three services in 2014–15 to eight services in 2015–16 and 2016–17.

** The enhanced prescribed burning program and suitable weather conditions in both spring and autumn led to the highest annual prescribed burning achievement in the south-west for 29 years. Together with a significantly improved achievement in other regions of the State compared to 2015–16, this allowed an increase in program achievement commensurate with the increased expense by service.

Key Effectiveness Indicators

Outcome: Lands under the department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.

KPI 1: Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved.

Target 2016–17: 55%
Actual 2016–17: 49%

More details regarding the key efficiency indicator and key effectiveness indicator can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 114 to 117.

Other performance measures

New annual performance measures were introduced in 2015–16 for the department's three south-west forest regions, two of which relate most directly to prescribed burning. The third relates to bushfire suppression (see page 48). The prescribed burning measures are:

- i. The area of prescribed burning completed in three zones at defined distances from the interface between populated areas and natural lands, within the department's three south-west forest regions.

For identified populated areas, three concentric land management zones (LMZs) have been created based on distance from the urban interface.

LMZ A extends 3.5km from a populated area, LMZ B, extends a further 7.5km from the populated area and the third zone, LMZ C, comprises the remainder of the department-managed landscape. While more distant from populated areas, LMZ C is traversed by infrastructure corridors of economic and public safety significance (e.g. powerlines, highways) and contains important biodiversity, recreational, timber production, water catchment and other values. The three LMZs are shown in Figure 3.

A portion of the nominal annual prescribed burning target is allocated to each zone, according to the proportion of all department-managed land which occurs in that zone. After rounding, the nominal 2016–17 prescribed burning targets for the three zones were 20,000ha, 70,000ha and 110,000ha respectively. The 2016–17 achievements for each LMZ target are shown in Table 7.

The second annual performance measure illustrates the medium-term trend, and is based on research showing that prescribed burning is effective in significantly reducing the frequency and size of bushfires in the forests of south-west Western Australia when at least 45 per cent of the landscape is maintained with a fuel age of less than six years since last burnt. In order to realise this target in the department's three south-west forest regions, Parks and Wildlife aims to conduct prescribed burning over at least 1,000,000ha in each five-year period. The nominal annual target is adjusted as required to reflect areas burnt (by both prescribed burning and bushfires) in previous years. 'The proportion of department-managed lands in the south-west forest regions that is less than six years since last burnt' is used as an annual indicator of the effectiveness of the department's prescribed burning program in mitigating bushfire risk. At 30 June 2017, the figure was 40 per cent.

Report on operations

Table 7: 2016–17 LMZ prescribed burning achievements¹

LMZ	Distance from populated area	Nominal 2016–17 target (ha)	Achieved (ha)	Percentage of target
A	within 3.5km	20,000	12,290	61
B	3.5–11km	70,000	67,073	96
C	beyond 11km	110,000	159,148	145

Performance highlights

Prescribed burning achieved

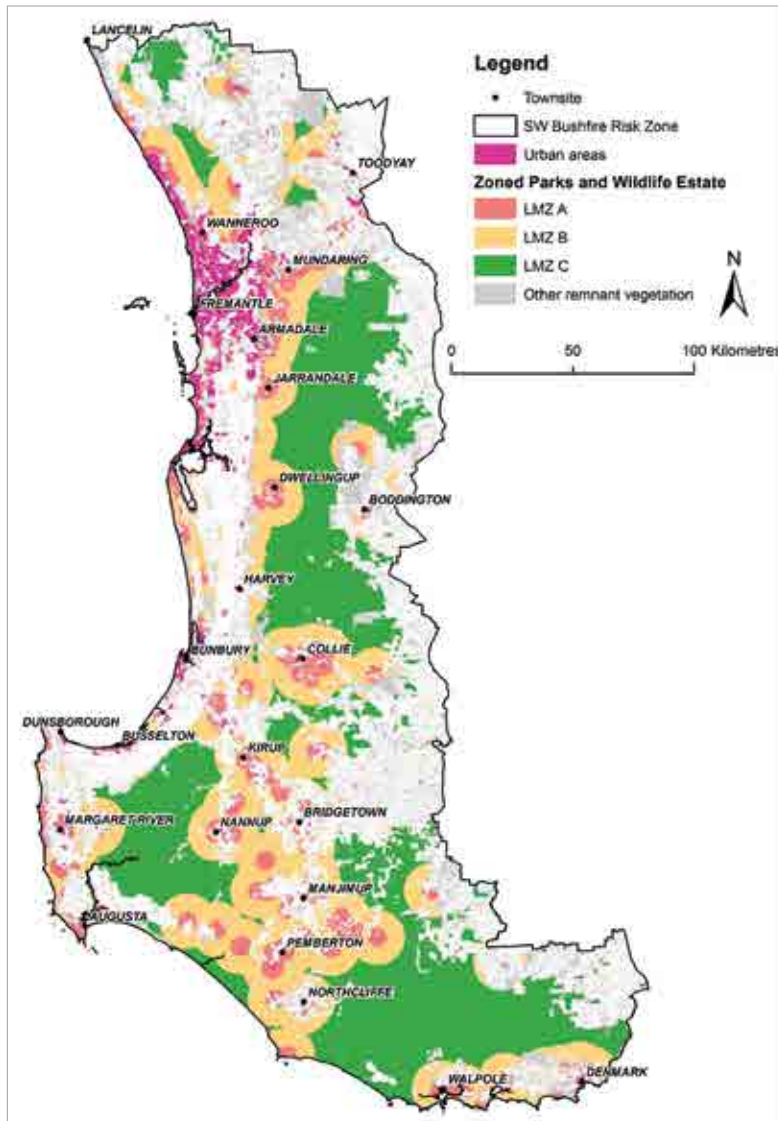
- The department achieved 247,360ha of prescribed burning in the south-west forest regions in 2016–17, including about 3,372 ha that were burnt for pine plantation protection. This was the largest area of prescribed burning achieved by the department in the south-west forest regions since 1987–88. This year’s program was again assisted by additional Government funding.
- A further 2,988,394ha was burnt in the department’s other six regions, being the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast. These prescribed burns were carried out on department-managed land as well as on unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves, often in conjunction with other land managers, including traditional owner groups.

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 assessed Parks and Wildlife’s prescribed fire planning processes in three regions: Pilbara, Midwest and Swan. These reviews confirmed that the department’s processes for prescribed burning align with ISO 31000:2009, the international standard for risk management.

¹ The department completed 8849 hectares of prescribed burning that is not represented in this table as it was not on department-managed land and so not within in an LMZ.

Figure 3: Parks and Wildlife land management zones



Fire planning officer Pedro Palheiro working with a Ngurawaana ranger on a prescribed burn at Millstream Chichester National Park. Photo – Owen Donovan/DBCA

Bushfire preparedness on unallocated Crown land

- Since 2003, the department and its predecessors have been responsible for the coordination and on-ground management of bushfire risk prevention and bushfire preparedness works on almost 90 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves outside the Perth metropolitan area and townsites.
- Work undertaken by the department in 2016–17 included constructing and maintaining firebreaks, modifying vegetation in strategic buffers, 'open-edge' prescribed burning and large-scale aerial ignition.
- Parks and Wildlife continued to engage and build partnerships with stakeholders including Aboriginal groups and communities and neighbouring farmers and pastoralists, particularly in the Kimberley, Pilbara, South Coast and Goldfields regions.

Fire Management Development Program

- The FMDP, which is recognised as a key strategy for succession planning in fire management, was expanded to include a range of personnel seeking to develop their skill set in line with departmental needs in fire management. Six undergraduate students were employed over the university summer semester break as seasonal conservation employees, providing them with a practical introduction to fire management.
- During 2016–17, five new full-time FMDP participants joined the program, filling vacancies created when existing participants were promoted to key fire positions outside of the program within regions and districts.

Report on operations

Service 7: Bushfire Suppression

This service is responsible for responding quickly and effectively to bushfires on, or near, department-managed land by maintaining an appropriate detection and response capacity.

The desired outcome of the service is to ensure the impact of bushfires on communities and built and natural assets on, or near, land managed by the department is as low as reasonably practical.

In 2016–17, the overall priorities for this service and the strategies and key activities guiding their delivery across the State were:

1. Maintenance of a skilled, well trained and response-ready bushfire detection and suppression workforce, by:

- providing sound training and development opportunities and appropriate personal protective equipment for all personnel involved in bushfire suppression
- maximising the number of departmental staff with the necessary skills and training to participate in bushfire suppression operations or support roles
- exploring interagency participation in, and maintenance of, pre-formed incident management teams for deployment to major fires around the State, particularly during the southern bushfire season, and

- maintaining fire availability rosters to provide bushfire response capacity appropriate to fire conditions.

2. Maintenance of a modern, fit-for-purpose fleet of fire appliances, heavy plant, and surveillance, intelligence and water bombing aircraft, as well as fire tower and communication networks, to adequately support firefighters, by:

- providing sustainable fleet, communications and infrastructure maintenance and renewal capacity through well-planned and cost-efficient programs conducted by internal and contracted specialists, and
- completing the fire tower capital improvement program and continuing the fire tower maintenance program.

3. Achievement of continued improvement in interagency working arrangements and common operating procedures to enhance interagency collaboration, information exchange and bushfire suppression effectiveness, through:

- contributing to whole-of-Government initiatives for the review and improvement of State emergency management arrangements, and
- continuing interagency initiatives to improve collaboration, information exchange and bushfire suppression effectiveness, including the adoption of common operating procedures, as appropriate.

Performance summary

Table 8: Service 7 performance summary

	2016–17 Target \$'000	2016–17 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Expense by service	31,757	35,118	3361*
Key Efficiency Indicator	2016–17 Target \$	2016–17 Actual \$	Variance \$
KPI 7.1: Average cost per hectare burnt	15.88	33.04	17.16**

* The variance between actual and target expense by service for 2016–17 is largely a legacy issue associated with adjusted assumptions used for the allocation of base budgets and corporate costs across the various services resulting from expansion from three services in 2014–15 to eight services in 2015–16 and 2016–17.

** The actual cost per hectare burnt is similar to 2015–16 because both the area burnt and the costs associated with bushfire suppression have fallen. The variance between actual and target expense by service for 2016–17 is largely a legacy issue associated with adjusted assumptions used for the allocation of base budgets and corporate costs across the various services resulting from expansion from three services in 2014–15 to eight services in 2015–16 and 2016–17.

Key Effectiveness Indicators

Outcome: Lands under the department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.

KPI 2: Proportion of south-west bushfires contained to less than two hectares.

Target 2016–17: 75%
Actual 2016–17: 83%

Note that the bushfire effectiveness indicator considers only those fires at which Parks and Wildlife was the initial attack agency.

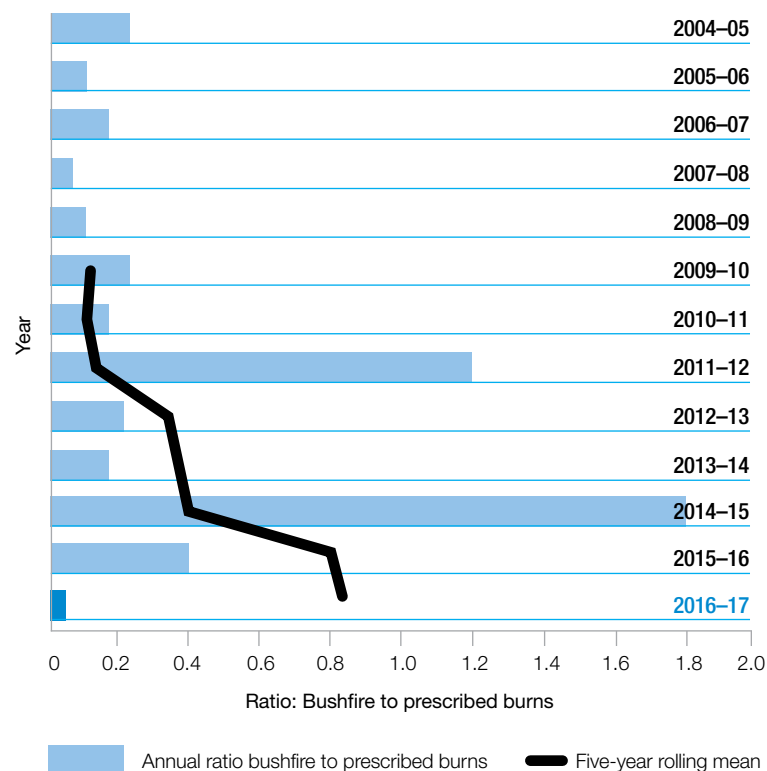
More details regarding the key efficiency indicator and key effectiveness indicator can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 114 to 117.

Other performance measures

Three new annual performance measures for fire management were introduced in 2015–16, two of which are outlined in Service 6 (see pages 45 to 46). The third measure relates most directly to bushfire suppression, being:

- The ratio of area affected by bushfire to area of prescribed burning completed annually. This is one of a suite of national reporting measures on the state of Australian forests. The assumption underlying this measure is that environmental integrity and functionality will be greater where prescribed fire comprises a greater proportion of the total fire load. There is no specific target for this measure; rather it provides an indication of medium-term trends. The ratio of area affected by bushfire to the area of prescribed burning completed for 2016–17 is 7657 ha: 238,696 ha (ratio = 0.03). Areas used to calculate the bushfire to prescribed burn ratio relate to CALM Act tenure only. The respective figures are therefore less than the total figures for bushfires and prescribed burns used elsewhere in the annual report, which include other tenures. The annual ratios of bushfire to prescribed burns is graphed from 2004–05 to 2016–17 in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Annual ratios of bushfire to prescribed burns 2004–05 to 2016–17.



Performance highlights

Bushfire management

- departmental staff attended and monitored 526 bushfires which burnt approximately 1,062,958ha in 2016–17, including:
 - 63,097ha in the Pilbara Region
 - 29,107ha in the Goldfields Region
 - 901,974ha in the Kimberley Region
 - 49,729ha in the South Coast Region
 - 9675ha in the Midwest Region
 - 205ha in the Wheatbelt Region
 - 9171ha in the three south-west forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren).
- The causes of these fires were:
 - lightning – 17 per cent (below the 10-year average of about 22 per cent)
 - deliberately lit or arson-caused fires – 50 per cent (above the 10-year average of about 43 per cent)
 - accidental fires – less than 15 per cent
 - escapes from private burns – 6 per cent
 - escapes from departmental burns – 1 per cent
 - other causes – 2 per cent
 - unknown – 9 per cent.

Report on operations

- In conjunction with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), and local governments through the Western Australian Local Government Association, Parks and Wildlife developed and implemented an operational framework which saw five interagency State bushfire pre-formed incident management teams rostered for deployment to large bushfires around the State throughout the 2016–17 southern bushfire season, as recommended by the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire.
- 2016–17 saw a reduced number of significant bushfires across the State, however, Parks and Wildlife continued to work in conjunction with DFES, local government volunteer bushfire brigades and other stakeholders in providing a quick and effective bushfire response capacity for the community.
- There were no deployments of the State bushfire pre-formed teams during the 2016–17 season.

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 3998 hours of aerial surveillance in pre-determined circuits. Flight schedules varied according to bushfire danger levels and fire activity.

- The detection aircraft also flew 204 hours in support of bushfire suppression operations during 2016–17. The detection aircraft were flown by three permanent pilots and 12 pilots filling seasonal positions.

Aerial bushfire suppression operations

- The department contracted eight fixed-wing 802 air tractor water bombers in the south-west forest regions from November 2016 to late-March 2017. Two additional fixed-wing water bombers were also available for use and were rotated through bases at Manjimup, Albany, Bunbury, and Jandakot, alongside the other water bombers, for periods of severe bushfire weather or high demand. The aircraft provided rapid aerial bushfire suppression capability in the department's South Coast, Midwest, Wheatbelt and three south-west forest regions, including the Perth outer-metropolitan area, delivering valuable assistance to ground crews during the initial attack on bushfires.
- Collectively, these aircraft flew 467 operational hours in attending 130 bushfires and dropped 836 loads, delivering 2.5 million litres of suppressant.
- A six-week trial in November/December was conducted in conjunction with DFES in which two 802 fixed wing water bombers and an Air Attack Platform were placed in Esperance during the height of the grain

harvest season for immediate response to bushfires which could threaten grain crops.

Bushfire training and development

- Fire Management Services Branch training and development staff conducted 30 formal fire training courses involving 299 participants. The courses included Basic Wildfire Awareness; Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System Awareness; Fire Fighting Crew Member and Fire Fighting Crew Leader.
- Course participants were predominantly from Parks and Wildlife, but also included campground host volunteers and personnel from the Forest Products Commission (FPC), DFES and local governments.
- Annual mandatory pre-season training in preparation for the 2016–17 bushfire season was conducted for more than 1000 Parks and Wildlife and FPC personnel and met training requirements in various aspects of fire management including the use of two-way radios, storage and use of fire blankets and 'burnover' drills.
- The department has implemented a recognition of prior learning process for firefighters to be awarded Fire Fighting Crew Member national units of competency.
- The prescribed burning training program developed jointly with DFES was completed. A new DFES/Parks and Wildlife Logistics Officer course is in the late stages of development.
- Fire aviation personnel provided training for 154 Parks and Wildlife and other fire and land management agency personnel, including staff from DFES. These courses included Air Attack Supervisor Qualification; Air Attack Supervisor Currency; Air Observer and Helitorch Ground Crew.
- Water bomber reloading training was provided to 195 participants across 40 operational bases, with the majority of these participants being 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.
- Training for the roles of Incendiary Operations Supervisor; Aerial Incendiary Bombardier; and Aerial Drip Torch Operator was also provided to staff from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources South Australia; Parks and Wildlife Queensland; and Forestry Tasmania.
- Parks and Wildlife has continued its collaboration with DFES and other agencies in Australia and New Zealand in the development of fire training programs and course materials moving towards national accreditation for all fire aviation training courses.



The department conducted prescribed burns at Noggerup in the south-west in October 2016. *Photo – Ed Hatherley/DBCA*

Fire management fleet and infrastructure

- In December 2016, the installation of heat shield curtains in 90 Toyota 70 series light fleet fast-attack firefighting units was completed.
- Major reconstruction and repairs to the Mount William and Mungilup fire towers were completed in 2016–17.

Interagency bushfire management

- During 2016–17, departmental fire management staff were involved in improving interagency bushfire management arrangements through the newly formed State Bushfire Coordinating Committee (SBCC) and associated sub-committees.
- Outside the SBCC, Parks and Wildlife participated in interagency liaison with DFES, particularly through the working group for multi-agency State pre-formed incident management teams, local government, the Office of Emergency Management and other State, interstate and international agencies.

Fire ecology education programs

- Fire Management Services Branch continued to work with Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch's Nearer to Nature team to provide a range of curriculum-linked fire education programs for students in Years 4–12. A total of 8323 students, teachers and parents took part in fire-related education programs at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre, Dwellingup Forest Heritage Centre, Henderson Centre, Wellington Discovery Forest and Margaret River Eco-Discovery Centre.
- Fire Management Services Branch delivered the pilot fire ecology training course to FMDP participants in mid-2016. The feedback from the pilot is being used to refine the course prior to delivery in the future.



Prescribed burn, Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. *Photo – Leigh Sage/DBCA*



Bushfire in Walpole, December 2016. *Photo – Chris Curtis/DBCA*

Case study

Best prescribed burning for 29 years

The Parks and Wildlife Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program is reaping rewards, with 247,360 hectares of prescribed burns completed in 2016–17, the best outcome in 29 years.

The program, which began in 2015–16 with the aim of enhancing protection of south-west communities from bushfire, has \$20 million funding over four years.

The department completed 47 burns in national parks, conservation reserves and State forests in an area south of Lancelin to Denmark and made progress on 91 additional prescribed burns. It is the largest area of prescribed burning since 1987–88, when 252,000ha was burnt.

Large landscape-scale prescribed burns and smaller, strategic burns near communities significantly reduce the threat and severity of damaging bushfires, minimising the risk to life and infrastructure.

To adequately reduce the risk of damaging bushfires, based on a scientific analysis of the history of bushfire in the south-west, Parks and Wildlife aims to maintain about 45 per cent of the south-west forests at a fuel age less than six years, which equates to a planned burn program of at least 1,000,000ha in each five-year period.

While there have been declines in the average area prescribed burnt each decade caused by fragmentation of the landscape due to

population growth, a drying climate and other factors, the Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program has enabled the department to capitalise on windows of opportunity (suitable weather and fuel conditions) to safely undertake burns.

In 2016–17, \$6.4 million was invested in extending seasonal conservation employee (frontline firefighter) employment, meeting travel, accommodation and overtime costs to improve flexibility in workforce deployment, and engaging local contractors to deliver key support services including burn boundary preparation, water supply and traffic management.

The excellent south-west forests prescribed burning total was achieved following favourable spring and autumn conditions and a concerted effort by the department to increase both the number and total area of prescribed burns.

A further 2,988,394 hectares was burnt in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast regions on department-managed land, unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves. Many of these prescribed burns were conducted in collaboration with other land managers, including traditional owner groups.



A Parks and Wildlife officer lights a prescribed burn. *Photo – Shem Bisluk/DBCA*



Perth Hills district fire coordinator Mike Pasotti at a prescribed burn at Avon Valley National Park. *Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA*



Staff carry out a prescribed burn at Quinninup. *Photo – Tim Foley/DBCA*

Report on operations

Service 8: Protection of the Swan Canning River System

This service is responsible for managing the Swan Canning Riverpark, including assessing development proposals and delivering environmental management programs.

The desired outcome of the service is to ensure the ecological health and community benefit of the Swan and Canning rivers is protected.

The priorities for this service in 2016–17 were:

- ensuring land use planning protects and enhances Riverpark values and meets community demands
- delivering environmental programs to improve the health and resilience of the river system to environmental and community pressures
- delivering operational and compliance activities, recreation and commercial activities within the Riverpark to enhance community benefit and amenity
- establishing and implementing a planning and policy framework to achieve collaborative, coordinated Riverpark management
- enhancing community social responsibility so that more Perth people help look after the Swan Canning Riverpark, and

- ensuring accountability, good governance and financial sustainability by improving management systems.

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2016–17. The service is delivered mainly by the Rivers and Estuaries Division with input from supporting divisions.

1. Ensuring land use planning protects and enhances Riverpark values and meets community demands, by:

- influencing planning decisions to limit nutrient inputs to the river through advice on, and oversight of, strategic plans and policies relevant to urban water management
- supporting the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities
- supporting the New WATERways capacity building program
- assessing development applications and provide advice to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and local government
- ensuring developments are compliant with approval conditions
- reviewing development policies to ensure they are consistent with Swan River Trust and Parks and Wildlife aims and objectives, and reflective of community values

- preparing precinct plans for identified areas of the Riverpark in conjunction with the WAPC and local governments, and
- working with relevant authorities and developers to manage impacts on the river from the development of projects of State significance.

2. Delivering environmental programs to improve the health and resilience of the river system, including its shorelines, to environmental and community pressures, by:

- financially supporting NRM sub-regional groups to maintain community capacity across the catchment
- financially supporting the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program as a source of funding to local environmental groups delivering on-ground projects to improve water quality
- implementing fencing and revegetation projects and the Light Industry Audit Program in priority catchments
- financially supporting the Phosphorus Awareness Project
- working with stakeholders to reduce sediment loads entering drains and tributaries from subdivisions and building sites
- assisting landholders to implement on-ground activities to improve soil health and water quality in the Swan-Avon river system

- undertaking estuarine (weekly) and catchment (fortnightly) monitoring
- replacing two ageing oxygenation plants on the Canning River with one operational facility
- tracking priority estuarine fish species such as black bream with a focus on the oxygenation zone in the upper Swan River
- investigating and reducing non-nutrient contaminants
- investigating environmental water requirements for the Canning and Helena rivers and other major tributaries
- supporting the Department of Water in the upgrade of the Kent Street Weir
- contributing to the delivery of the research strategy for the Swan Canning Riverpark
- assessing estuary condition based on the fish community indices
- conducting seagrass monitoring and indicator validation
- investigating Riverpark dolphin health via targeted research
- addressing the decline of the western school prawn
- investigating controls for *Karlodinium* algae using ultrasonic technology
- conducting a flow-cam trial application to monitor phytoplankton and zooplankton

Report on operations

- demonstrating the effectiveness of nutrient intervention and water-sensitive urban design projects in urban and rural catchments
 - operating wetland intervention projects in Bayswater Brook and Ellen Brook catchments
 - continuing soil amendments trial in the Ellen Brook catchment
 - continuing stormwater Best Management Practices evaluation
 - protecting and rehabilitate Riverpark foreshore areas on a prioritised basis through the implementation of grants and proactive project funding streams
 - supporting foreshore landholders in the delivery of foreshore projects through communicating Best Management Practices publications, and
 - maintaining an asset management plan for foreshore assets.
- 3. Delivering operational and compliance activities, recreation and commercial activities within the Riverpark to enhance community benefit and amenity, by:**
- implementing the Riverpark Trail Master Plan and Marli Riverpark Interpretation Plan through developing key interpretation nodes and facilities
 - maintaining high visitor satisfaction levels through responding to community feedback and engagement with stakeholders

- ensuring ongoing management cooperation and coordination with all Riverpark management organisations and stakeholders, including the Aboriginal custodians
- facilitating establishment and management of sustainable commercial activities in the Riverpark
- ensuring river reserve leases benefit the community and are managed sustainably using environmental management systems
- ensuring responsible and appropriate visitor behaviour through compliance activities
- implementing a land management strategy in the upper Canning to address issues of bushfire risk mitigation, unauthorised development and encroachment, water extraction and dam structures
- maintaining public amenity and safety through implementation of a visitor risk management system
- facilitating enjoyment of the Riverpark through maintaining courtesy moorings and other public facilities
- ensuring responsible use of the river through implementing the Boating Management Strategy with other agencies
- maintaining an effective incident response framework and capability, and
- providing logistical support for water sampling, oxygenation programs, feral fish and aquatic weed management programs.

4. Establishing and implementing a planning and policy framework to achieve collaborative, coordinated Riverpark management, by:

- coordinating interagency strategic and policy contributions
- supporting implementation of Swan Canning River Protection Strategy and reporting to the Swan River Trust and Minister for Environment
- coordinating policy and advice functions on behalf of the Swan River Trust
- coordinating the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy Advisory Group and developing an agreed reporting framework with river partners
- coordinating provision of high-level advice on the application of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* to the department and access to specialised legal advice via the State Solicitor's Office.

5. Enhancing community social responsibility so that more Perth people help look after the Swan Canning Riverpark, by:

- providing high quality information which promotes awareness and appreciation of the Swan Canning Riverpark
- building strategic alliances and corporate partnering opportunities which support Riverpark objectives



Windsurfing on the Swan River.
Photo – Matt Kleczkowski

- building a membership of RiverWise opinion leaders through education, citizen science, free events and member benefits
 - refining and improve the Dolphin Watch smart phone app, and
 - delivering RiverWise-branded sustainable gardening workshops and special events to effect positive behaviour change in the community.
- 6. Ensuring accountability, good governance and financial sustainability by improving management systems, by:**
- coordinating a risk-based management approach in divisional service delivery, and
 - providing effective administration and governance to the Swan River Trust Board.

Performance summary

Table 9: Service 8 performance summary

	2016–17 Target	2016–17 Actual	Variance \$
Expense by service \$'000	16,927	15,799	(1128)
Key Efficiency Indicator	2016–17 Target \$	2016–17 Actual \$	Variance \$
KPI 8.1: Average cost per hectare of managing the Swan Canning Riverpark	2.31*	2158	(152)

* The target in the 2016-17 Budget Statements was stated as \$2.31 on the basis of \$'000, so the actual budget target is \$2310 per hectare. The area used in the calculation consists of the number of hectares of Riverpark for which the Department of Parks and Wildlife is responsible under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (the SCRM Act), comprising the Swan Canning waterway (vested with Swan River Trust) and the adjoining public lands (vested with State and local authorities) included in the Parks and Recreation reservation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. Actual average cost per hectare was in line with the adjusted target figure for the 2016-17 financial year. It should be noted that other State and local government authorities listed in Schedule 5 of the SCRM Act also carry out management functions within the Riverpark.

Key Effectiveness Indicator

Outcome: The ecological health and community benefit of the Swan and Canning Rivers is protected.

KPI 1: Proportion of river ecosystem health targets achieved.

Target 2016–17: 58%
Actual 2016–17: 55%

Please note:

The Effectiveness Indicator presented in this report is measured through an aggregation of water quality targets for:

- chlorophyll-a and dissolved oxygen in the estuary
- nitrogen and phosphorus targets in the catchments.

The targets are set for four zones, being the Upper Swan, Middle Swan, Lower Swan-Canning and the Middle Canning and for each of the 15 major catchments discharging to the Swan Canning estuary.



Picnicking at Point Walter. Photo – DBCA

The targets are stringent to ensure management of the Swan and Canning rivers achieves the high standard of ecological health and community amenity expected from our rivers.

The Swan and Canning river system is monitored weekly and the catchments each fortnight. The water quality data collected is assessed against estuary and catchment targets.

It is well understood that achieving improvements in the ecological health of waterways is a complex and long term prospect. It is also important to note that the levels of chlorophyll-a contributing to this key effectiveness indicator do not indicate major environmental or public health issues.

It should be noted that in 2016–17, the South Belmont Main Drain failed to achieve the long-term phosphorus target for the first time since 2007–08. This has decreased the proportion of water quality targets achieved to 55 per cent as outlined in the key effectiveness indicator data.

More details regarding the key efficiency and key effectiveness indicators can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see pages 114 to 117.

Report on operations

Performance highlights

The Swan Canning river system continues to face a range of water quality and ecosystem health challenges. In 2016–17, river management initiatives were delivered to protect the health of the river system, improve understanding of the rivers' function and optimise land use planning in the Riverpark.

Healthy Catchments Program

- The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program, a joint program funded by Parks and Wildlife and Alcoa and administered by Perth NRM, celebrated 19 years of delivering funding to community groups. The program provided \$367,681 to 19 community groups to implement 47 landcare projects throughout the Swan Canning catchment in 2016–17.
- Sub-regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups continued to be supported to coordinate community projects reducing nutrients and other contaminants entering the river system. These groups received \$707,391 during 2016–17.
- The 2015–17 Light Industry Program began in July 2015. During 2016–17 over 400 audits of more than 170 light industrial premises were conducted within the Swan Canning catchment. The program works with seven local governments to help reduce contaminants entering the rivers via stormwater and groundwater.

Drainage and Nutrient Intervention Program

- The \$3 million Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary wetland is now operational. Designed and implemented with the City of Bayswater, the wetland was the joint winner of the 2016 Premier's Award – Managing the Environment and the 2016 Australian Engineers Excellence Awards for Western Australian – Environment.
- During winter 2016, the Ellen Brook Wetland, which utilises Iron Man Gypsum (a by-product of Iluka Resources mineral sands mining operation), continued to be rigorously monitored and removed approximately 77 per cent of the phosphorus and 25 per cent of the nitrogen from water it treated.

Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan

- The implementation of the Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan continued as a whole-of-Government response to improve water quality in priority nutrient catchments of the river system.
- One of the major projects under the plan has been completed – a soil amendment trial in the Ellen Brook catchment. This project sought to determine the effectiveness of several soil amendment products in reducing phosphorus leaching into sandy soils. It identified that soil amendments can significantly reduce phosphorus leaching by up to 90 per cent and provide other agronomic benefits.

Riverbank funding

- During 2016–17, more than \$2.3 million was distributed to 22 priority riverbank projects across 16 foreshore land managers. These projects included erosion control, revegetation, weed control, river wall repair, enhancing river access, widening vegetation corridors, creating native animal habitat and preparation of foreshore management plans.

Science to support water quality and ecological health management and decisions

- The department continued to invest in the development and application of indicators on the ecological health of the Swan and Canning rivers through the annual monitoring of fish communities and investigations of seagrass health.
- The department continued to partner with The University of Western Australia and Department of Water (DoW) to develop and validate the Swan Canning Estuarine Response Model. During the 2017 Riverpark flood event, researchers were able to provide simulation updates of the model function in real time.

\$2.3M

of Riverbank funding invested in 22 priority foreshore projects

\$3M

Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary wetland completed and operational

\$367,000

provided to 47 landcare projects under the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program

77%

of phosphorus and 25 per cent of nitrogen removed from water treated by Ellen Brook Wetland

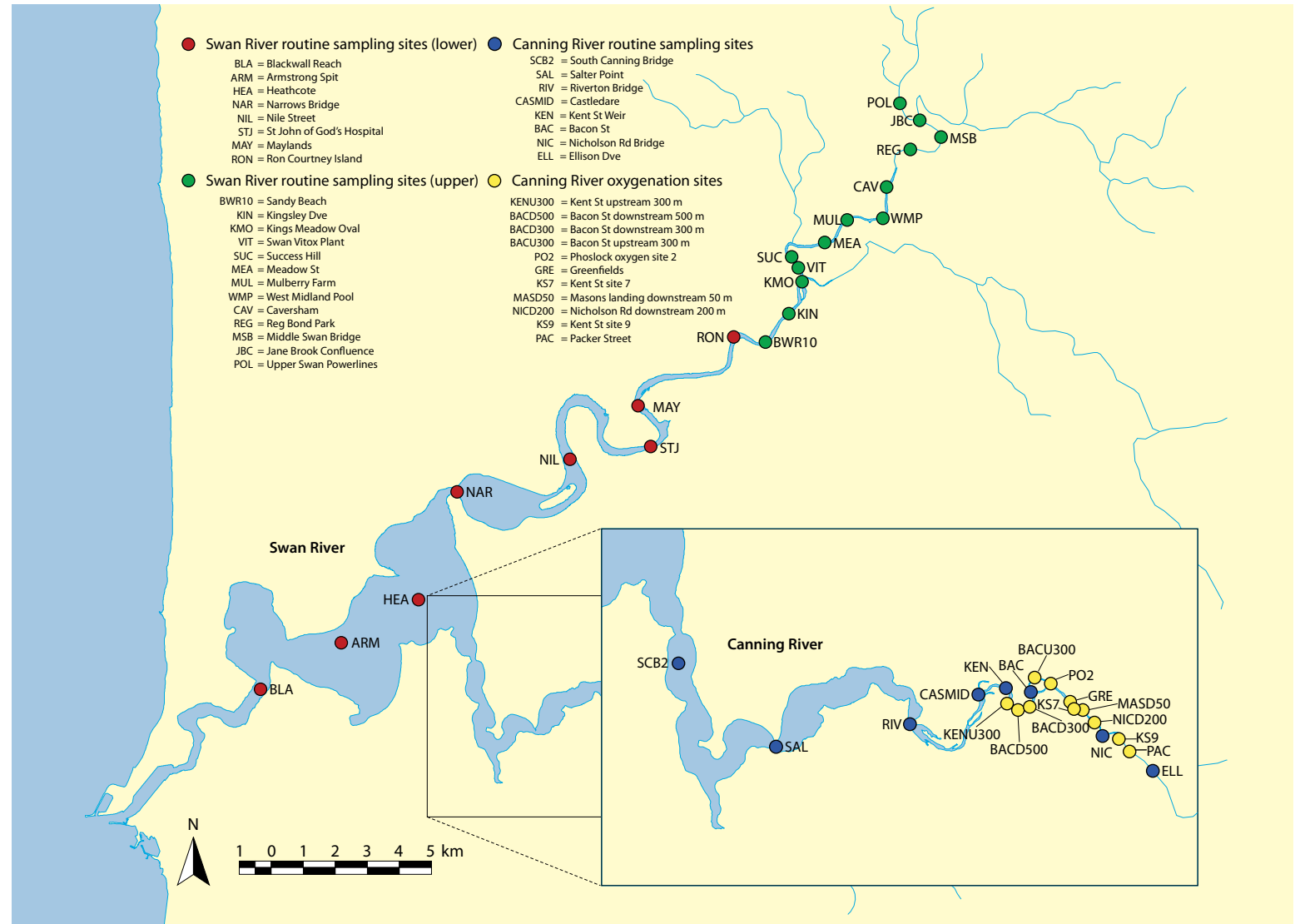
44km

of waste fishing line safely removed from the Riverpark since 2013



The Swan River flows through the city to meet Fremantle Harbour. Photo – Tourism WA

Figure 5: Swan Canning Riverpark routine water quality sampling sites



Report on operations

Science underpinning understanding of Riverpark values, threats and mitigation

- The western school prawn restocking and research initiative was conducted in partnership with the Centre for Applied Aquaculture Research, Murdoch University, Recfishwest, the Department of Fisheries, the WA Fish Foundation and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. A total of 4.5 million juvenile western school prawns were released into the Swan and Canning rivers over four years. The project facilitated significant improvements in understanding the species' biology and ecology and is influencing management and recreational fishing policy.
- Investigating ways to control the fish-killing alga, *Karlodinium veneficum* has been a priority, with work undertaken through Murdoch University to review recent advances in targeted harmful algal bloom mitigation technologies.

Swan Canning Acoustic Array

- Tracking of fish in the Swan and Canning rivers is showing the benefits of artificial oxygenation in the upper reaches. The Swan Canning Acoustic Array, a network of 30 acoustic receivers (or listening stations), along the rivers, has been recording data from 79 tagged black bream since April 2016. This work, undertaken in partnership with Murdoch University and co-funded by Recfishwest, has shown that black bream avoided river areas with low oxygen levels.

This data confirmed river oxygenation is an important strategy for improving river water quality and enhancing habitat for aquatic species.

Oxygenation program

- Parks and Wildlife works closely with DoW to operate oxygenation plants in the river system to help combat low oxygen levels in summer and autumn. There are two oxygenation plants on the Swan River and two on the Canning River, upstream of the Kent Street Weir. The effectiveness of the original two oxygenation plants has been improved with one facility being decommissioned and the other being upgraded. These works were completed in December 2016 and increased the capacity of the oxygenation program on the Canning River.

Kent Street Weir refurbishment

- DoW, in conjunction with Parks and Wildlife and the City of Canning, began upgrading the Kent St Weir in 2017. The refurbished weir will include automated hydraulic gates which can manage water levels and prevent tidal incursions, a new walkway and a fishway.

Water quality monitoring

- Parks and Wildlife, in partnership with DoW, continued its weekly monitoring program of the Swan Canning Estuary. Forty routine sites were monitored throughout the estuary, with water samples subjected to a range of water quality analyses.



Black bream with acoustic tag being released. *Photo – Stephen Beatty/Murdoch University*

- Water quality within 29 of the 33 catchments that feed into the Swan and Canning rivers was also monitored.

Boating Management Strategy

- In 2016–17 Parks and Wildlife continued to deliver the Boating Management Strategy and worked with the Department of Transport in regard to speed limit changes in Matilda Bay.

Land Management Strategy

- The land management strategy for the upper Canning River was delivered along a section of the Canning River between Tonkin Highway and Orlando St, Gosnells. A total of 32 issues were identified and all have been resolved, except for two dam structures which are being assessed in relation to ecological function.



The \$3 million Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary wetland is now operational. *Photo – DBCA*



The Swan and Canning rivers are a hub of recreational activity. Photo – Matt Kleczkowski



Parks and Wildlife and Water Corporation staff planting sedges at the Brentwood main drain. Photo – Mark Thornley/DBCA

Events, complaints, incidents and compliance activities

- Each year Parks and Wildlife responds to incidents and complaints in and around the Riverpark and takes action when appropriate. This year the department responded to 303 complaints compared with 259 last year.
- The department installed six foreshore vegetation protection signs throughout the Riverpark in 2016–17. These signs have proven to be a successful tool to help educate the public about the value of shoreline vegetation.
- There was a decrease in reported incidents of vegetation damage with 30 incidents recorded during 2016–17 in comparison with 39 incidents the previous year.

Maintaining the Riverpark amenity

- Parks and Wildlife undertook an annual program of removing rubbish, waste and dumped materials, reshaping eroded beaches, foreshore protection works and responding to incidents such as fish kills, algae blooms, injured wildlife, sewage spills and other pollution events.

River Journeys project

- Parks and Wildlife is developing an additional two interpretation nodes within the Riverpark which are due to be completed in 2017–18. An additional interpretation node was completed at Brentwood in the City of Melville.

Statutory assessments

- In its statutory assessment role under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* and Regulations, Parks and Wildlife assesses and determines, or provides advice, to the Minister for Environment on a range of development proposals within the Swan Canning Development Control Area (DCA).
- Parks and Wildlife, under the delegated authority of the Swan River Trust, provides advice to the WAPC and local governments on development proposals affecting the DCA.
- In total, the Statutory Assessments Branch undertook 424 assessments for the year, compared with 390 the previous year. This exceeded the previous highest total of 415 in 2014-15.

Major proposals considered

- Parks and Wildlife assessed and provided advice to the Minister for Environment on 12 development applications in accordance with Part 5 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*. This was a substantial increase compared with 2015–16, in which eight development applications were assessed.

Commercial operations on the river

- Parks and Wildlife approved 52 commercial operator permits/licences within the DCA in 2016–17. These approvals relate to activities such as watersport lessons and equipment hire, commercial charter vessels and food and beverage outlets.

Report on operations

Strategic activities

- During the year a review of statutory planning policies was completed. The revised policy suite was prepared in consultation with the Swan River Trust Board and released during 2016–17.
- A review of conditions applied to statutory approvals also commenced. Due consideration was given to ensure conditions are consistent, understood, useful and enforceable to support the effective management of development activity.

Land use planning program

- The land use planning program works closely with a variety of major development stakeholders to ensure nutrient inputs to the river are reduced where possible. This year the program provided advice on 49 strategic planning proposals likely to impact on water quality in the river system. This was a substantial increase compared with 2015–16, in which 32 proposals were assessed.
- Parks and Wildlife continued to resource the New WAtER Ways capacity-building program and support the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities.

Compliance and audit

- The total number of compliance actions taken for the year was 202. The percentage of works in full compliance this year was 53 per cent. Most of the non-compliant situations were satisfactorily resolved as a result of the department's efforts.

Swan Canning River Protection Strategy

- Parks and Wildlife continued to work with members of the River Protection Strategy (RPS) Advisory Group to oversee implementation and reporting of management actions to the Swan River Trust.
- An achievement reporting framework was developed and the first report on the implementation of the RPS will be presented to the Minister for Environment and Parliament during 2017.

Community engagement

- The River Guardians program now has 2908 members. The program has worked with 82 stakeholder groups and was actively present at 17 environmental education events with a combined attendance of more than 20,000 people. River Guardians continues to provide RiverWise training, volunteering opportunities and presentations from scientific and behaviour change experts addressing key issues impacting our rivers.
- Dolphin Watch has 928 trained, active volunteers who have contributed more than 23,349 dolphin sighting reports since the project began in 2009. To date, 2747 students from 34 schools have engaged with Junior Dolphin Watch.
- The Prawn Watch program engages the community to monitor prawns in the Riverpark and educates the community about sustainable fishing practices. In



The sun sets on the Swan River. Photo – Nathan Eaton

- 2016–17, Prawn Watch volunteers assisted with monitoring western school prawn populations in the Swan and Canning rivers.
- Under the Reel It In fishing line bin project, there are now 60 dedicated fishing line bins at popular jetties, fishing platforms, traffic bridges and foreshores along the rivers. Since the project was launched in December 2013, more than 44km of fishing line, 7600 hooks and sinkers and 6500 bait bags have been removed from the Riverpark. Thirty volunteers have adopted 30 fishing line bin sites throughout the Riverpark and empty the units on a weekly basis. Planning is underway to expand the project to other popular fishing locations across the State.
- Josh Byrne and Associates was engaged to deliver RiverWise gardening workshops in priority catchments in the Perth metro area. This year, the department funded six educational events designed to guide the community towards RiverWise behaviour and responsible fertiliser use. The program reached 811 people at an average attendance rate of 135 people per event.

Riverbank restoration a success story

The Riverbank program has a 15-year history of delivering positive environmental and public amenity outcomes for the Swan Canning Riverpark, strengthened by long term partnerships with foreshore land managers.

Since Riverbank's inception in 2002, the department has contributed more than \$18.2 million for 247 river foreshore conservation and rehabilitation projects, providing best practice asset management, works prioritisation, advice and resourcing. Together with funding matched by land manager partners, it represents a \$38.5 million investment in protecting and enhancing the Riverpark.

During 2016–17, the Riverbank program invested more than \$2.3 million in 22 priority projects across 16 foreshore land managers. These projects included erosion control, revegetation, weed control, river wall repair, enhancing river access, widening vegetation corridors and preparing foreshore management plans.

This year, with the assistance of Riverbank funding, dramatic improvements have been made at key sites including Garvey Park in Ascot, Point Heathcote in Applecross and the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre foreshore in Perth.

At Garvey Park, in partnership with the City of Belmont, works included significant

engineering and construction to stabilise the eroding riverbank, as well as improving recreational access to the river and enhanced fringing vegetation.

The Garvey Park foreshore is in a flood risk area, and is prone to river flow and boat wake erosion on an ongoing basis. The restoration means the foreshore is now protected to the 100-year flood level.

The department has worked with the City of Belmont since 2010 to enhance Garvey Park and has invested \$600,000, with the City contributing the remainder of the \$1.5 million investment.

Meanwhile, Riverbank officers helped guide on-ground foreshore restoration works, weed control and revegetation across 2.2ha of foreshore from Applecross Jetty to Point Heathcote.

This revegetation project, which attracted over \$38,000 of matched funding from Parks and Wildlife and the City of Melville during 2016–17, completed the ecological restoration of the popular Melville foreshore.

The Exhibition Centre foreshore, located 250m downstream from Elizabeth Quay, is benefiting from approximately \$500,000 in Riverbank funding.

In a joint project with the City of Perth, the focus has been on addressing significant erosion, with tree stabilisation, placement of a rock revetment to dissipate wave energy and installation of a formal beach with a limestone retaining wall, allowing public access while maintaining resilience for the beach.

Civil works were completed in June 2017, with revegetation, including planting of established trees, planned for winter/spring.



Improvements at Garvey Park included engineering and construction to stabilise the eroding riverbank. *Photo – DBCA*



Riverbank improvements on the foreshore opposite the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. *Photo – City of Perth*



Riverbank foreshore restoration works were carried out at Point Heathcote in Applecross. *Photo – DBCA*

Supporting our department

Public Information and Corporate Affairs

Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch delivers efficient and effective services to Parks and Wildlife's external customers and stakeholders as well as internal partners.

This is achieved through public safety information in support of incidents, fire awareness, outdoor environmental education, media relations, websites, photography and video production, customer service, publications and graphic design, public participation planning, events coordination, advertising and social media.

Audio-visual production

The branch continued to produce quality audio-visual products for social and traditional media and for communication and training within the department and with stakeholders. Collaboration was again a focus in 2016–17, through partnering with other agencies such as Perth Zoo to support Government announcements, with external organisations including the Munda Biddi and WA Parks foundations, and with industry and education in the immersive media space. Stunning aerial and on-ground footage was gathered from the Kimberley to the south coast, and used to showcase Western Australia's natural attractions and improve safety messages. Video versions of feature stories, species and park profiles added value to the department's

flagship publication, *LANDSCOPE* magazine, and cameras installed on the department's aerial and ground fleet vehicles captured a new perspective of bushfires and prescribed burning.

Media

The branch's media unit provided communications support through the preparation and delivery of communication plans, speeches, media statements, social media and events; public information training for incident management; communications support for the Minister's office; as well as responding to media enquiries. Unit staff performed a vital role providing public information for incident management during the 2016–17 fire season and continued to work closely with media and communications colleagues at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Education

Nearer to Nature education officers continued to deliver programs for young people to connect with nature at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre (PHDC) in Mundaring, Forest Heritage Centre (Dwellingup), and national and marine parks. PHDC also provides education and camping facilities for entry level campers and students. The facilities are designed to support all abilities, with easy access showers and toilets, wheelchair ramps to all buildings and all-access camp sites. Nearer

to Nature delivered programs focusing on *Western Shield*, forest ecology, fire ecology (with the support of the department's Regional and Fire Management Services Division) and wetland ecosystems, sustainability and Aboriginal culture. A number of these activities were supported by Alcoa. During 2016–17, 23,072 people took part in Nearer to Nature programs. A further 544 community members visited the centre for overnight camping.

Junior Dolphin Watch was delivered to 962 participants in 2016–17 with the support of the department's Rivers and Estuaries Division.

Bush Rangers continued to support the social and educational development of cadets from high schools across the State. During 2016–17 the number of units increased to 65 and cadet numbers increased to 3272, with 25 per cent coming from Aboriginal backgrounds, while 17 per cent have a disability. Bush Rangers has the highest number of participants of the wider Cadets WA program, and the highest rate of Aboriginal and female cadets. The program continues to be strong in the Kimberley and at Aboriginal community schools, where it provides the opportunity for young people to work on country with Indigenous ranger groups and elders.

The River Rangers program for Years 5 to 6 provides education and volunteering opportunities related to rivers and catchments.

The focus of the program continued to expand beyond the Swan River catchment, with two units in Aboriginal community schools in the Kimberley. In 2016–17 there were 739 River Rangers cadets in 18 schools.

Web

During 2016–17, the branch's web and multimedia team continued development of the department's web publishing, communication platforms and services. Collaborative projects with the department's Parks and Visitors Services Division including a virtual reality (VR) tour application continued to be developed by expanding the number of interactive experiences via 360 photography on Google maps (gaining Google Trusted Photographer status), and plans were developed for VR immersive education.

Significant work has occurred to reimagine the department's online e-commerce solution, WA Naturally. The development aims to improve the customer experience and the branch's workflow, introduce the ability to create electronic park passes and consolidate stock management.

Internal web-based projects were completed to improve efficiencies and publishing, including development of a new intranet, digital asset management system and job tracking system.

Social media

Corporate social media accounts for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube are coordinated by the branch. A number of social media accounts are also managed independently in the regions with support and advice from the branch. As at 30 June 2017, 11 Facebook pages, three Twitter accounts and three Instagram accounts from various Parks and Wildlife operational areas were registered. The branch maintains a social media content management strategy, policy and social media toolbox for staff and delivers presentations to internal and external stakeholders about best practice for social media. New techniques have been implemented including Facebook live, increased use of videos and targeting specific times of day to better reach audiences. In 2016–17, the corporate social media accounts experienced significant growth: Facebook 42 per cent, Twitter 23 per cent and Instagram 338 per cent.

Publishing

The branch coordinated publishing for the department including the production of more than 450 reports, brochures, management plans, banners, newsletters, magazines, manuals, field guides and other information products. The publishing unit supported major departmental initiatives including Statewide conservation and parks programs, *Western Shield*, prescribed burning and marine education manuals for Kimberley

school-aged students. The unit has improved the conversion of publications into digital, interactive formats and designed new publications specifically for an online audience. It produced 12 issues of monthly online newsletter *Parks and Wildlife News* and regular internal newsfeed stories. The branch also supported the WA Parks and Munda Biddi foundations with brand development and in-kind marketing materials.

WA Naturally

In 2016–17, the department's saleable publishing program WA Naturally reprinted four successful Bush Book titles, produced an annual Western Australia calendar plus four issues of *LANDSCOPE* magazine. *LANDSCOPE* – WA's parks, wildlife and conservation magazine – first produced in 1985, continues to appeal to a broad readership through engaging and relevant content and contemporary design.

Customer service

The Kensington Information Unit continued to deliver services to members of the community contacting the department's head office. The unit also supported the department's saleable publishing program through processing of subscriptions and book sales, and the Parks and Visitor Services Division through the sale of national park passes.



Coodanup College Bush Ranger cadets learning about traditional bush tucker with Aboriginal guide Leonard Thorn. Photo – DBCA



Rebecca Warner conducts a Nearer to Nature activity at Trigg Beach. Photo – DBCA

Supporting our department

Legal matters

Freedom of Information

The Office of the Director General managed processes for the department under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The department's Information Statement 2016–17 (available on the Parks and Wildlife website) describes the functions of the department and its related agencies, the nature of the information held by the department and its related agencies, and the type of information that is made available to the public.

Parks and Wildlife received 15 valid applications for access to information, with two applicants requesting an internal review of the department's decisions.

Litigation

Information regarding litigation in progress is available in Note 34 of the Notes to the Financial Statements on page 100 of this report.

Prosecutions

The department initiated 16 prosecutions during 2016–17, involving a total of 37 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 2016–17

Of the 16 prosecutions commenced, 9 were subject to final court determination during 2016–17, including cases relating to the *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 \$11,000 and costs to the value of \$1692.

In addition to the 16 prosecutions commenced during this period a further nine were carried forward and finalised from 2015–16.

Prosecutions currently before the courts

As at 30 June 2017, five prosecutions were yet to be concluded and remained before the courts. A further two cases were pending, subject to the evidentiary standard being met, and could result in either prosecution or a letter of warning and four cases are at State Solicitor's Office for advice.

Total reported offences

Between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017, a total of 820 offences were reported, of which 14 were dealt with by way of prosecution, 23 were pending, 388 were dealt with by infringement notice, 32 resulted in letters of warning, 346 were dealt with by caution notices, 17 required no further action.

Office for Information Management

The Office for Information Management (OIM) provides leadership for information and related technology (IT) and the IT common operating environment which supports the department's geographically-distributed and diverse marine, aerial and terrestrial services across WA.

In 2016–17, OIM further improved the economic and business value of the department's IT ecosystem and aided the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer's public sector programs. Key achievements for 2016–17 include:

- strengthening IT security and protection controls to eliminate or reduce significant threats to business continuity
- furthering the use of open IT ecosystems that are cost-effective, sustainable, interoperable and flexible
- improving workforce productivity and mobility through smarter use of 'hybrid cloud'
- enhancing telecommunications capabilities to support critical frontline operations in remote area 'black spots' which are not serviced by telecommunications carriers or providers, and
- extending the use of remote sensor technologies to automate field observations for situational awareness.

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.

Tragically, during 2016–17, eight visitors died in the extensive areas managed by Parks and Wildlife. Two of these deaths were related to dehydration in hot conditions, one occurred due to a heart attack, two fatalities occurred in a plane crash, while the remaining three were drownings, including one rock fishing-related death.

During 2016–17:

- Parks and Wildlife continued to work on a range of issues regarding visitor safety including remote camping, walk trail classifications and redevelopments and improvements to recreational sites and facilities.
- Thirty-one staff completed a nationally-accredited visitor risk management course provided by the department.
- Forty-seven staff completed refresher training relating to visitor risk management.

- Seventy staff completed induction training for the recently introduced online incident and hazard management reporting system.
- 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 Recfishwest, 16 angel rings were installed along the Leeuwin-Naturaliste coastline between Dunsborough and Augusta. A total of 54 angel rings have now been installed along the Western Australian coastline between Shark Bay and Esperance, with 36 of these being on Parks and Wildlife-managed land.

Marine operations

The marine operations function within Regional and Fire Management Services Division provides guidance, advice, support and training to departmental staff on the implementation, maintenance and improvement of practices and procedures in relation to marine operations and reporting, in accordance with departmental policies and guidelines.

During 2016–17:

- The creation of the Conservation and Parks Commission (CPC) to replace the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority as the vesting body for marine parks and reserves in Western Australia necessitated a review

of processes for the monitoring, evaluation and assessment of the implementation of management plans.

- Parks and Wildlife continued to work closely with the Department of Fisheries (DoF) on collaborative operational plans which provide the basis for joint works between the two agencies at an operational level.
- The department facilitated cross-authorisation training with DoF for Parks and Wildlife staff.
- Twenty nine staff received refresher training in procedures for large whale disentanglement and euthanasia of large whales.
- Recommended procedures for the safe and efficient removal of whale carcasses from high-use beach areas were revised and updated and Parks and Wildlife staff, relevant State Government agencies and local government authorities were advised. A video demonstrating the step-by-step process undertaken in the successful removal of a 35-tonne humpback whale carcass in the south-west was produced and distributed.
- A new patrol vessel was delivered for Ngari Capes Marine Park and a new passenger ferry for use in Geikie Gorge National Park was completed for commissioning in July 2017.



The department conducts large whale disentanglement training for staff. *Photo – DBCA*



Marine park coordinator Matt Dasey and South West regional manager Bob Hagan inspect a rock fishing anchor. *Photo – Peter Henderson/DBCA*

Supporting our department

Corporate Services Division

The division provided corporate services to the department and other agencies including the Department of Environment Regulation, Office of the Environmental Protection Authority, Forest Products Commission and 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 fleets, the Kensington site, and produced a range of statutory and management financial reports.

Corporate Information Services Branch

In 2016–17 Corporate Information Services (CIS) Branch provided recordkeeping services and related training to the departments of Parks and Wildlife and Environment Regulation.

CIS supported the department's Ministerial Liaison Unit in capturing, processing and responding to Ministerial and other types of correspondence.

People Services Branch

People Services Branch continued to provide client-focused human resource services including employee relations, workforce services, recruitment, learning and development, strategic planning, data analysis and reporting, and the management of safety, health and wellbeing of staff.

Geographic Information Services Branch

Geographic Information Services (GIS) Branch provides services, including:

- monitoring of 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, and
- producing maps and other information products to meet operational and public needs.

The key achievements and activities of the branch for 2016–17 are outlined right.

Remote sensing and analysis

Remote sensing utilising satellite and aerial imagery is being increasingly used to monitor terrestrial and marine environments. Some applications used by GIS are listed below:

- vegetation monitoring for the Dirk Hartog Island National Park ecological restoration program
- targeted fire scar mapping and statistical analysis, and
- vegetation monitoring in the Kimberley region.

The statistical analysis of spatial data provides essential information and develops knowledge to assist in natural resource management. Statistical reports and maps have been published both within the department and externally on the Shared Location Information Platform, the open data platform for Western Australia.

Mapping and data capture

- Maps for reserve creation and Indigenous Land Use Agreements in the Kimberley.
- Redesigned the public maps for the department's long trails.
- Prepared maps to support a wide range of departmental activities including the *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program, management plans and mapping products to support fire operations.

Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters

Total estate

At 30 June 2017, the total area under Parks and Wildlife's care was 31,480,867ha.

As detailed in the 2015-16 annual report, the department now relies solely on Landgate's statistical data and information systems for terrestrial tenure areas. The department has taken this step to ensure the areas reported are consistent with the information systems used by Landgate as the State's land tenure information custodian.

Tables 10 and 11 on page 67 provide a summary of all tenure classifications.

Table 10: Tenure classification of Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters (in hectares)

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total
National park	153,651	1,418,401	570,200	2,437,176	863,414	144,705	117,260	561,539	1257	6,267,602
Conservation park	184,281	558,411	15,643	281,777	677	13,655	24,399	707	4796	1,084,346
Nature reserve	6,290,701	169,274	738,988	259,596	1,578,014	13,182	54,491	86,987	1,076,592	10,267,826
State forest	781	-	-	-	4055	539,911	471,220	265,426	28,363	1,309,755
Timber reserve	28,393	-	26,233	-	5151	26,299	28,745	8317	-	123,139
Section 5(1)(g) & 5(1)(h) reserves	81,998	865,195	65,956	10,265	4415	31,478	34,831	1857	1611	1,097,606
Marine park	-	2,953,779	869,492	343,505	-	123,000	16,391	1446	-	4,307,613
Marine nature reserve	-	-	132,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,000
Marine management area	-	-	-	143,385	-	-	-	-	-	143,385
Freehold	-	0.3	1549	-	91	19,904	50	4663	0.8	26,258
UCL - Section 33(2)	28,514	-	89,709	-	-	-	-	-	-	118,223
Crown freehold – department interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	8571	-	-	8571
SCRM Act – river reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	3594	-	-	3594
Totals	6,768,319	5,965,060	2,509,771	3,475,704	2,455,816	912,134	759,552	930,942	1,112,620	24,889,919

Table 11: Lands where the department has a management interest (in hectares)

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total
Crown freehold - department interest			12,761		6201	4083	13,428	1661	4955	43,088
Crown reserve - department interest						2	-	141		143
Unallocated Crown land - department interest	1,920,459	143,364	3,277,763	1,145,531	16,886	5	17	134	43,558	6,547,717
Totals	1,920,459	143,364	3,290,524	1,145,531	23,087	4090	13,445	1936	48,513	6,590,949

Notes:

- 1 Areas are from Landgate cadastral/tenure information systems (30 June 2017).
- 2 Marine areas are provided by the department's Planning Branch.

Supporting our department

Table 12: Area of national parks vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2017

Name	Area (ha)	Name	Area (ha)	Name	Area (ha)	Name	Area (ha)	Name	Area (ha)
Alexander Morrison	8500	Eucla	3815	Karijini	624,675	Mount Roe	127,828	Walpole-Nornalup	18,547
Avon Valley	4366	Fitzgerald River	302,561	Karlamilyi	1,283,805	Murujuga*	4919	Walyunga	1809
Badgingarra	13,110	Forest Grove	1373	Kennedy Range	142,274	Nambung	19,268	Wandoo	46,415
Beelu	4617	Francois Peron	53,145	Kingston	21,086	Neerabup	973	Warren	3088
Blackwood River	20,487	Frank Hann	68,708	Korong	6346	Peak Charles	39,959	Watheroo	44,480
Boorabbin	28,153	Geikie Gorge	2554	Lake Muir	9633	Porongurup	2678	Waychinicup	3976
Boorara-Gardner	11,008	Gloucester	8785	Lawley River	17,319	Preston	12,663	Wellington	17,427
Boyndaminup	5439	Goldfields Woodlands	66,146	Leeuwin-Naturaliste	21,987	Prince Regent	584,834	West Cape Howe	3736
Bramley	3895	Goongarrie	59,352	Lesmurdie Falls	57	Purnululu	243,833	Whicher	6345
Brockman	51	Gooseberry Hill	33	Lesueur	27,238	Scott	3322	William Bay	1746
Cape Arid	277,086	Greater Beedelup	19,280	Midgegooroo	2491	Serpentine	4284	Wiltshire-Butler	11,645
Cape Le Grand	31,200	Greenmount	202	Millstream Chichester	238,592	Shannon	52,626	Windjana Gorge	2080
Cape Range	49,964	Gull Rock	2107	Milyeannup	18,698	Sir James Mitchell	173	Wolfe Creek	
Collier Range	235,277	Hassell	1136	Mirima	2066	Stirling Range	113,633	Meteorite Crater	1460
D'Entrecasteaux	118,759	Hawke	14,043	Mitchell River	117,949	Stokes	10,033	Yalgorup	13,154
Dalgarup	23,378	Helena	12,263	Moore River	17,253	Tathra	4322	Yanchep	2860
Dirk Hartog Island	62,929	Hilliger	16,986	Mount Augustus	9176	Torndirrup	4022	Yelverton	729
Dordagup	6378	Jane	6867	Mount Frankland	37,250	Tuart Forest	2045		
Drovers Cave	2593	John Forrest	2700	Mount Frankland North	22,053	Tunnel Creek	91		
Drysdale River	447,675	Kalamunda	397	Mount Frankland South	42,314	Un-named	1571		
Easter	2988	Kalbarri	183,163	Mount Lindesay	39,558	Un-named	81		
								Total	6,243,833

* Freehold land managed as national park under Section 8A of the CALM Act.

Marine reserves

The area of marine parks at 30 June 2017 was approximately 4.3 million hectares.

This represents an increase of more than two million hectares during the financial year as a result of the gazettal of Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park, North Lalang-garram Marine Park and Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park.

The area of marine reserves at 30 June 2017 was approximately 132,000ha. There were no changes during the year.

Marine management areas

The area of marine management areas at 30 June 2017 was approximately 143,000ha. There were no changes during the year.

Table 13: Marine reserves vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2017

Name	Area (ha) approx
Barrow Island Marine Park	4169
Barrow Island Marine Management Area	116,616
Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park	673,000
Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park	248,000
Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park	181,000
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
North Kimberley Marine Park	1,670,000
North Lalang-garram Marine Park	109,000
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
Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park	41,000
Total	4,582,997

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.

Changes of note during 2016-17 were:

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

The area of land reported for the s5(1)(h) and s5(1)(g) of the CALM Act tenure category has increased because the department no longer reports on land classified as a miscellaneous reserve. Changes to the CALM Act now categorise Crown reserves vested in the Executive Body as Section 5(1)(h) reserves. Previously these reserves were classified as miscellaneous reserves.

Conservation parks and nature reserves

In September 2016, 231,358ha of new conservation parks and 5697.94ha of new nature reserves were created along the Eighty Mile Beach coastline and Mandora Marsh, south of Broome. The conservation reserves are jointly vested and jointly managed with the Aboriginal determined native title holders in this area.

Supporting our department

Conservation land acquisitions

During the year Parks and Wildlife, on behalf of the State Government, purchased seven parcels of land of high conservation value covering a combined total area of about 2360ha for future addition to the formal conservation reserve system.

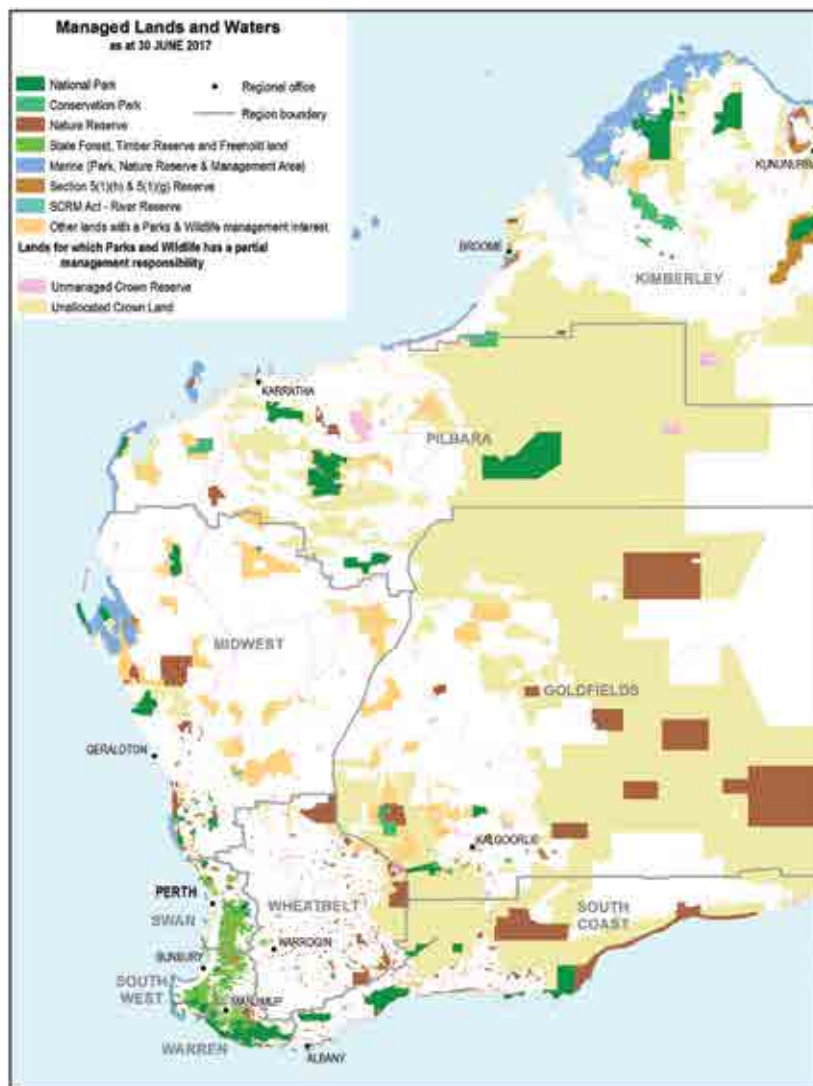
The department's priorities for purchases are areas containing ecosystems not adequately represented in existing conservation reserves, areas containing threatened species and ecological communities, or additions to existing reserves that will greatly improve their diversity or facilitate their management.

The purchases were mainly 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 \$5.021 million.

Purchases finalised during the year were:

- 64ha property in the Shire of Wickepin
- 647ha property in the Shire of Chittering
- 22ha property in the City of Mandurah
- 601ha property in the Shire of Dandaragan
- 602ha property in the Shire of Dandaragan
- 408ha property in the Shires of Beverley and Brookton
- 16ha property in the City of Swan.

Figure 6: Parks and Wildlife-managed lands and waters at 30 June 2017



Acropora corals in Dampier Archipelago waters.
Photo – Shannon Armstrong/DBCA

Significant issues and trends

- The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will build on the work of its predecessor agencies by using partnerships with Aboriginal communities, volunteers, conservation organisations and the private sector to help manage the State's terrestrial and marine parks and reserves.
- An Aboriginal Ranger Program will be established to capitalise on the economic and social benefits that employment provides in remote and regional WA communities, and to protect the environment. This five-year \$20 million program will employ Aboriginal people through direct employment and fee-for-service contracts, carrying out work such as biodiversity monitoring and research, management of tourism and cultural sites, weeds and feral animal management, prescribed burning, fencing and environmental protection works. It will be a tenure-blind program.
- A new Fitzroy River National Park will be created and managed jointly by the department and traditional owners to protect the environment and culture of the Fitzroy River area and surrounding lands. The park will extend the existing Geikie Gorge National Park along the Fitzroy River to the north and along the Margaret River to the east.
- A park and reserve network will be established on the remote islands and fringing reefs of the Buccaneer Archipelago. As part of this project, the department will negotiate Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) with multiple traditional owner groups and prepare management plans, which will facilitate employment of Indigenous rangers for park management and opportunities for Aboriginal people to create sustainable economic enterprises.
- ILUAs will also be negotiated with traditional owner groups beyond the Kimberley, with the goal of generating productive joint management arrangements that benefit Aboriginal people through employment and connection with country.
- As part of joint management arrangements with traditional owners at Murujuga National Park on the Burrup Peninsula, the department will assist the development of a Living Knowledge Centre and park infrastructure in collaboration with Woodside and Rio Tinto. Consultation will also be undertaken with Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation and other stakeholders to consider the nomination of the Burrup for World Heritage listing.
- In Broome, almost \$4 million will be invested to jointly manage Yawuru terrestrial reserves with traditional owners. In the northern Goldfields, total funding of \$2.5 million provided by BHP will enable negotiation of an ILUA and joint management agreement with Tjiwarl traditional owners relating to land tenure changes at Wanjarri Nature Reserve.
- Public recreation and joint management arrangements for the Ningaloo Coast will continue, with a draft management plan developed by the department and the Gnulli people to be released for comment in 2017. The project includes new and improved visitor infrastructure including roads. A final plan is due to be completed in the first half of 2018.
- Visitation to department-managed lands and waters is maintaining a strong upwards trend, with 20 million visits in 2016-17 and visitor satisfaction at 92.5 per cent.
- There will be increasing engagement and reliance on volunteers to assist the department undertake conservation and park management activities. The value of volunteer contributions for Parks and Wildlife exceeded \$24 million in 2016-17.
- Investment in park infrastructure and facilities continues. This includes a \$3 million, three-year project to develop Lake Kepwari, near Collie, as a tourism precinct with a focus on water skiing, wakeboarding, tubing and jet skiing. Additional works will create a 75km, three-to-four-day walk trail loop from Collie around Wellington Dam, connecting to the Bibbulmun Track.
- The department will examine a proposal to expand Wellington National Park with a view to enhancing the potential tourism and recreation opportunities in the area.



Barking gecko found in Bindoon during annual pitfall trapping. *Photo – Rebecca Kay/DBCA*



Native conservation operations officer Emma Atkinson with a chuditch trapped during a survey. *Photo – Christine Fleay/DBCA*

Significant issues and trends

- The Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure Project will continue with a \$20 million total project budget, including developing two new lookout structures overlooking the Murchison River gorge in Kalbarri National Park.
- Priority will be given to developing regulations, in consultation with stakeholders, to support the full proclamation of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, which will replace the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929*.
- Western Australia's unique and highly significant biodiversity faces threats and complex challenges, requiring integrated multi-disciplinary approaches to conservation and management that is underpinned by high quality science.
- Adaptive management strategies will be developed to assist in meeting the challenges of climate change impacts, particularly in response to reduced rainfall and hotter conditions predicted for the south west.
- 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. A comprehensive prescribed burning program to reduce the risk of damaging bushfires will be maintained.
- The State's forests will continue to be managed to conserve plants and animals, protect water catchments, for recreation and tourism, for a sustainable timber industry, for mining and other public uses under the direction of the Forest Management Plan 2014–2023.
- Invasive pests, weeds and diseases will continue to be managed. The department will maintain the *Western Shield* fauna recovery program in partnership with industry and the community, including expansion of trials of the Eradicat® bait for feral cats.
- Increased funding has accelerated major Riverpark shoreline restoration projects, while reviewed and streamlined statutory planning policies have improved the processing times of Riverpark development applications, licences and permits. The first report for the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy has been prepared, demonstrating improved coordination across Government for multi-agency river management initiatives.



Murujuga National Park. Photo – Rick Dawson/DBCA



Sanderlings, Margaret River. Photo – Christine Fleay/DBCA

Disclosures and legal compliance



Joffre Gorge, Karijini National Park. Photo – Rick Dawson/DBCA

Disclosures and legal compliance Certification

Certification of Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017

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 2017 and the financial position as at 30 June 2017.

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.

Graham Edwards
Chief Finance Officer
20 September 2017

Mark Webb
Accountable Authority
20 September 2017

Auditor General's opinion



Humpback whales. Photo – Matt Swan/DBCA



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Department of Parks and Wildlife which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2017, 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.

In my opinion, the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of the Department of Parks and Wildlife for the year ended 30 June 2017 and the financial position at the end of that period. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Department in accordance with the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Reconciliation of the Valuation Roll to Agency Records

The Valuer General's 2016-17 valuation indicated that the fair value of the Department's land is \$2.9 billion. This represents 92% of property, plant and equipment, which is the largest asset balance. The Department does not have a separate register for land and instead relies on the Landgate land register. Consequently, I performed alternative audit procedures to confirm that the land included in the valuation roll completely and accurately reflected the land under the Department's control. These procedures included reviewing reconciliations between the Department's records and the valuation roll as well as ensuring that land acquisitions and disposals were accurately reflected in the valuation roll.

Responsibility of the Director General 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, the *Financial Management Act 2006* 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.

In preparing the financial statements, the Director General is responsible for assessing the agency's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Western Australian Government has made policy or funding decisions affecting the continued existence of the Department.

Auditor General's opinion

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the agency's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Director General.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Director General's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the agency's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Director General regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

From the matters communicated with the Director General, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in the auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because of the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefit of such communication.

Report on Controls

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The controls exercised by the Department 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 (the overall control objectives).

My opinion has been formed on the basis of the matters outlined in this report.

In my opinion, in all material respects, 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 2017.

The Director General's Responsibilities

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

Auditor General's Responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and the controls, necessary to achieve the overall control objectives, were implemented as designed.

An assurance engagement to report on the design and implementation of controls involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the design of controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures included testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

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

Limitations of Controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once the controls are in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or noncompliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the Key Performance Indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Department of Parks and Wildlife for the year ended 30 June 2017. The key performance indicators are the key effectiveness indicators and the key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

In my opinion, in all material respects, 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 2017.

The 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 internal control as the Director General determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the key performance indicators, the Director General is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 904 *Key Performance Indicators*.

Auditor General's Responsibility

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the agency's performance and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer's Instruction 904 for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

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

My Independence and Quality Control Relating to the Reports on Controls and Key Performance Indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQC 1 *Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, and Other Assurance Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory 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 2017 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 MURPHREE
AUDITOR GENERAL
FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Perth, Western Australia
22 September 2017



Coalseam Conservation Park. *Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA*

Financial statements



Bower bird. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

Financial statements

Statement of Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	6	161,547	160,911
Supplies and services	8	74,440	81,065
Depreciation expense	9	26,802	25,728
Accommodation expenses	10	4,722	4,684
Grants and subsidies	11	7,269	7,566
Other expenses	12	24,963	33,019
Total cost of services		299,743	312,973
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	14	36,582	38,331
Commonwealth grants and contributions	15	2,316	1,694
Other grants and contributions	16	23,482	44,501
Interest revenue		1,828	1,907
Other revenue	18	11,922	16,792
Total Revenue		76,130	103,225
<i>Gains</i>			
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	17	242	177
Total Gains		242	177
Total income other than income from State Government		76,372	103,402
NET COST OF SERVICES		223,371	209,571
Income from State Government			
Service appropriation	19	206,780	224,794
Services received free of charge		714	968
Royalties for Regions Fund		10,753	7,043
Total income from State Government		218,247	232,805
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD		(5,124)	23,234
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit and loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		52,137	(42,384)
Total other comprehensive income (loss)		52,137	(42,384)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD		47,013	(19,150)

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

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

Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	32	5,355	3,805
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	20 & 32	76,610	69,987
Inventories	21	914	1,281
Receivables	22	15,447	17,101
Amounts receivable for services	23	9,098	8,503
Other current assets	24	8,298	8,135
Total Current Assets		115,722	108,812
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	20 & 32	598	0
Amounts receivable for services	23	144,994	134,218
Property, plant and equipment	25	3,167,331	3,104,673
Total Non-Current Assets		3,312,923	3,238,891
TOTAL ASSETS		3,428,645	3,347,703
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	28	8,081	2,585
Provisions	29	32,482	29,950
Other current liabilities	30	4,090	2,985
Total Current Liabilities		44,653	35,520
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	29	6,822	6,129
Total Non-Current Liabilities		6,822	6,129
TOTAL LIABILITIES		51,475	41,649
NET ASSETS		3,377,170	3,306,054
EQUITY			
Contributed Equity	31	3,045,631	3,021,528
Reserves		295,467	243,330
Accumulated surplus		36,072	41,196
TOTAL EQUITY		3,377,170	3,306,054

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

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

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Note 31	Contributed Equity \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2015		2,971,689	285,714	17,962	3,275,365
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	23,234	23,234
Other comprehensive income		0	(42,384)	0	(42,384)
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	(42,384)	23,234	(19,150)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		932	0	0	932
Other contributions by owners		9,452	0	0	9,452
Transfer of net assets from other agencies		39,455	0	0	39,455
Total		49,839	0	0	49,839
Balance at 30 June 2016		3,021,528	243,330	41,196	3,306,054
Balance at 1 July 2016		3,021,528	243,330	41,196	3,306,054
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	(5,124)	(5,124)
Other comprehensive income		0	52,137	0	52,137
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	52,137	(5,124)	47,013
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		642	0	0	642
Other contributions by owners		23,271	0	0	23,271
Transfer of net assets from other agencies		190			190
Total		24,103	0	0	24,103
Balance at 30 June 2017		3,045,631	295,467	36,072	3,377,170

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 2017

	Note	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		186,906	204,886
Capital appropriations		642	932
Holding account drawdowns		8,503	8,646
Cash and cash equivalents Transferred from (to) owner		0	2,628
Royalties for Regions Fund		34,024	16,495
Net cash provided by State Government		230,075	233,587
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(157,294)	(164,897)
Supplies and services		(69,163)	(81,035)
Accommodation		(4,654)	(4,684)
Grants and subsidies		(7,139)	(7,591)
GST payments on purchases		(13,377)	(15,152)
GST payments to taxation authority		(4)	(136)
Other payments		(25,355)	(34,041)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		38,919	42,377
Commonwealth grants and contributions		2,315	1,705
Interest received		1,806	1,098
GST receipts on sales		5,318	6,607
GST receipts from taxation authority		8,898	7,823
Other receipts		35,000	50,863
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	32	(184,730)	(197,063)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(37,256)	(44,048)
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		682	500
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(36,574)	(43,548)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		8,771	(7,024)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		73,792	80,816
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	32	82,563	73,792

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 2017

	Provision of Parks and Visitor Services		Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities		Conservation Partnerships		Forest Management Plan Implementation		Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry		Prescribed Burning and Fire Management		Bushfire Suppression		Protection of the Swan and Canning Rivers System		Total	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
COST OF SERVICES																		
Expenses																		
Employee benefits expense	44,323	39,346	44,338	41,617	9,021	11,550	8,714	6,736	4,099	5,147	32,369	31,550	12,077	18,431	6,606	6,534	161,547	160,911
Supplies and services	20,236	21,751	14,177	14,276	12,326	11,257	1,413	961	2,912	2,989	11,033	8,459	9,973	18,583	2,370	2,789	74,440	81,065
Depreciation expense	14,203	12,888	2,771	3,179	857	905	1,031	571	729	658	3,989	3,462	3,014	3,752	208	313	26,802	25,728
Accommodation expenses	1,995	1,675	1,359	1,288	232	266	75	103	44	22	610	663	286	552	121	115	4,722	4,684
Grants & subsidies	107	0	68	279	1,068	850	2	0	1	0	9	0	1	0	6,013	6,437	7,269	7,566
Other expenses	5,212	4,003	4,577	4,670	1,114	1,682	584	540	435	766	2,793	2,574	9,767	18,495	481	289	24,963	33,019
Total cost of services	86,076	79,663	67,290	65,309	24,618	26,510	11,819	8,911	8,220	9,582	50,803	46,708	35,118	59,813	15,799	16,477	299,743	312,973
Income																		
User charges and fees	22,833	20,515	4,869	3,805	1,242	1,599	928	887	2,815	3,982	707	888	3,125	6,597	63	58	36,582	38,331
Commonwealth grants and contributions	0	106	55	66	1,718	974	0	0	0	0	53	48	0	0	490	500	2,316	1,694
Other grants and contributions	3,959	3,482	29	206	16,542	35,920	201	144	0	80	368	712	0	0	2,383	3,957	23,482	44,501
Interest revenue	211	159	205	149	1,314	1,509	98	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,828	1,907
Other revenue	5,864	7,553	2,875	4,623	110	86	2,144	3,438	86	57	399	490	383	474	61	71	11,922	16,792
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	(13)	0	(62)	0	(18)	0	(4)	0	13	0	266	104	58	73	2	0	242	177
Total income other than income from State Government	32,854	31,815	7,971	8,849	20,908	40,088	3,367	4,559	2,914	4,119	1,793	2,242	3,566	7,144	2,999	4,586	76,372	103,402
NET COST OF SERVICES	53,222	47,848	59,319	56,460	3,710	(13,578)	8,452	4,352	5,306	5,463	49,010	44,466	31,552	52,669	12,800	11,891	223,371	209,571
Income from State Government																		
Service appropriation	53,416	49,118	60,337	64,979	0	0	9,195	8,832	7,139	7,139	36,927	33,830	27,210	47,963	12,556	12,933	206,780	224,794
Services received free of charge	36	250	174	422	0	0	492	267	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	29	714	968
Royalties for Regions Fund	4,743	2,825	810	418	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,200	3,800	0	0	0	0	10,753	7,043
Total income from State Government	58,195	52,193	61,321	65,819	0	0	9,687	9,099	7,139	7,139	42,127	37,630	27,210	47,963	12,568	12,962	218,247	232,805
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the period	4,973	4,345	2,002	9,359	(3,710)	13,578	1,235	4,747	1,833	1,676	(6,883)	(6,836)	(4,342)	(4,706)	(232)	1,071	(5,124)	23,234

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

Disclosures and legal compliance
Financial statements

Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service
 As at 30 June 2017

	Provision of Parks and Visitor Services		Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities		Conservation Partnerships		Forest Management Plan Implementation		Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry		Prescribed Burning and Fire Management		Bushfire Suppression		Protection of the Swan and Canning Rivers System		Total	Total
	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
ASSETS																		
Current assets	24,990	22,201	4,738	11,694	67,666	53,712	3,416	3,862	2,238	2,500	2,728	2,443	3,648	5,492	6,298	6,908	115,722	108,812
Non-current assets	1,078,532	1,028,104	861,937	837,367	16,860	19,636	605,943	594,760	614,166	358,012	74,812	350,501	57,080	40,707	3,593	9,804	3,312,923	3,238,891
Total assets	1,103,522	1,050,305	866,675	849,061	84,526	73,348	609,359	598,622	616,404	360,512	77,540	352,944	60,728	46,199	9,891	16,712	3,428,645	3,347,703
LIABILITIES																		
Current liabilities	14,133	10,161	12,587	10,638	3,390	2,513	2,587	2,514	918	811	6,822	5,318	1,267	2,016	2,949	1,549	44,653	35,520
Non-current liabilities	2,034	1,667	2,042	1,841	510	478	311	304	182	162	1,222	1,008	210	384	311	285	6,822	6,129
Total liabilities	16,167	11,828	14,629	12,479	3,900	2,991	2,898	2,818	1,100	973	8,044	6,326	1,477	2,400	3,260	1,834	51,475	41,649
NET ASSETS	1,087,355	1,038,477	852,046	836,582	80,626	70,357	606,461	595,804	615,304	359,539	69,496	346,618	59,251	43,799	6,631	14,878	3,377,170	3,306,054

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 2017

	2017 Estimate \$'000	2017 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2017 Actual \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 83 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	206,877	206,207	(670)	206,207	224,236	(18,029)
Royalties for Regions Fund	11,950	10,753	(1,197)	10,753	7,043	3,710
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes						
- Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	573	573	0	573	558	15
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	219,400	217,533	(1,867)	217,533	231,837	(14,304)
Capital						
Item 152 Capital appropriations	642	642	0	642	932	(290)
Royalties for Regions Fund	30,631	23,271	(7,360)	23,271	9,452	13,819
Total capital	31,273	23,913	(7,360)	23,913	10,384	13,529
GRAND TOTAL	250,673	241,446	(9,227)	241,446	242,221	(775)
Details of Expenses by Service						
Provision of Parks and Visitor Services	85,225	86,076	851	86,076	79,663	6,413
Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	72,780	67,290	(5,490)	67,290	65,309	1,981
Conservation Partnerships	29,738	24,618	(5,120)	24,618	26,510	(1,892)
Forest Management Plan Implementation	13,157	11,819	(1,338)	11,819	8,911	2,908
Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry	10,346	8,220	(2,126)	8,220	9,582	(1,362)
Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	39,218	50,803	11,585	50,803	46,708	4,095
Bushfire Suppression	31,757	35,118	3,361	35,118	59,813	(24,695)
Protection of the Swan and Canning Rivers System	16,927	15,799	(1,128)	15,799	16,477	(678)
Total Cost of Services	299,148	299,743	595	299,743	312,973	(13,230)
Less Total Income	(81,693)	(76,372)	5,321	(76,372)	(103,402)	27,030
Net Cost of Services	217,455	223,371	5,916	223,371	209,571	13,800
Adjustments	1,945	(5,838)	(7,783)	(5,838)	22,266	(28,104)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	219,400	217,533	(1,867)	217,533	231,837	(14,304)
Capital Expenditure						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	43,593	37,256	(6,337)	37,256	44,048	(6,792)
Adjustment for other funding sources	(12,320)	(13,343)	(1,023)	(13,343)	(33,664)	20,321
Capital appropriations	31,273	23,913	(7,360)	23,913	10,384	13,529
Details of Income Estimates						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	90	63	(27)	63	80	(17)
	90	63	(27)	63	80	(17)

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

Note 36 "Explanatory statement" and Note 43 "Explanatory statement for Administered Items" provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2017 and between the actual results for 2017 and 2016.

Disclosures and legal compliance

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 2017 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. 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 2017.

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: Provision of Parks and Visitor Services

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: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

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: Conservation Partnerships

Working with the community, industry, traditional owners and other stakeholders to deliver conservation outcomes.

Service 4: Forest Management Plan Implementation

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

Service 5: Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry

Undertaking works and services that directly support forest production activities.

Service 6: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management

Delivering prescribed burning and fire management to protect the community and enhance natural values. Lands under the Department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

Service 7: Bushfire Suppression

Suppressing bushfires that threaten or occur on lands managed by the Department.

Service 8: Protection of the Swan and Canning River System

Managing the Swan Canning Riverpark including assessing development proposals and delivering environmental management programs.

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

(d) Contributed equity

AASB Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities* requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as 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 2016–17 Budget Statements, the Department retained \$76.13 million in 2017 (\$103.225 million in 2016) 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.

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

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.

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 25 '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	18-20 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
Vessels	5-12 years
Plant and equipment	4-20 years
Vehicles	5-14 years
Recreation and Tourism 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 and Parks Commission by the Government. Crown land holdings vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission are included as assets of The Department as they are under the operational control of The Department. The Department of Lands (DOL) is the only agency with the power to sell Crown land. The Conservation and Parks Commission transfers Crown land and any attaching buildings to DOL 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 28 '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 note 20 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually, from Departmental appropriations for salaries expense, into a suspense account to meet the additional cash outflow for employee salary payments in reporting periods with 27 pay periods 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.

Disclosures and legal compliance

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 fund providers 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 fund providers 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 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 because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by the Department to GESB extinguishes the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

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.

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 2016 that impacted on the Department.

AASB 1057	<p><i>Application of Australian Accounting Standards</i></p> <p>This Standard lists the application paragraphs for each other Standard (and Interpretation), grouped where they are the same. There is no financial impact.</p>
AASB 2014-3	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations [AASB 1 & 11]</i></p> <p>The Department establishes Joint Operations in pursuit of its objectives and does not routinely acquire interests in Joint Operations. Therefore, there is no financial impact on application 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 2014-9	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements [AASB 1, 127 & 128]</i></p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 127, and consequentially amends AASB 1 and AASB 128, to allow entities to use the equity method of accounting for investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates in their separate financial statements. As the Department has no joint ventures and associates, the application of the Standard has no financial impact.</p>
AASB 2015-1	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-2014 Cycle [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 110, 119, 121, 133, 134, 137 & 140]</i></p> <p>These amendments arise from the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2012-2014 Cycle in September 2014, and editorial corrections. The Department has determined that the application of the Standard has no financial impact.</p>

AASB 2015-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 [AASB 7, 101, 134 & 1049]*

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.

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

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.

AASB 2015-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 & 128*

This Standard defers the mandatory effective date (application date) of amendments to AASB 10 & AASB 128 that were originally made in AASB 2014-10 so that the amendments are required to be applied for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 instead of 1 January 2016. There is no financial impact.

Disclosures and legal compliance

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 2010-7	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010)</i> [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]</p> <p>This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010.</p> <p>The mandatory application date of this Standard has been amended by AASB 2012-6 and AASB 2014-1 to 1 January 2018. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2018
AASB 9	<i>Financial Instruments</i>	1 Jan 2018	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>	1 Jan 2018
	This Standard supersedes AASB 139 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> , introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments.		AASB 2014-5	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 15. The mandatory application date of this Standard has been amended by AASB 2015-8 to 1 January 2018. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2018
	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 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards</i> . The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.		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>	1 Jan 2018
AASB 15	<i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	1 Jan 2019	AASB 2014-10	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture [AASB 10 & 128]</i></p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 10 and AASB 128 to address an inconsistency between the requirements in AASB 10 and those in AASB 128 (August 2011), in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. The mandatory effective date (application date) for the Standard has been deferred to 1 Jan 2018 by AASB 2015-10. The Department has determined that the Standard has no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2018
	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.		AASB 2015-8	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of AASB 15</i></p> <p>This Standard amends the mandatory effective date (application date) of AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i> so that AASB 15 is required to be applied for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 instead of 1 January 2017. For Not-For-Profit entities, the mandatory effective date has subsequently been amended to 1 January 2019 by AASB 2016-7. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of AASB 15.</p>	1 Jan 2019
	The Department's income is principally derived from appropriations which will be measured under AASB 1058 <i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i> and will be unaffected by this change. However, the Department has not yet determined the potential impact of the Standard on 'User charges and fees'. In broad terms, it is anticipated that the terms and conditions attached to these revenues will defer revenue recognition until the Department has discharged its performance obligations.		AASB 2016-2	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 107</i></p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 107 <i>Statement of Cash Flows</i> (August 2015) to require disclosures that enable users of financial statements to evaluate changes in liabilities arising from financing activities, including both changes arising from cash flows and non-cash changes. There is no financial impact.</p>	1 Jan 2017
AASB 16	<i>Leases</i>	1 Jan 2019			
	This Standard introduces a single lessee accounting model and requires a lessee to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value.				
	Whilst the impact of AASB 16 has not yet been quantified, the entity currently has operating lease commitments for \$12.669 million. The Department anticipates most of this amount will be brought onto the statement of financial position, excepting amounts pertinent to short-term or low-value leases. Interest and amortisation expense will increase and rental expense will decrease.				
AASB 1058	<i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	1 Jan 2019			
	This Standard clarifies and simplifies the income recognition requirements that apply to not-for-profit (NFP) entities, more closely reflecting the economic reality of NFP entity transactions that are not contracts with customers. Timing of income recognition is dependent on whether such a transaction gives rise to a liability, a performance obligation (a promise to transfer a good or service), or, an obligation to acquire an asset. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.				

Financial statements

AASB 2016-3	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarifications to AASB 15</i>	1 Jan 2018
	This Standard clarifies identifying performance obligations, principal versus agent considerations, timing of recognising revenue from granting a licence, and, provides further transitional provisions to AASB 15. The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact.	
AASB 2016-4	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Recoverable Amount of Non-Cash-Generating Specialised Assets of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	1 Jan 2017
	This Standard clarifies that the recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 <i>Fair Value Measurement</i> . The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact.	
AASB 2016-7	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferral of AASB 15 for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	1 Jan 2017
	This Standard amends the mandatory effective date (application date) of AASB 15 and defers the consequential amendments that were originally set out in AASB 2014-5 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15</i> for not-for-profit entities to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019, instead of 1 January 2018. There is no financial impact.	
AASB 2016-8	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	1 Jan 2019
	This Standard inserts Australian requirements and authoritative implementation guidance for not-for-profit entities into AASB 9 and AASB 15. This guidance assists not-for-profit entities in applying those Standards to particular transactions and other events. There is no financial impact.	
AASB 2017-2	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Further Annual Improvements 2014-2016 Cycle</i>	1 Jan 2017
	This Standard clarifies the scope of AASB 12 by specifying that the disclosure requirements apply to an entity's interests in other entities that are classified as held for sale, held for distribution to owners in their capacity as owners or discontinued operations in accordance with AASB 5. There is no financial impact.	

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
6. Employee benefits expense		
Wages and salaries ^(a)	146,295	144,884
Superannuation – defined contribution plans ^(b)	13,783	13,336
Redundancy payments	1,469	2,691
	161,547	160,911

(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component and leave entitlements including superannuation contribution component.

(b) Defined contribution plans include West State, Gold State and GESB Super Scheme and other eligible funds. Payments to GESB during the financial year amounts to \$12.29 million (2016: \$12.76 million).

Employment on-costs expenses, such as workers' compensation insurance, are included at note 12 'Other expenses'.

The employment on-costs liability is included at note 29 'Provisions'.

7. Compensation of Key Management Personnel

The Department has determined that key management personnel include the responsible Minister and senior officers of the Department. However, the Department is not obligated to compensate the responsible Minister and therefore disclosures in relation to Ministers' compensation may be found in the *Annual Report on State Finances*.

Total compensation for senior officers of the Department for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation Band (\$)	2017	2016
80,001 – 90,000	1	0
110,001 – 120,000	1	0
150,001 – 160,000	1	0
180,001 – 190,000	1	2
190,001 – 200,000	1	2
200,001 – 210,000	3	1
210,001 – 220,000	1	2
240,001 – 250,000	1	0
260,001 – 270,000	0	1
350,001 – 360,000	1	0
380,001 – 390,000	0	1
	\$000	\$000
Short-term employee benefits	1,680	1,627
Post-employment benefits	267	232
Other long-term benefits	212	192
Termination benefits	0	0
Total compensation of senior officers	2,159	2,051

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
8. Supplies and services		
Communications	3,589	4,164
Consultants and contractors	4,850	5,135
Services and contracts	34,349	37,031
Materials	14,034	15,044
Repairs and maintenance	6,333	6,694
Travel	4,233	4,906
Regional employee housing	2,477	3,021
Staff Costs (including uniforms & protective clothing)	4,566	4,938
Other	9	132
	74,440	81,065

During the financial year the Department's transactions with government related entities on supplies and services amount to \$12.89 million (2016: \$13.57 million).

9. Depreciation expense

Plant, equipment and vehicles	11,800	11,146
Infrastructure	4,950	4,785
Buildings	9,922	9,657
Software	130	140
	26,802	25,728

10. Accommodation expenses

Lease rentals ^(a)	2,744	2,683
Electricity, power and water	1,978	2,001
	4,722	4,684

(a) Transactions with Department of Finance amounts to \$1.16 million in 2017 (2016: \$1.34 million), transactions with Department of Finance Building Management and Works amounts to \$0.32 million in 2017 (2016: \$0.21 million) and transactions with Department of Agriculture and Food amounts to \$0.06 million in 2017 (2016: \$0.06 million).

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
11. Grants and subsidies		
Department of Water	2,451	3,105
Department of Finance	675	0
Western Australian Museum	551	850
Ellen Brockman Integrated Catchment Group	374	223
City of South Perth	343	1,267
South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare	342	658
City of Melville	266	20
Western Australian Parks Foundation	250	0
Perth Region Natural Resource Management	210	276
City of Swan	180	140
City of Canning	170	0
Murdoch University	147	94
City of Belmont	112	126
Department of Environment Regulation	103	85
City of Kwinana	100	0
City of Cockburn	100	0
City of Armadale	93	62
City of Joondalup	80	0
Other	723	660
	7,269	7,566

12. Other expenses

Employment on-costs ^(a)	4,262	2,093
Operating lease – motor vehicle ^(b)	8,079	8,504
Other lease, rental and hire expenses ^(c)	12,622	22,422
	24,963	33,019

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

(b) During the financial year transactions with State Fleet amounts to \$4.39 million (2016: \$4.43 million).

(c) Transactions with Department of Fire and Emergency Services amounts to \$0.45 million in 2017 and \$0.04 million in 2016.

Financial statements

13. Related Party Transactions

The Department is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Western Australia. In conducting its activities, the Department is required to pay various taxes and levies based on the standard terms and conditions that apply to all tax and levy payers to the State and entities related to State.

Related parties of the department include:

- all Ministers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- other departments and public sector entities, including related bodies included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements;
- associates and joint ventures, that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements; and
- the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

Significant transactions with government related entities

Significant transactions include:

- service appropriations (Note 19).
- capital appropriations (Note 31)
- services received free of charge from other State government agencies (Note 19)
- grants and subsidies to Department of Water, Department of Finance and Western Australian Museum and Department of Environment Regulation (Note 11)
- royalties for Regions Funds (Note 19)
- superannuation payments to GESB (Note 6)
- operating lease on motor vehicles, other lease, rental and hire expense transactions with State Fleet and Department of Fire and Emergency (Note 12)
- supplies and services transactions with government related entities (Note 8)
- other grants and contributions received from other state government agencies (Note 16)
- services rendered and user fees charged by the Department to other government agencies (Note 14)
- accommodation expense transactions with Department of Finance, Department of Agriculture and Food and Department of Finance Building Management and Works (Note 10)
- insurance payments from the Insurance Commission and Riskcover fund (Note 18)
- equity injections from Royalties for Regions Funds (Note 31)
- remuneration for services provided by the Auditor General (Note 38)

Significant outstanding balances with government related entities

Significant balances include:

- receivables from other government related entities (Note 22)
- payables to other government related entities (Note 28)
- unearned revenue from Burswood Park Board (Note 30)

Significant outstanding commitments with government related entities

Significant balance include:

- lease rental payments in fleet leasing to the Department of Finance (Note 33)

Material transactions with related parties

The Department had no material related party transaction with Minister/senior officers or their close family members or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities for disclosure.

All other general citizen type transactions between the Department and other related entities are not material for disclosure.

14. User charges and fees

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
User charges	20,436	17,784
Fees	16,146	20,547
	36,582	38,331

During the financial year the Department's transactions with other government related entities on user charges and fees amounts to \$9.39 million (2016: \$10.38 million).

15. Commonwealth grants and contributions

Recurrent	2,316	1,694
	2,316	1,694

The Department received revenue of \$2.32 million from the Commonwealth Government during the period in relation to 29 separate conservation projects.

16. Other grants and contributions

Capital	705	18,441
Recurrent	22,777	26,060
	23,482	44,501

The Department received revenue of \$23.48 million from a range of private and state (\$4.49 million in 2017 (2016: \$20.33 million) granting entities during the year in relation to 172 separate conservation projects. Any unspent funds remaining at the conclusion of individual projects are returned to the relevant granting entity.

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
17. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets		
<i>Net Proceeds from Disposal of Non-Current Assets</i>		
Plant and equipment, vehicles	682	500
Buildings	0	0
Trade-in	126	100
<i>Carrying amount of Non-Current Assets</i>		
Plant and equipment, vehicles	(547)	(400)
Buildings	(19)	(23)
Net gain/(loss)	242	177

18. Other Revenue

Mining compensation	5,742	9,266
Insurance refunds ^(a)	1,292	2,346
Forest and beach shack leases	1,134	871
Other	692	734
Plant fund expenditure recoup	600	591
Communication sites	465	544
Workers compensation payroll recoup ^(a)	690	407
Publications	389	362
Apiary sites	289	254
Diesel fuel rebate	266	245
Sale of minor assets	45	34
Assets found during the period: ^(b)		
-Buildings	0	981
-Property, plant and equipment	318	158
	11,922	16,792

(a) Recoup of damage repair costs and workers compensation from the Insurance Commission and Riskcover fund.

(b) Assets found in 2016 were reclassified from Income from State Government (note 19) to Other revenue as they represent assets which were wrongly expensed previously rather than capitalised.

19. Income from State Government

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Appropriation received during the period:		
- Service Appropriations ^(a)	206,780	224,794
	206,780	224,794
Services received free of charge from other State Government agencies during the period:		
- Landgate	260	236
- State Solicitor's Office (Department of the Attorney-General)	314	439
- Department of Agriculture and Food	41	41
- Department of Water	2	1
- Department of Finance	85	183
- Department of Corrective Services	0	68
- Department of Transport	12	0
	714	968
Royalties for Regions Fund:		
- Regional Community Services Fund ^(b)	10,753	7,043
	10,753	7,043
	218,247	232,805

(a) Service appropriations 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.

20. Restricted cash and cash equivalents

<i>Current</i>		
Cash amounts in suspense account ^(a)	76,610	69,987
	76,610	69,987
<i>Non Current</i>		
Accrued salaries suspense account ^(b)	598	0
	598	0

(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 next occur in 2026-27.

Financial statements

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
21. Inventories		
<i>Current</i>		
Inventories held for resale:		
Souvenirs	419	699
Inventories held for distribution:		
Publications	495	582
	914	1,281

22. Receivables

<i>Current</i>		
Receivables	12,403	13,406
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(1)	(2)
GST receivable	2,090	2,925
Accrued revenue	955	772
	15,447	17,101

As at 30 June 2017 receivables from other government related entities amounts to \$2.31 million (2016: \$5.28 million)

Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:

Balance at start of year	2	635
Doubtful debts expense	3	(623)
Amounts written off during the year	(4)	(10)
Balance at end of year	1	2

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

23. Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

Current	9,098	8,503
Non-current	144,994	134,218
	154,092	142,721

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
24. Other assets		
<i>Current</i>		
Prepayments	8,298	8,135
	8,298	8,135
25. Property, plant and equipment		
<i>Land</i>		
At fair value ^(a)	2,898,338	2,844,227
	2,898,338	2,844,227
<i>Buildings</i>		
At fair value ^(a)	113,965	121,513
	113,965	121,513
<i>Plant and equipment</i>		
At cost	143,140	131,443
Accumulated depreciation	(77,235)	(69,325)
	65,905	62,118
<i>Infrastructure</i>		
At cost	76,208	72,706
Accumulated depreciation	(43,822)	(39,014)
	32,386	33,692
<i>Vehicles</i>		
At cost	39,859	37,771
Accumulated depreciation	(21,534)	(20,854)
	18,325	16,917
<i>Works of art</i>		
At cost	555	555
	555	555
Assets under construction	37,857	25,651
	3,167,331	3,104,673

(a) Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2016 by the Western Australian Land Information Department (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2017 and recognised at 30 June 2017. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$189,036,500 (2016: \$189,090,027) and buildings: \$2,181,300 (2016: \$2,351,000). 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
2017								
Carrying amount at start of year	2,844,227	121,513	62,118	33,692	16,917	555	25,651	3,104,673
Assets not previously identified	0	0	318	0	0	0	0	318
Additions	2,094	1,056	2,581	2,912	4,214		24,540	37,398
Disposals	0	(19)	(205)	0	(342)	0	0	(566)
Transfers ^(a)	480	736	10,559	732	0	0	(12,333)	174
Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	51,537	600	0	0	0	0	0	52,137
Depreciation	0	(9,922)	(9,466)	(4,950)	(2,464)	0	0	(26,802)
Carrying amount at end of year	2,898,338	113,965	65,905	32,386	18,325	555	37,857	3,167,331
2016								
Carrying amount at start of year	2,842,960	123,755	63,432	36,188	14,159	555	15,745	3,096,794
Assets not previously identified	0	981	158	0	0	0	0	1,139
Additions	17,670	887	3,313	2,103	4,647	0	15,563	44,183
Disposals	0	(23)	(286)	0	(114)	0	0	(423)
Transfers ^(a)	29,878	1,673	4,935	186	77	0	(5,657)	31,092
Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	(46,281)	3,897	0	0	0	0	0	(42,384)
Depreciation	0	(9,657)	(9,434)	(4,785)	(1,852)	0	0	(25,728)
Carrying amount at end of year	2,844,227	121,513	62,118	33,692	16,917	555	25,651	3,104,673

(a) The Department received \$0.19 million of assets in 2016-17 and \$31.14 million of assets in 2015-16 from other agencies which has been accounted as contributed equity.

Information on fair value measurement is provided in Note 26

Financial statements

26. Fair Value Measurements

Assets measured at fair value:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value at end of period
2017	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land (Note 25)	0	189,036	2,709,302	2,898,338
Buildings (Note 25)	0	2,181	111,784	113,965
	0	191,217	2,821,086	3,012,303

Assets measured at fair value:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value at end of period
2016	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land (Note 25)	0	189,090	2,655,137	2,844,227
Buildings (Note 25)	0	2,351	119,162	121,513
	0	191,441	2,774,299	2,965,740

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 or 3 during the current and previous year.

Valuation techniques to derive Level 2 fair values

Level 2 fair values of Land and Buildings are derived using the market approach. Market evidence of sales prices of comparable land and buildings 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)

2017	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000
Fair Value at start of Period	2,655,137	119,162
Additions	2,250	1,793
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	51,915	589
Transfers from/(to) Level 2	0	0
Disposals	0	(19)
Depreciation Expense	0	(9,741)
Fair Value at end of Period	2,709,302	111,784

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)

2016	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000
Fair Value at start of Period	2,666,292	121,035
Additions	29,878	3,541
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(41,033)	4,079
Transfers from/(to) Level 2	0	0
Disposals	0	(23)
Depreciation Expense	0	(9,470)
Fair Value at end of Period	2,655,137	119,162

Valuation Processes

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

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

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.

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

27. Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment at 30 June 2017.

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.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2017 have either been classified as assets held for sale or written-off.

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
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28. Payables

Current

Trade payables	4,971	608
Accrued expenses	1,899	1,889
Accrued salaries	1,036	0
Accrued superannuation	83	0
Parental payment	92	88
	8,081	2,585

As at 30 June 2017 payables to Department of Finance, Building Management and Works amounts to \$0.17 million (2016: NIL) and to Officer of the Auditor General amounts to \$0.18 million (2016: \$0.18 million)

29. Provisions

Current

Employee benefits provision

Annual leave ^(a)	11,673	10,551
Long service leave ^(b)	20,436	19,059
	32,109	29,610

Other provisions

Employment on-costs ^(c)	373	340
	373	340
	32,482	29,950

Non-current

Employee benefits provision

Long service leave ^(b)	6,742	6,057
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Other provisions

Employment on-costs ^(c)	80	72
	6,822	6,129

(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:

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	8,477	7,501
More than 12 months after the reporting period	3,196	3,050
	11,673	10,551

(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	8,556	7,501
More than 12 months after the reporting period	18,622	17,615
	27,178	25,116

(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 12 '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	412	431
Additional provisions recognised	41	(19)
Carrying amount at end of period	453	412

30. Other liabilities

Current

Unearned revenue	4,090	2,985
	4,090	2,985

As at 30 June 2017 unearned revenue from Burswood Park Board amounts to \$1.01 million (2016: NIL)

Financial statements

31. 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.

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Contributed equity		
Balance at start of period	3,021,528	2,971,689
<i>Contributions by owners</i>		
Capital appropriation	642	932
<i>Other contributions by owners</i>		
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	17,751	2,725
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Community Services Account	5,520	6,727
<i>Transfer of net assets from other agencies</i>		
Department of Lands	0	2,354
National Trust Western Australia	190	0
Swan River Trust	0	37,101
Total contributions by owners	3,045,631	3,021,528
<i>Distributions to owners</i>		
Transfer of net assets to other agencies and Government	0	0
Total distributions to owners	0	0
Balance at end of period	3,045,631	3,021,528
Reserves		
<i>Asset revaluation surplus:</i>		
Balance at start of period	243,330	285,714
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	51,537	(46,281)
Buildings	600	3,897
Balance at end of period	295,467	243,330
Accumulated surplus		
Balance at start of period	41,196	17,962
Result for the period	(5,124)	23,234
Balance at end of period	36,072	41,196

32. 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:

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	5,355	3,805
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (note 20 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents')	77,208	69,987
	82,563	73,792

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

Net cost of services	(223,371)	(209,571)
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation expense	26,802	25,728
Services received free of charge	714	968
Adjustments for other non cash items	(318)	(1,139)
(Gain)/Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	(242)	(177)

(Increase)/decrease in assets:

Current receivables ^(a)	820	(6,681)
Inventories	367	(86)
Other current assets	(162)	(639)

Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:

Current payables ^(a)	6,600	(10,278)
Provisions	3,225	835
Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(b)	835	(859)
Net Assets transferred to (from) Department of Parks and Wildlife	0	4,836

Net cash used in operating activities

	(184,730)	(197,063)
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(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.

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

33. Commitments

Non-cancellable operating lease commitments

Commitments for minimum lease payments are payable as follows:

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Within 1 year	4,720	5,202
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	6,327	7,669
Later than 5 years	1,622	19
	12,669	12,890

The Department's fleet leases with the Department of Finance accounts for \$3.4 million of the non- cancellable operating lease commitments for 2017(\$3.4 million in 2016). 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	2,636	1,313
	2,636	1,313

Other expenditure commitments

Other expenditure commitments, being contracts pertaining to bushfire suppression and prescribed burning at the end of the reporting period but not recognised as liabilities, are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	8,371	8,578
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	535	8,060
	8,906	16,638

34. 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 progress

The Department has 8 litigation claims against it that may affect the Department's financial position if all claims are successful to the value of \$408,000 having regard to the excess payable under the Department's general liability insurance policy. The total contingent liability for the Department's insurer is \$84,005,436. 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 "contaminated – restricted use" or "possibly contaminated – investigation required", the Department may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

The Department has 8 sites classified as "contaminated – remediation required", 1 site classified as "contaminated – restricted use" and 71 sites classified as "possibly contaminated - investigation required." 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.

35. Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

From 1 July 2017 the Department will be renamed to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

36. Explanatory Statement

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2017 and between the actual results for 2016 and 2017 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key variations selected from observed major variances, which are generally greater than:

- 5% and \$6 million for the Statements of Comprehensive Income and Cash Flows; and,
- 5% and \$25 million for the Statement of Financial Position.

	Variance Note	Estimate 2017 \$000	Actual 2017 \$000	Actual 2016 \$000	Variance between estimate and actual \$000	Variance between actual results for 2017 and 2016 \$000
Statement of Comprehensive Income (Controlled Operations)						
<i>Expenses</i>						
Employee benefits expense		162,941	161,547	160,911	(1,394)	636
Supplies and services	A	74,439	74,440	81,065	1	(6,625)
Depreciation expense	1	19,874	26,802	25,728	6,928	1,074
Accommodation expenses		5,361	4,722	4,684	(639)	38
Grants and subsidies		6,359	7,269	7,566	910	(297)
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		0	0	0	0	0
Other expenses	B	30,174	24,963	33,019	(5,211)	(8,056)
Total cost of services		299,148	299,743	312,973	595	(13,230)

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

	Variance Note	Estimate 2017	Actual 2017	Actual 2016	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2017 and 2016
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
LIABILITIES						
Current Liabilities						
Payables		4,721	8,081	2,585	3,360	5,496
Provisions		26,551	32,482	29,950	5,931	2,532
Other current liabilities		9,896	4,090	2,985	(5,806)	1,105
Total Current Liabilities		41,168	44,653	35,520	3,485	9,133
Non-Current Liabilities						
Provisions		9,174	6,822	6,129	(2,352)	693
Total Non-Current Liabilities		9,174	6,822	6,129	(2,352)	693
TOTAL LIABILITIES		50,342	51,475	41,649	1,133	9,826
NET ASSETS						
EQUITY						
Contributed Equity		2,951,308	3,045,631	3,021,528	94,323	24,103
Reserves	H	289,741	295,467	243,330	5,726	52,137
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		111,963	36,072	41,196	(75,891)	(5,124)
TOTAL EQUITY		3,353,012	3,377,170	3,306,054	24,158	71,116
Statement of Cash Flows (Controlled Operations)						
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation	I	187,576	186,906	204,886	(670)	(17,980)
Capital appropriations		642	642	932	0	(290)
Holding account drawdowns		8,503	8,503	8,646	0	(143)
Cash and cash equivalents distributed to owner		0	0	2,628	0	(2,628)

	Variance Note	Estimate 2017	Actual 2017	Actual 2016	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2017 and 2016
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Royalties for Regions Fund	4,J	42,581	34,024	16,495	(8,557)	17,529
Net cash provided by State Government		239,302	230,075	233,587	(9,227)	(3,512)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Employee benefits	K	(162,669)	(157,294)	(164,897)	5,375	7,603
Supplies and services	L	(73,140)	(69,163)	(81,035)	3,977	11,872
Accommodation		(5,359)	(4,654)	(4,684)	705	30
Grants and subsidies		(5,759)	(7,139)	(7,591)	(1,380)	452
GST payments on purchases		(11,322)	(13,377)	(15,152)	(2,055)	1,775
GST payments to taxation authority		0	(4)	(136)	(4)	132
Other payments	M	(30,060)	(25,355)	(34,041)	4,705	8,686
Receipts						
User charges and fees		40,329	38,919	42,377	(1,410)	(3,458)
Commonwealth grants and contributions		1,597	2,315	1,705	718	610
Interest received		1,988	1,806	1,098	(182)	708
GST receipts on sales		5,500	5,318	6,607	(182)	(1,289)
GST receipts from taxation authority		5,827	8,898	7,823	3,071	1,075
Other receipts	N	37,779	35,000	50,863	(2,779)	(15,863)
Net cash (used) in operating activities		(195,289)	(184,730)	(197,063)	10,559	12,333
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
Payments						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	5,O	(43,593)	(37,256)	(44,048)	6,337	6,792

Financial statements

	Variance Note	Estimate 2017	Actual 2017	Actual 2016	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2017 and 2016
		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Receipts						
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		500	682	500	182	182
Net cash provided by/(used) used in investing activities		(43,093)	(36,574)	(43,548)	6,519	6,974
Net increase/ (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		920	8,771	(7,024)	7,851	15,795
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		73,708	73,792	80,816	84	(7,024)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD		74,628	82,563	73,792	7,935	8,771

Major Estimate and Actual (2017) Variance Narratives for Controlled Operations

1. Depreciation expense exceeded the estimate by \$6.9 million (35%) due to an expansion of park recreation facilities built over the years.
2. Changes in asset revaluation surplus by \$52.1 million is due to movement in the Department's land values assessed by the Valuer General.
3. Restricted cash and cash equivalents (current), exceeded the estimate by \$9 million (13%) due to cash carryovers for bushfire suppression funds and Royalties for Regions Funds.
4. Royalties for Regions fund revenues were under estimate by \$8.5 million (20%) due to deferred fund required from Royalties for Regions Funds resulting from project completion extensions.
5. Purchase of non-current physical assets under estimate by \$6.3 million (15%) principally due to lower expenditure incurred on Royalties for Regions capital projects.

Major Actual (2017) and Comparative (2016) Variance Narratives for Controlled Operations

- A. Supplies and services expenses reduced by \$6.6 million (8%) due to lower expenditure on bushfire suppression activities.
- B. Other expenses reduced by \$8 million (24%) due to lower expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- C. Other grants and contributions decreased by \$21 million (47%) mainly due to one-off funding received from Main Roads WA in 2015-16 for the purchase of conservation land.
- D. Service appropriation decreased by \$18 million (8%) due to receipt of supplementary funding in 2015-16 for bushfire suppression activities.
- E. Changes in asset revaluation surplus by \$94.5 million (223%) is due to changes in the Department's land values assessed by the Valuer General.
- F. Restricted cash and cash equivalents (current), is increased by \$6.6 million (9%) due to higher cash carryovers for bushfire suppression funds and Royalties for Regions Funds.
- G. Amounts receivables for services increased by \$10.7 million (8%) as estimated due to increased depreciation expense.
- H. Reserves increased by \$52.1 million (21%) due to movement in the Department's land values assessed by the Valuer General.
- I. Service appropriation decreased by \$17.9 million (9%) due to supplementary funding received in 2015-16 for bushfire suppression activities.
- J. Royalties for Regions fund increased by \$17.5 million (106%) mainly due to receipt of funding for Kalbarri Skywalk and Koombana Parks Facilities projects.
- K. Employee benefits decreased by \$7.6 million (5%) due to lower expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- L. Supplies and services decreased by \$11.8 million (15%) due to lower expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- M. Other payments decreased by \$8.6 million (26%) due to lower expenditure incurred on bushfire suppression activities.
- N. Other receipts decreased by \$15.8 million (31%) mainly attributable to one-off receipt of grant funding from Main Roads WA in 2015-16 for the purchase of conservation land.
- O. Purchase of non-current physical assets is under by \$6.7 million (15%) principally due to conservation land acquisitions in 2015-16, partially offset by other capital expenditure in 2016-17.

37. 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 37(c) 'Financial Instruments Disclosures' and note 22 'Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with the Department's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amounts receivable for services (holding account). The Department has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history.

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

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 37(c), the Department is not exposed to interest rate risk because the Department has no borrowings.

(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:

	2017	2016
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,355	3,805
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	77,208	69,987
Loans and receivables ^(a)	167,449	156,897
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	8,081	2,585

(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							Impaired financial assets \$'000
	Carrying Amount \$'000	Not past due and not impaired \$'000	Up to 1 month \$'000	Past due but not impaired			More than 5 years \$'000	
			1-3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000			
2017								
Cash and cash equivalents	5,355	5,355	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	77,208	77,208	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables ^(a)	13,357	10,543	2,437	164	207	6	0	0
Amounts receivable for services	154,092	154,092	0	0	0	0	0	0
	250,012	247,198	2,437	164	207	6	0	0
2016								
Cash and cash equivalents	3,805	3,805	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	69,987	69,987	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables ^(a)	14,176	12,918	428	799	26	0	0	5 ^(b)
Amounts receivable for services	142,721	142,721	0	0	0	0	0	0
	230,689	229,431	428	799	26	0	0	5

(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 all will be recovered.

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
2017											
<i>Financial Assets</i>											
Cash and cash equivalents	1.97	5,355	0	5,355	0	5,355	5,355	0	0	0	
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	1.97	77,208	0	77,208	0	77,208	77,208	0	0	0	
Receivables ^(a)		13,357	0	0	13,357	13,357	0	0	0	0	
Amounts receivable for services		154,092	0	0	154,092	0	0	9,098	43,727	101,267	
		250,012	0	82,563	167,449	250,012	95,920	0	9,098	43,727	101,267
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>											
Payables		8,081	0	0	8,081	8,081	0	0	0	0	
		8,081	0	0	8,081	8,081	0	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				Nominal Amount \$'000	Maturity dates				
		Carrying Amount \$'000	Fixed interest rate \$'000	Variable interest rate \$'000	Non- interest bearing \$'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
2016											
<i>Financial Assets</i>											
Cash and cash equivalents	2.26	3,805	0	3,805	0	3,805	3,805	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.26	69,987	0	69,987	0	69,987	69,987	0	0	0	0
Receivables ^(a)		14,176	0	0	14,176	14,176	14,176	0	0	0	0
Amounts receivable for services		142,721	0	0	142,721	142,721	0	0	8,503	46,249	87,969
		230,689	0	73,792	156,897	230,689	87,968	0	8,503	46,249	87,969
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>											
Payables		2,585	0	0	2,585	2,585	2,585	0	0	0	0
		2,585	0	0	2,585	2,585	2,585	0	0	0	0

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

Disclosures and legal compliance

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
2017					
<i>Financial Assets</i>					
Cash and cash equivalents	5,355	(53)	(53)	53	53
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	77,208	(772)	(772)	772	772
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(825)	(825)	825	825

	Carrying amount \$000	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$000	Equity \$000	Surplus \$000	Equity \$000
2016					
<i>Financial Assets</i>					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,805	(38)	(38)	38	38
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	69,987	(700)	(700)	700	700
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(738)	(738)	738	738

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.

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
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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	190	187
	190	187

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 and Parks Commission	976	895
	976	895

40. Special purpose accounts

Special Purpose Account section 16 1(b) of Financial Management Act 2006.

Nature Conservation and National Parks Account

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

Balance at start of period	187	174
Receipts	87	43
Payments	0	(30)
Balance at end of period	274	187

Financial statements

	2017	2016
	\$'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	5,792	7,802
Receipts	2,479	2,503
Payments	(4,424)	(4,513)
Balance at end of period	3,847	5,792

National Parks Essential Works Account

This account is established under section 69(2) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* to hold net proceeds in respect of forest produce taken or received under section 99A *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. The account had a zero balance at the end of the reporting period.

41. Supplementary financial information

(a) Write-offs

During the financial year \$3,839 (2016: \$9,857) was written off as bad debts and \$189,179 (2016: \$97,948) of the Department's asset and public property register under the authority of:

The Accountable Authority	91	108
The Minister	102	0
Executive Council	0	0
	193	108

The amount approved for write off during the year of \$189,179 (2016: \$97,948) 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.	189	98
Amounts recovered	(227)	0
	(38)	98

Financial statements

42. Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service

	Provision of Parks and Visitor Services	Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	Conservation Partnerships	Forest Management Plan Implementation	Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry	Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	Bushfire Suppression	Protection of the Swan and Canning Rivers System	Total
	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES									
<i>Income</i>									
Regulatory fees and charges	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Other revenue	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
Total administered income	0	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
<i>Expenses</i>									
Transfer payments ^(a)	0	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
Total administered Expenses	0	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
Net Income from Administered items	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Financial statements

42. Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service

	Provision of Parks and Visitor Services	Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	Conservation Partnerships	Forest Management Plan Implementation	Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry	Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	Bushfire Suppression	Protection of the Swan and Canning Rivers System	Total
	2016 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2016 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES									
<i>Income</i>									
Regulatory fees and charges	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Other revenue	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
Total administered income	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
<i>Expenses</i>									
Transfer payments ^(a)	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
Total administered Expenses	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
Net Income from Administered items	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Disclosures and legal compliance

Financial statements

43. Explanatory Statement for Administered Items

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2017 and between the actual results for 2017 and 2016 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key major variances, which are generally greater than 5% and \$1,600.

	Variance Note	Estimate 2017 \$000	Actual 2017 \$000	Actual 2016 \$000	Variance between estimate and actual \$000	Variance between actual results for 2017 and 2016 \$000
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS INCOME						
For transfer:						
Regulatory fees and charges	1,A	30	35	41	5	(6)
Other Revenue	2,B	60	28	39	(32)	(11)
Total Administered Income		90	63	80	(27)	(17)
EXPENSES						
Transfer payments	3,C	90	63	80	(27)	(17)
Total Administered Expenses		90	63	80	(27)	(17)
NET INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS		0	0	0	0	0

Major Estimate and Actual Variance Narratives for Administered Items

1. Regulatory fees and other charges exceeded estimates by \$0.005 million due to increased enforcement activity.
2. Other revenue was under estimates by \$0.032 million due to fewer kangaroo shooter royalty tags being issued than was estimated.
3. Transfer payments were under estimates by \$0.027 million and reflect payments to the Consolidated Account of income items mentioned in the Variance Notes 1. and 2.

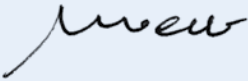
Major Actual (2017) and Comparative (2016) Variance Narratives for Administered Items

- A. Regulatory fees and other charges reduced by \$0.006 million compared to the prior year due to decreased enforcement activity.
- B. Other revenue in 2016-17 was \$0.011 million less than the prior year due to a reduction in kangaroo shooter royalty tags being issued.
- C. Transfer payments in 2016-17 were \$0.017 million less than prior year due to items mentioned in the Comparative Notes A and B.

Certification

Certification of Key Performance Indicators

I hereby certify that the key performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Department of Parks and Wildlife's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Parks and Wildlife for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.



Mark Webb
Accountable Authority
20 September 2017

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	1. Community enjoyment of the State's national parks, marine parks, State forest and other reserves.	<p>1. Provision of Parks and Visitor Services</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 Parks</p>
	2. The State's native plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation are based on best practice science	<p>2. Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities</p> <p>Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 2.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>3. Conservation Partnerships</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 3.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat</p>
	3. The State's plants and animals and the lands and waters under the Department's care are managed for tourism, water and wood production, and other approved uses	<p>4. Forest Management Plan Implementation</p> <p>Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Cumulative removal of jarrah sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan 2. Cumulative removal of karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 4.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Forest</p> <p>5. Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 5.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Forest Available for Timber Harvesting</p>

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services and performance indicators
	4. Lands under the Department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives	<p>6. Prescribed Burning and Fire Management</p> <p>Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 6.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt</p> <p>7. Bushfire Suppression</p> <p>Key effectiveness indicator: 2. Proportion of South West bushfires contained to less than two hectares</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 7.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt</p>
	5. The ecological health and community benefit of the Swan and Canning rivers is protected	<p>8. Protection of the Swan and Canning River System</p> <p>Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Proportion of river ecosystem health targets achieved</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 8.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Managing the Swan Canning Riverpark</p>

Key efficiency indicators

Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators

Outcome 1: Community enjoyment of the State's national parks, marine parks, State forest and other reserves:

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.

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Target	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%
Actual	88.00%	89.10%	87.90%	91.40%	92.5%

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 (962 in 2016-17; confidence level 95%; margin of error 0.74%) to the statewide visitor survey 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 weekdays, weekends, public holidays and school holidays.

Visitor 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 statewide surveys (962 conducted) are administered via a structured interview via department staff and volunteers. Respondents contact details are collected for audit purposes on an opt-in basis. The interview is voluntary. 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.

The level of satisfaction for 2016-17 remained consistently high and exceeded the target of 85 per cent. This is consistent with previous years.

Outcome 2: The State's native plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation are based on best practice science:

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

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Target	68.00%	69.00%	68.00%	69.00%	71.00%
Actual	69.30%	69.40%	68.90%	69.40%	72.90%

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.

Outcome 3: The State's plants and animals and the lands and waters under the Department's care are managed for tourism, water and wood production, and other approved uses:

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

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Target	1,310,000m ³	132,000m ³	264,000m ³	396,000m ³
Actual	1,157,348m ³	71,195m ³	169,993m ³	259,575m 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. From 2014-15 and successive years, the Target figure is a cumulative annual figure of 10 per cent (i.e. 10, 20 and 30 per cent for year one, two and three respectively) of the first and second grade jarrah sawlog resource available for removal for the 10 year life of the 2014-2023 Forest Management Plan, which commenced on 1 January 2014. Since 2014-15 the subsequent Actual removal of first and second grade jarrah sawlogs have been lower than the pro-rata limits, reflecting market conditions. Removal of first and second grade jarrah sawlogs under each Forest Management Plan 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 2014-2023 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.

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

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Target	540,000m ³	59,000m ³	118,000m ³	177,000m ³
Actual	539,540m ³	40,580m ³	83,857m ³	122,366m 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. From 2014-15 and successive years, the Target figure is a cumulative annual figure of 10 per cent (i.e. 10, 20 and 30 per cent for year one, two and three respectively) of the first and second grade karri sawlog resource available for removal for the 10 year life of the 2014-2023 Forest Management Plan, which commenced on 1 January 2014. Since 2014-15 the subsequent Actual removal of first and second grade karri sawlogs have been lower than the pro-rata limits, reflecting market conditions. Removal of first and second grade karri sawlogs under each Forest Management Plan 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 2014-2023 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

Outcome 4: Lands under the Department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives:

1. Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Target	45%	50%	55%
Actual	42%	64%	49%

Note to indicator: Whilst every attempt is made to undertake Priority 1 prescribed burns, weather conditions and other circumstances play a large part in dictating which burns are able to be achieved.

2. Proportion of South West bushfires contained to less than two hectares

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Target	75%	75%	75%
Actual	75%	75%	83%

Note to indicator: The 2016-17 fire season was mild relative to recent years and conditions were more generally conducive to the success of rapid initial attack.

Outcome 5: The ecological health and community benefit of the Swan and Canning rivers is protected:

1. Proportion of river ecosystem health targets achieved

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Target	55%	55%	58%
Actual	58%	58%	55%

Note to indicator: Water quality throughout the Swan Canning river system is regularly monitored and assessed against ecosystem health targets for 15 catchments and four estuary zones. Compliance against estuary targets is calculated based on water quality data collected between January and May 2017 and the two previous years, typically the low flow period when there is less variation due to nuisance algal blooms and when low dissolved oxygen conditions generally persist. Compliance against catchment targets is based upon water quality data collected between June and November 2016 and the two previous years as many tributaries only flow during the winter and spring months. Water quality in the South Belmont Main Drain catchment did not meet the long-term phosphorus target in 2016-17 as it had done in previous years. This has decreased the proportion of targets being met to 55%.

Key Efficiency Indicators

Service 1: Provision of Parks and Visitor Services

1.1 Average Cost per Hectare of 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.

	2015-16	2016-17
Target	\$2.85	\$2.99
Actual	\$2.73	\$2.73

Note to indicator: The actual cost per hectare for 2017 is lower than the budget target as the reported area under the department's care has increased from 28.5 million hectares used in the calculation of the target to 31.5 million hectares used to calculate the actual result.

Service 2: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

2.1 Average Cost per Hectare of 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.

	2015-16	2016-17
Target	\$2.55	\$2.55
Actual	\$2.24	\$2.14

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. There was nearly an 8% increase in the area of land managed, and although there was an increase in the total cost of the service, it did not match the increase in area of land managed which has resulted in a reduction in the cost per hectare managed.

Service 3: Conservation Partnerships

3.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat

Working with the community, industry, traditional owners and other stakeholders to deliver conservation outcomes

	2015-16	2016-17
Target	\$1.15	\$1.04
Actual	\$0.91	\$0.78

Note to indicator: The total cost of implementing programs for managing wildlife habitat will vary depending on the level of support from external funding sources, and the time period over which that support is to be expended. There was a slight decrease in the level of support during the year, which in combination with nearly an 8% increase in the area of land managed, resulted in a small reduction in the cost per hectare managed.

Key efficiency indicators

Service 4: Forest Management Plan Implementation

4.1 Average Cost per Hectare of 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 reserves that are 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.

	2015–16	2016–17
Target	\$10.46	\$10.18
Actual	\$6.90	\$9.15

Note to indicator: The target cost per hectare included a budget component for externally funded works. The actual level of externally funded works was \$0.7 million less than budget, with the actual cost per hectare consequently reduced.

Service 5: Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry

5.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Forest Available for Timber Harvesting

Undertaking works and services that directly support forest production activities

	2015–16	2016–17
Target	\$10.78	\$10.79
Actual	\$10.00	\$8.57

Note to indicator: The target cost per hectare included a budget component for externally funded works. The actual level of externally funded works was \$1.1 million less than budget due to work program constraints, with the actual cost per hectare consequently reduced.

Service 6: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management

6.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt

Delivering prescribed burning and fire management to protect the community and enhance natural values. Lands under the Department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.

	2015–16	2016–17
Target	\$10.86	\$15.69
Actual	\$18.61	\$15.70

Note to indicator: The enhanced prescribed burning program and suitable weather conditions in both spring and autumn led to the highest annual prescribed burning achievement in the south-west for 29 years and allowed more efficient use of resources.

Service 7: Bushfire Suppression

7.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt

Suppressing bushfires that threaten or occur on lands managed by the Department.

	2015–16	2016–17
Target	\$14.39	\$15.88
Actual	\$31.68	\$33.04

Note to indicator: The actual cost per hectare burnt is similar between 2015-16 and 2016-17. The 2016-17 budget target cost per hectare was calculated based on an estimate of two million hectares burnt, whereas the actual area burnt was approximately one million hectares. The cost per hectare varied accordingly.

Service 8: Protection of the Swan and Canning River System

8.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Managing the Swan Canning Riverpark

Managing the Swan Canning Riverpark including assessing development proposals and delivering environmental management programs

	2015–16	2016–17
Target	\$2.35	\$2.31
Actual	\$2,250	\$2,158

Note to indicator: The target in the 2016-17 Budget Statements was stated as \$2.31 on the basis of \$'000, so the actual budget target is \$2,310 per hectare. The area used in the calculation consists of the number of hectares of Riverpark for which the Department is responsible under the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006 (the SCRM), comprising the Swan Canning waterway (vested with Parks and Wildlife) and the adjoining public lands (vested with State and Local Authorities) included in the Parks and Recreation Reserve created under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. Actual average cost per hectare was less than the target in the 2016-17 Budget Statements partly due to the actual expenditure on a major foreshore project with the City of Swan being adjusted across 2016-17 and 2017-18 and less than expected oxygenation program expenditure in 2016-17. It should be noted that other state and local government authorities listed in Schedule 5 of the SCRM also carry out management functions within the Riverpark.



William Bay National Park. Photo – Shem Bisluk/DBCA

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 \$22.489 million for 2015–16 provided funds for buildings, tourism roads and park facilities, plant and equipment, conservation land purchases and firefighting fleet replacement.

Table 13: Summary of major capital works undertaken

Works in progress	Expected year of completion	Estimated expenditure remaining \$'000	Estimated total project cost \$'000
Koombana Park facilities	2017–18	6674	11,904
Caravan and camping initiative	2017–18	50	21,053
Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park tourist infrastructure	2017-18	14,286	20,033
Public recreation and joint management arrangements for the Ningaloo Coast	2018–19	2925	3255
Roebuck Bay Marine Park	2019–20	560	590
Recurring capital programs	Expected year of completion		2015–16 expenditure \$'000
Conservation land acquisition	Ongoing		1,790,018
Fire-related bridge maintenance and replacement	Ongoing		2,281,622
Firefighting fleet and equipment	Ongoing		6,513,388
Park improvement program	Ongoing		9,592,505
Plant and equipment purchase and replacement	Ongoing		15,823,344
Tourism road improvement program	Ongoing		1,269,326

Other financial disclosures

Employment and industrial relations

Table 14: Staff profile

	2016–17	2015–16
Full-time permanent	1021	1034
Full-time contract	205	239
Part-time measured on a FTE basis	221	186
On secondment	4	1
Total	1451	1460

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 2016–17 was to negotiate the replacement of the Australian Workers Union (AWU) (Western Australian Public Sector) General Agreement and commence negotiations for the agency specific agreement for Barrow Island fly in/fly out arrangements and the three agency specific fire agreements for the AWU, United Voice and CPSU/CSA.

Staff development

The department delivered a number of training programs for staff, including:

Nationally recognised training

Parks and Wildlife is a Registered Training Organisation and offers nationally recognised qualifications, accredited courses and/or units of competency. These programs are offered to staff employed by the department or agencies which formed part of its bureau service.

Corporate training

The department received 1874 enrolments for corporate training programs delivered in 2016–17, with 1334 being for face-to-face training and 540 for training delivered by e-learning.

Leadership training

The department's Management and Leadership Framework is a three-tier approach to leadership training. In 2016–17 the Effective Supervisors Program, tier one, the Aspiring Leaders Program, tier two, and the Executive Leadership Development Program, tier 3, commenced.

E-learning

In 2016–17 Parks and Wildlife launched the Centralised Learning Management System which provides staff and external stakeholders with an e-learning experience coordinated and managed within the department.

Governance disclosures

Unauthorised use of credit cards

Officers of the Department of Parks and Wildlife hold corporate credit cards where their functions warrant usage of this facility including to meet travel costs. To 30 June 2017, there were 48 personal transactions charged to credit cards by 39 cardholders, most occurring as a result of mistaking a Government credit card for a personal credit card for small transactions where a PIN was not required; or a merchant's online payment facilities defaulting to the Government credit card details provided on a previous occasion. In each case, the cardholder provided written advice to their cost centre manager, chief finance officer and notifiable authority of the personal use of a Government credit card, consistent with the requirements of *Treasurer's Instruction 321-2*.

Table 15: Unauthorised use of credit cards

	2016-17
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure for the reporting period	\$2922
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by the due date (within 5 working days)	\$1165
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after the period (after 5 working days)	\$1758
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure outstanding at balance date	\$0

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.

Governance disclosures

Board and committee remuneration

The following boards and committees form part of Parks and Wildlife responsibilities and where remuneration is paid, this is highlighted.

Table 16: Board and committee remuneration

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Conservation and Parks Commission				
Chair	Marion Fulker	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	48,649
Deputy Chair	Christopher Doepel	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	29,369
Member	Kim Colero	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	22,341
Member	Ingrid Cumming	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	22,341
Member	Ross Dowling	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	22,341
Member	Regina Flugge	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	23,066
Member	Brian Middleton	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	23,066
Subtotal				191,173*
Swan River Trust Board				
Chair	Hamish Beck	Fortnightly	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	15,865
Deputy Chair	Barbara Watroba	Fortnightly	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	9520
Member	Victoria Rasmussen	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	2566
Member	Vanessa Davies	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	2028
Member	Darryl Trease	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	1345
Member	Peter King	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	David Saunders	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Jeffrey Stone	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Subtotal				31,324

*Includes 2015–16 back pay for members following creation of the Conservation and Parks Commission on 6 May 2016.

Governance disclosures

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee				
Chair	Simon Woodley	Sessional	01/07/2016	9879*
Member	Karl Brandenburg	Sessional	01/07/2016	1251
Member	Hazel Walgar	Sessional	01/07/2016	2360
Member	Anthony Evans	Sessional	01/07/2016	1526
Member	Anthony Dowling	Sessional	01/07/2016	1943
Member	Frazer McGregor	Sessional	01/07/2016	1668
Member	Dorothy Ann Preest	Sessional	01/07/2016	2218
Member	Jacqueline Hine	Sessional	01/07/2016	0
Member	William Humphreys	Sessional	01/07/2016	834
Member	Leonie McLeod	Sessional	01/07/2016	0
Subtotal				21,680**

*Payments for Simon Woodley include remuneration for meetings and preparation time.

**Includes preparation time for Simon Woodley of \$3603 plus \$764 GST.

North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program Advisory Committee and Scientific Panel				
Chair	Simon Woodley	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	8300*
Member	Keith Morris	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Fiona Bartlett	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Katie Gwyne	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Milani Chaloupka	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	2155
Member	Kellie Pendoley	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Col Limpus	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Subtotal				10,455**

*Payments for Simon Woodley include remuneration for meetings and preparation time.

**Includes preparation time for Simon Woodley of \$4150 plus \$830 GST.

Governance disclosures

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Shark Bay World Heritage Committee				
Chair	Thomas Day	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	2548
Member	Paul Anderson	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	0
Member	Keith Capewell	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	1668
Member	Jane Garrett	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 5/10/2016	0
Member	Peter Green	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	1668
Member	Robert Morgan	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	1668
Member	Therese Morris	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	834
Member	Phillip Scott	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	1668
Member	Diana Walker	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	1668
Member	Geoffrey Wardle	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	0
Subtotal				11,722
Purnululu World Heritage Area Advisory Committee				
Chair	Christopher Done	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	1668
Member	Tanba Banks	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	1925
Member	Dwayne Butters	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	1242
Member	Paul Butters	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	1656
Member	Glen Chidlow	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	1097
Member	Dennis Williamson	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	2705
Member	Patricia McKay	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	0
Member	Vincent Edwards	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	0
Member	Virginia O'Neil	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2016 to 30/6/2017	0
Subtotal				10,293

Governance disclosures

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Roadside Conservation Committee				
Chair	Ken Atkins	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Jeff Anderton	Sessional	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	510
Member	Glenice Batchelor	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	John Blackledge*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/1/17 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Gemma Grigg	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 31/12/16	0
Member	Christine Jung*	Not eligible for remuneration	14/11/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Craig Morgan	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 13/11/16	0
Member	John Morrell*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Michael Norman	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Nicole Matthews*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Rachael Parkes*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Peter Ray	Sessional	1/7/16 to 2/4/17	0
Member	Rodney Safstrom	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Martine Scheltema*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Anne Mathews*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/16 to 30/6/17	0
Member	Kerri Young*	Sessional	25/5/17 to 30/6/17	0
Subtotal				510

* Memberships currently subject to endorsement by the Minister for Environment.

Governance disclosures

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional (Miriuwung Gajerrong) Park Council				
Chair	Margaret Moore	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	6067
Member	Joan Simon	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	3960
Member	Agnes Armstrong	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	880
Member	Neville Bidwee	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	550
Member	Julie Bilminga	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	330
Member	Rozanne Bilminga	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	330
Member	Rosemary Boombi	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	330
Member	Stephanie Boombi	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	1760
Member	Ron Carlton	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	220
Member	Michael Laurence Carter	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	330
Member	Chunama Dempsey	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	220
Member	Alfred Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	880
Member	Ralph Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	880
Member	Warren Gerard	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	550
Member	Carol Hapke	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	330
Member	Carter Merle	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	550
Member	Phyllis Ningamarra	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	1100
Member	Jimmy Paddy	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	550
Member	Pamela Simon	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	330
Member	Jessica Webster	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	2310
Member	Andy Wilson	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	330
Member	Jennifer Wilson	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	990
Member	Juju Wilson	Sessional	1/7/2016 to 30/6/17	2530
Subtotal				26,307

Governance disclosures

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Animal Ethics Committee (Parks and Wildlife)				
Chair	Manda Page	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/15 to 30/6/16	0
Member	Category A	Sessional	1/7/15 to 30/6/16	1750
Member	Category A	Sessional	1/7/15 to 30/6/16	1750
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/15 to 30/6/16	0
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/15 to 30/6/16	0
Member	Category C	Sessional	1/7/15 to 30/6/16	2100
Member	Category C	Sessional	1/7/15 to 30/6/16	1750
Member	Category D	Sessional	1/7/15 to 30/6/16	1750
Member	Category D	Sessional	1/7/15 to 30/6/16	2100
Member	Category E	Sessional	1/7/15 to 30/6/16	1050
Subtotal				12,250
(Members not identified by name due to privacy reasons)				
Categories:				
A – Veterinarian				
B – Scientist				
C – Animal Welfarist				
D – Layperson				
E – Other				
Total				315,714



Numbat. Photo - Doug Coughran

Other legal requirements

In accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 953, the 2017-18 annual estimates for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions must be published in the 2016-17 Annual Report. Actual results will be reported against these estimates in the 2017-18 Annual Report.

INCOME STATEMENT 2017-18 (Controlled)

	DEPARTMENT Budget Estimate \$'000
COST OF SERVICES	
Expenses	
Employee benefits	184,151
Grants and subsidies	4,450
Supplies and services	84,548
Accommodation	5,361
Depreciation and amortisation	28,174
Other expenses	17,650
TOTAL COST OF SERVICES	324,334
Income	
Sale of goods and services	20,012
Regulatory fees and fines	0
Grants and subsidies	26,823
Other revenue	32,257
Total Income	79,092
NET COST OF SERVICES	245,242
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	
Service appropriations	217,814
Resources received free of charge	1,493
Royalties for Regions Fund:	
Regional Community Services Fund	25,603
Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund	900
TOTAL INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	245,810
SURPLUS/(DEFICIENCY) FOR THE PERIOD	568

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2017-18 (Controlled)

	DEPARTMENT Budget Estimate \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash assets	2,890
Restricted cash	75,350
Holding account receivables	8,859
Receivables	16,324
Other	9,689
Total current assets	113,112
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
Holding account receivables	164,309
Property, plant and equipment	3,125,213
Intangibles	0
Restricted cash	1,800
Other	0
Total non-current assets	3,291,322
TOTAL ASSETS	3,404,434
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Employee provisions	30,004
Payables	695
Other	5,387
Total current liabilities	36,086
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Employee provisions	6,129
Other	0
Total non-current liabilities	6,129
TOTAL LIABILITIES	42,215
EQUITY	
Contributed equity	3,163,015
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	-44,126
Reserves	243,330
Total equity	3,362,219
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	3,404,434

Other legal requirements

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS 2017-18 (Controlled)

	DEPARTMENT
	Budget Estimate \$'000
CASHFLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	
Service appropriations	189,640
Capital appropriation	1,692
Holding account drawdowns	9,098
Royalties for Regions Fund:	
Regional Community Services Fund	28,088
Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund	27,694
Administered appropriations	0
Net cash provided by State Government	256,212
CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Payments	
Employee benefits	-181,841
Grants and subsidies	-4,450
Supplies and services	-65,455
Accommodation	-8,778
Other payments	-45,198
Receipts	
Regulatory fees and fines	0
Grants and subsidies	26,823
Sale of goods and services	20,524
GST receipts	11,327
Other receipts	31,667
Net cash from operating activities	-215,381
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Purchase of non-current assets	-37,863
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	578
Net cash from investing activities	-37,285
CASHFLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Net cash from financing activities	
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	3,546
Cash assets at the beginning of the reporting period	76,494
Net cash transferred to/from other agencies	0
Cash assets at the end of the reporting period	80,040

Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators 2017-18	DEPARTMENT
Outcome: Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care:	
Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	95.0%
Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters	95.0%
Outcome: Plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation utilises evidenced-based science:	
Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan	73.0%
Outcome: Sustainable use of forest resources:	
Cumulative removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan	764,000 m3
Outcome: Lands under the Department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives:	
Proportion of South West bushfires contained to less than two hectares	75.0%
Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved	55.0%

Services and Key Efficiency Indicators 2017-18	DEPARTMENT
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	
Average Cost per Hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	\$2,052.30
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	
Average Cost per Hectare in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	\$3.40
Conserving habitats, species and ecological communities	
Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat	\$2.21
Research and conservation partnerships	
Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat	\$0.91
Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	
Average Cost per Hectare of Forest	\$18.65
Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	
Average Cost per Hectare Burnt	\$15.70
Bushfire Suppression	
Average Cost per Hectare Burnt	\$32.00

Other legal requirements

Advertising (*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 2016–17 was: \$204,354

Advertising agencies	\$48,809
Adcorp Australia Limited	\$48,809
Direct mail organisations	NIL
Market research organisations	NIL
Polling organisations	NIL

Media advertising organisations \$155,545

Albany and Great Southern Weekender	\$735	Northcliffe Visitor Centre Inc.	\$1100
Andimaps	\$1323	Penguin Island Cruises Pty Ltd	\$3738
Australia's South West Inc.	\$2853	Petrichor Gallery	\$166
Carat Australia Media Services Pty Ltd	\$72,238	Pilbara News	\$2731
City of Albany	\$3118	Pinnacles Express	\$40
Cooks Tours Pty Ltd	\$1750	Roro Graphic Design	\$3751
Countrywide Publications	\$2000	State Law Publisher	\$10,761
Denmark Bulletin	\$2450	Telstra - Sensis White Pages	\$26,664
Denmark Tourism Inc.	\$2500	The West Australian Newspaper	\$4,745
Executive Media Pty Ltd	\$2550	Thomson Reuters (Professional) Aust Ltd	\$925
Experience Perth	\$900	Travel West Publications	\$600
Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd	\$479	Walpole Community Resource Centre	\$1019
Holiday Guide Pty Ltd	\$990	Walsh Media	\$660
Jurien Bay Community Resource Centre Inc.	\$670	What's on Publishing Pty Ltd	\$4014
Lizart Productions	\$75		

Other legal requirements

Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes

Parks and Wildlife is committed to fostering an accessible and inclusive environment for its staff and the public, and continues to be a leading proponent of universal access.

Under the department's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2015–20 (DAIP), work continued in 2016–17 to improve access to facilities and services with participatory inclusion being the primary and ongoing aim.

The plan is monitored by the department's Diversity and Access Committee, which includes representatives from four 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).

In 2016–17, accessible (including assisted access) infrastructure was completed at Potters Gorge, Lucky Bay and Big Lagoon campgrounds and day use areas and Baden Powell day use area; and work is ongoing for Shannon and Jarrahdene campgrounds, which are due for completion in 2017.

- An additional Riverpark interpretation node was constructed at Brentwood on the Canning River and improved assisted access at Point Peron is nearing completion. A new river access point has been constructed in Nornalup which allows for universal access to the river edge along with a river access platform allowing for assisted water entry for kayaking or canoeing; and universal access has been constructed from an improved car park at the Wellington District office in Collie.

The department has implemented numerous initiatives and activities in line with the DAIP. These include:

- where practical and appropriate, all new recreation facilities are accessible to people with disability
- using a nationally-agreed system of bushfire alerts and warnings
- employing people with disability on fee-for-service contracts through Australian Disability Enterprises – this currently includes Activ, Intelife and Westcare
- using a range of disability recruitment specialists and continuing to email all advertised positions to recruitment agencies

- holding an annual event to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of staff with disability
- ensuring staff are aware of the plan by making it available on the department's intranet, through broadcast emails and the induction program
- organising events accessible to people with disability and ensuring additional standard infrastructure such as audio loop is available upon request.
- department reception areas which are accessible to people with disability
- ACROD parking provisions which meet the needs of people with disability in terms of quantity and location
- ensuring the department's website continues to meet contemporary good practice and applicable legislative requirements for access for people with disability
- continuing to provide information in alternative formats upon request
- generating and sustaining staff awareness of disability and access issues by providing regular information on access and inclusion in the department's internal news mediums
- promoting to staff the availability of resources on the department's intranet, such as the Access Resource Kit and Guidelines for access formats
- monitoring and addressing complaints about disability access
- ensuring consultation with the public is held in an accessible manner, and
- Diversity and Access Committee members attend disability forums and workshops to seek a broad range of views on disability and access issues.

Other legal requirements

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

Under s31 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* the department is required to report on its compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes for 2016–17.

Table 18: Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

Compliance issue	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
Public Sector Standards	
Two breach claims were lodged in 2016-17; both claims were against the Employment Standard and were referred to the Public Sector Commission (PSC); no breach of standard was found.	The department's People Services Branch intranet site has information on the Public Sector Standards including a hyperlink to the Public Sector Commission's website. Policies and guidelines relevant to the standards have been reviewed and updated and are available on the People Services branch intranet. The online Accountable Decision Making course also provides information and links to the Public Sector Standards.
Public Sector Code of Ethics	
There were no reports of non-compliance with the Public Sector Code of Ethics.	The Public Sector Code of Ethics is contained within Park and Wildlife's Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct was revised and released in May 2017 and includes information on employee responsibilities regarding reporting criminal charges and convictions, use of information and related technology resources, and contact with lobbyists.
Department's Code of Conduct	
Nine allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct were raised in 2016–17. All 16 allegations carried over from 2015-16 were finalised. Nine allegations raised in 2016–17 have been finalised.	The department has released an online learning tool for Accountable and Ethical Decision Making in the public sector. The course assists in improving employees' understanding of their role in relation to Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct, Ethical and Accountable Decision Making and Public Interest Disclosure.

Recordkeeping plans

Management of corporate documents and information is specified in the department's recordkeeping plan, with mandatory records and document training for staff as part of the department's induction process

The department's recordkeeping is supported by the Corporate Information Services Branch in the Corporate Services Division.

Government policy requirements

Government building training policy

Parks and Wildlife has a commitment to the Government Building Training Policy (GBT Policy), which aims to increase the number of apprentices and trainees in the building and construction industry. The department has included within its tender documentation a monitoring plan for building and construction or maintenance projects with a duration of greater than three months and a value of greater than \$2 million. At the balance date, only one contract subject to the GBT Policy has been awarded.

Table 19: Projects under the Government Building Training Policy

Measure	Building and construction projects 2016	Maintenance projects 2016
Active contracts within the scope of the policy in the reporting period	1	0
Contracts granted a variation to the target training rate in the reporting period	Not applicable	Not applicable
Head contractors involved in the contracts	1	Not applicable
Construction apprentices/trainees required to meet target training rate across all contracts	2.61	Not applicable
Construction apprentices/trainees employed by head contractors; and the subcontractors they are using for the contracts	6	Not applicable
Contracts that met or exceeded the target training rate	1	Not applicable

Substantive equality

The department implements the Policy Framework for Substantive Equality through the delivery of all services to and on behalf of the wider community.

This includes management planning processes associated with the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. Management plans cover a 10-year period over specific conservation areas and are developed with input from public and stakeholder engagement and broad public invitations to comment on draft plans.

The Parks and Wildlife Disability Access and Inclusion Plan provides a framework to ensure everyone in the community can access mainstream facilities, services and programs. The department's access-for-all principles and the planning and design of universally accessible recreation areas and facilities provide equitable access opportunities to visitors, including people with disabilities and the aged.

The department's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) strongly supports the requirements of the State's Substantive Equality Policy Framework. The department is committed to national reconciliation and building better relationships between Aboriginal people and the wider community for the benefit of all Australians.

Government policy requirements

In 2016–17 the RAP key outcomes included:

- The department is in partnership with 30 Indigenous ranger groups to manage parks and reserves.
- New management plans have implemented more extensive consultation and input on Aboriginal cultural values in line with the revised objective.
- About 220 Aboriginal people across the State are employed to undertake fee-for-service work and other contracts.
- Reconciliation Week events were attended by staff throughout the State.
- An education strategy was implemented to provide information on new legislation to Aboriginal stakeholders and staff.
- Six Aboriginal trainees were provided with traineeships under the Public Sector Commission's Aboriginal Traineeship Program.
- Final management plans were completed with three traditional owner groups in the West Kimberley.
- Policy 69 Guidelines for Acknowledgment Statements and Welcome to Country was upheld at all appropriate departmental functions and events.
- The diversity of Aboriginal language groups was considered and reflected in all publications, reports, marketing, internet, intranet and promotional material.
- A number of department-managed areas, features and assets were named using Aboriginal languages.
- The 2017–19 Aboriginal Employment Strategy was developed.
- A marine science mentoring program was established for Aboriginal marine science students to undertake practical work experience.

Parks and Wildlife's general and targeted advertisements include the department's substantive equality statement, maximising opportunities for improving diversity by encouraging the recruitment of Indigenous Australians, young people, people with disabilities, people from culturally diverse backgrounds and women. The department also promotes flexible working arrangements.

Workplace health and safety

The department promotes a strong culture of workplace health and safety and embraces the duty of care responsibility prescribed in the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*.

A comprehensive communication and consultation process has been implemented to ensure health and safety matters are addressed appropriately, effectively and in line with best-practice principles.

Parks and Wildlife continues to deliver wellbeing support to employees through the chaplain service, Employee Assistance Program and Peer Support Program. The department has also introduced a Critical Incident Peer Responder Program.

Workers' compensation

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*.

The department has an effective injury management system through the assistance of local management of the employee's injuries and liaison with the treating GP and other providers. External rehabilitation providers are also utilised for injuries requiring specialised treatment knowledge and assessment of work functions.

In 2016–17, the department's workers' compensation contribution was \$1,996,525 compared with \$2,070,399 (adjusted) contribution for 2015–16. The number of lost time injuries in 2016–17 was 33 (down from 50 in 2015–16), with 48 medical treatment injuries (down from 61 in 2015–16).

Government policy requirements

Table 20: Health and safety performance indicators

Measure	Actual results		Results against target	
	2014–15*	2016–17	Target	Comment on result
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease incidence rate	2.86	2.18	0 or 10% reduction	Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate	5	6.06	0 or 10% reduction	Not achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:				
(i) within 13 weeks	87.5%	93.4%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Achieved
(ii) within 26 weeks	87.5%	96.7%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Achieved
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	>80%	>80%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Achieved

* 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

