

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

2018–19 Annual Report



Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, produced from online html content converted into PDF. Every effort has been made to ensure that the style and formatting in the html format is reflected in the PDF format but some differences may be unavoidable.

For more information contact:

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Technology Park, Western Precinct
Kensington Western Australia 6151

Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre Western Australia 6983

Telephone: (08) 9219 9000
Email: info@dbca.wa.gov.au

The recommended reference for this publication is:

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2018–19 Annual Report, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2019

ISBN 978-1 925978-02-5 (Print)
ISBN 978-1-925978-01-8 (Online)

September 2019

Copies of this document are available in alternative formats on request

Cover images (clockwise from top left): Salmon Bay, Rottnest Island, Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA, Warren National Park, Photo - Shem Bisluk/DBCA, Lemur, Photo - Perth Zoo, Turtle in Ningaloo Marine Park, Photo - Michael Wigram, Lotterywest Federation Walkway, Kings Park, Photo - Debbie Newcombe, Zebra finches, - Photo Judy Dunlop/DBCA

Back page image: The Needles, Cape Domett, Photo - Peter Nicholas/DBCA



Underpinned by





Contents

Letter to the Minister	3
Foreword	4
Overview of agency	6
Executive summary	7
About the Department	12
Enabling legislation	13
Responsible Ministers	13
Legislation administered by the Department at 30 June 2019	13
Legislation administered by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority at 30 June 2019	13
Changes made in 2018–19 to legislation administered	14
Notices, appointments, orders and approvals	14
Performance management framework	16
Organisational chart	18
Agency performance	19
Service 4: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	20
Service 5: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	31
Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	43
Service 7: Conservation Partnerships	59
Service 8: Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	71
Service 9: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	79
Service 10: Bushfire Suppression	86
Supporting our Department	93
Corporate and Business Services	94
Department-managed land and waters	97
Legal matters	106
Marine operations	107
Visitor risk management	108
Significant issues and trends	109



Disclosures and legal compliance	114
Certification of financial statements	115
Auditor General’s opinion	116
Financial statements	120
Key performance indicators	181
Certification of key performance indicators	182
Ministerial directives	193
Other financial disclosures	194
Pricing policies	195
Capital works	195
Employment and industrial relations	196
Governance disclosures	197
Unauthorised use of purchasing cards	198
Contracts with senior officers	198
Board and committee remuneration	198
Other legal requirements	207
2019-20 annual estimates	208
Advertising (Electoral Act 1907, s175ZE)	210
Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes	211
Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes	212
Recordkeeping plans	213
Government policy requirements	214
Government building training policy	214
Substantive equality	215
Health, safety and wellbeing	216



Red capped plover. Photo – Grant Griffin

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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

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

Mark Webb PSM
Director General
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Ms Casey Ross boat at Danggu Geike Gorge National Park. Photo – Shem Bisluk/DBCA

Foreword

Two years as an integrated agency has shown us that what unites us as a Department is our shared passion and commitment to Western Australia's conservation estate and natural attractions. Although the five public-facing brands hold their own identities, the constructs that once separated us are now mainly administrative and we are continually finding new and innovative ways to work together and expand our collective focus.

The Department, which is made up of Biodiversity Conservation Science, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority and Parks and Wildlife Service continues to support the important work of the Swan River Trust and Conservation Parks Commission and has achieved some significant outcomes for Western Australia over the past 12 months.

Visitor numbers to WA's outstanding natural attractions are consistently increasing and the tourism and economic benefits of these areas are well recognised by the Government. Huge leaps have been made in conservation science as it continues to underpin everything we do. The finalisation of the regulations to support the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* was a significant achievement, repealing the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929* and ensuring legislation is reflective of current issues and challenges.

The value the State Government places on WA's conservation estate has been acknowledged this year with the bold new initiative Plan for Our Parks that will guide WA into the next chapter of conservation. Five million hectares of new and expanded parks and reserves will be created over the next five years,

expanding the State's conservation estate by 20 per cent.

Areas that have been identified in the plan have high conservation and cultural heritage values and pave the way for enhanced tourism and Aboriginal joint management, creating employment, training and business opportunities.

One of the biggest investments of its kind in Australia is the \$10 million Collie Adventure Trails, which is designed to meet the growing demand for mountain biking trails within a two-hour driving range from Perth. This network of mountain bike and walk trails will traverse through the Collie region, with the centrepiece an iconic 65km 'epic' mountain bike trail network in Wellington National Park.

Every year, we are humbled by the thousands of incredible men, women and children who volunteer their time to the conservation, protection and promotion of our State's precious plants, animals and ecosystems. This year marks the 30th anniversary of when the Parks and Wildlife Service's formal volunteer program began and, in that time, a staggering 8,470,000 hours have been contributed.

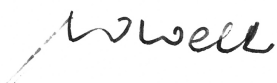
As technology advances at a rapid pace, it's exciting to continue to partner with Google to capture imagery on key tourist trails and attractions for inclusion on Google Street View. The Google Street View Trekker has continued to capture imagery of WA's parks including, most recently, areas of the world-famous Bibbulmun Track with the support of Bibbulmun Track Foundation volunteers.

After identifying that women make up just 35 per cent of the roles in our fire management business, we have set about to improve gender diversity through the *Women in Fire Management Action Plan 2019-22*. The Department recognises the challenges in increasing the representation of women in fire and the plan is one tool to support progression towards achieving greater levels of diversity, which assists in developing a stronger, more flexible and innovative workforce.

The continued support from the Minister for Environment Hon Stephen Dawson MLC and Minister for Tourism Hon Paul Papalia CSC, MLA has been a guiding force throughout the past year and I'd like to acknowledge their valued support and contribution.

I would also like to thank the board members at the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Conservation and Parks Commission, Rottneet Island Authority, Swan River Trust and Zoological Parks Authority for their considerable input.

Consistent with reporting arrangements, four separate annual reports across DBCA will be produced; one for the Department and separate reports for each of the Statutory Authorities. Although we report separately, this year has brought us a better understanding of how different parts of the Department work together to achieve our shared goal of conserving, promoting and protecting the State's natural values.



Mark Webb PSM

Director General

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

September 2019



Leo Island, Houtman Abrolhos Island National Park. Photo – Kathleen Lowry/DBCA

Overview of the agency



Shoalwater Island Marine Park. Photo – Steve Morup

Executive summary

Aboriginal engagement

The Department's *Reconciliation Action Plan 2018–20* was launched to help strengthen engagement and relationships with Aboriginal people.

The first round of the Aboriginal Ranger Program allocated more than \$8 million (including GST) to 11 projects across the State. This funding provided 45 full and part-time jobs for Aboriginal people (24 of which were female) and 53 casual Aboriginal employees were appointed.

The Department continues to work with key tourism stakeholders and the Aboriginal community to support the *Culture in the Parks* program, which identifies and 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.

Joint management of the proposed Ningaloo Coastal Reserves has commenced through the establishment of an interim joint management body and employment of Aboriginal rangers, while the Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the proposed Ningaloo Coastal Reserves proceeds through final approvals.

Attractions and Partnerships Project Group

The interagency Attractions and Partnerships Project Group completed the draft *Two Year Action Plan for Nature-Based Tourism in Western Australia 2019 and 2020*. The plan helps recognise State-owned attractions as key tourism assets and prioritises WA's key nature-based tourism projects. The plan was developed with 12 government agencies and over 80 tourism industry stakeholders.

Fire

The Department achieved 168,043 hectares of prescribed burning in its three south-west forest regions in 2018-19. This year's program was assisted by additional State Government funding of \$5.4 million via the Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program.

A further 3,395,096 hectares 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.

A significant increase in on-ground mitigation works was made possible through the continued strategic investment of funding from the State Government's Mitigation Activity Fund to protect regional towns. Modified vegetation buffers over 351km and fire access tracks over 562km were completed. These works complemented activities undertaken by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

Departmental staff attended and monitored 765 bushfires which burnt approximately 4,144,215 hectares.

Forest management

Western Australia's Regional Forest Agreement was renewed for a further 20 years. A deed of variation was signed on 29 March 2019 and tabled in the Parliament of Australia on 5 April 2019.

In 2018, detection and mapping of *Phytophthora dieback* was undertaken on 37,507 hectares of land managed by the Department to help plan and manage disturbance operations and the prioritisation of disease management treatments.

High resolution, digital aerial imagery was acquired across 130,000 hectares of forest to monitor and measure areas for timber harvest operations, silvicultural outcomes, bushfire recovery and prescribed fire outcomes.

Parks

WA national parks and reserves had 20.35 million visits in 2018-19, with visitor satisfaction at a record level of 94.8 per cent.

A new initiative, Plan for Our Parks, was announced and seeks to secure five million hectares of new national and marine parks and other conservation reserves over the next five years. This will see the conservation estate increase by more than 20 per cent.

Five Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (CALM Act) management plans were released for formal public comment and management zoning was gazetted for North Lalang-garram Marine Park.

In September 2018, the Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee convened regarding the

development and implementation of a plan for the ongoing management of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area in a changing climate. Input from the Western Australian Marine Science Institution will facilitate implementation of the plan and an appropriate supporting science plan.

Following the August 2018 announcement of a World Heritage nomination for Murujuga, the Department, in partnership with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, has made steady progress toward the nomination.

The first stage (20km) of the Wiilman Bilya walk trail from Wellington Dam to the Coalfields Highway was constructed. When completed, the walk trail will be a five-day, four-night 75km facility, starting and finishing in Collie and stretching around Wellington Dam.

The Department continued its partnership with Google to capture imagery on key tourist trails and attractions for inclusion on Google Street View. Trails in the Pilbara and Midwest regions, Wellington, Donnelly, Blackwood, Swan Coastal, Esperance and Albany districts have been captured to date as well as images of sections of the world-famous Bibbulmun Track with the support of Bibbulmun Track Foundation volunteers.

The \$24 million Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure Project continued with the fabrication of the two lookout structures and commencement of the sealing of the car parks at Z Bend and Meanarra Hill recreation sites.

Thirty years after the Department's volunteer program was established, volunteers continue to make a strong contribution, with volunteer numbers reaching 15,187, of whom 5863 contributed 779,840 hours to projects across the State.

Science

The Department prepared the *Biodiversity and Conservation Science Program Plans 2018-21*, which identifies research activities and key deliverables to achieve the goals of the *Science Strategic Plan 2018-21* and support the Department's *Strategic Directions 2018-21*.

A region-wide targeted survey of bilby in the La Grange Irrigated Agriculture Project Area was completed in collaboration with Karajarri and Nyangumarta rangers, Yawuru Country Managers, the Kimberley Land Council and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.

The Department continued turtle monitoring at Thevenard and Delambre islands through the North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program, funded through the Gorgon Project. A highlight this year was the discovery of a flatback turtle foraging ground that is in an area accessible to researchers, which is a first for this species.

The relationship between prescribed fire and quokkas in the northern jarrah forest is being explored with support from the Forest Enhancement Funding program and Murdoch University. This research will inform burning strategies to effectively manage these fragmented quokka populations.

Swan Canning Riverpark

More than \$1 million was distributed to 15 priority riverbank projects across 11 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.

A bloom of the algae *Alexandrium* occurred between March and May 2019. This algal species can release toxins that may cause paralytic shellfish poisoning in people who eat contaminated shellfish. In partnership with the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER), the Department of Health and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), additional water monitoring sites and biota (mussels, crabs and fish) were sampled to track the development of the bloom and support delivery of appropriate public health warnings to ensure the community was kept informed about the bloom. Final sampling conducted in mid-June 2019 confirmed the bloom had subsided and toxins were no longer present in biota, allowing the public health warning to be lifted.

A visitor satisfaction survey was undertaken to gain valuable information and data on community feedback and perceptions of users and visitors to the Swan Canning Riverpark. Overall satisfaction was rated at 96.5 per cent and the Department responded to 30 per cent fewer complaints in and around the Riverpark compared with the previous year.

Wildlife

The Department finalised development of regulations to support full proclamation of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 came into effect on 1 January 2019, at which time the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929* were repealed.

The Department's flagship wildlife recovery program, *Western Shield*, continued to implement broadscale fox and feral cat control for native animal conservation across a network of sites in WA. About 3.7 million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest were baited as part of the core program. The total area baited for foxes and feral cats as part of *Western Shield* and related projects (externally funded) in 2018–19 was about 4 million hectares involving the use of approximately 584,000 fox baits and 572,000 Eradicat® feral cat baits.

A recovery plan was approved for the Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). A recovery team was formed to support implementation of the plan and research was undertaken to identify key habitat requirements as well as the implications and potential responses to declining water depths in wetland habitats as a result of climate change.

The Department initiated a long-term monitoring program of the health of the Rottnest Island quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) population. The monitoring program will be undertaken annually for three years to determine required frequency for longer-term monitoring.

Critically endangered flora and ecological communities were treated aerially with phosphite to protect them from the impacts of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, including the critically endangered Busselton ironstone threatened ecological community.

Monitoring of woylies (*Bettongia penicillata*) and numbats (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) continued inside the 1000-hectare predator-proof enclosure in Dryandra Woodland Sanctuary. This indicated high survivorship of founders and ongoing breeding inside the sanctuary. Remote camera surveillance has not detected any incursions by feral cats or foxes.

After the success of the trial translocation, Dirk Hartog Island received an additional 50 rufous-hare wallabies (*Lagorchestes hirsutus subsp.* (Central Australia)) and 90 banded-hare wallabies (*Lagostrophus fasciatus fasciatus*) from Bernier and Dorre Islands. Monitoring is showing females are now producing young.

The *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in Western Australia 2019-2023* was declared an approved wildlife trade management plan by the Commonwealth Minister for the

Environment. The plan applies from 1 January 2019 and will ensure the continued sustainable commercial harvest of western grey and red kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus* and *M. rufus*) in WA. Quotas will continue to be set for each management region.



Mosaic prescribed burning. Photo – Judy Dunlop

About the Department

DBCA's goals from Government are clear: improving Western Australia's natural attractions as key tourism assets, creating opportunities for private sector investment and partnerships, and consolidating conservation science to build and share knowledge of the State's biodiversity.

DBCA's mission is to:

- Manage WA's parks, forests and reserves to conserve wildlife, provide sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities, protect communities and assets from bushfire and achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.
- Inspire and act for wildlife conservation.
- Conserve and enhance Kings Park and Botanic Garden and Bold Park with the community, and to conserve biological diversity generally.
- Grow visitor numbers and yield by providing best-in-class tourism products, experiences and service while enhancing Rottnest Island's unique heritage and environment.
- Provide scientific excellence and deliver effective conservation of the State's biodiversity.

DBCA's day-to-day business is underpinned by its relationships, especially with traditional owners, volunteers and the community. The Department is led by Director General Mark Webb PSM, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.

The Department also enjoys a close, legislative relationship with the Conservation and Parks

Commission and the Swan River Trust.

Enabling legislation

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions was established on 1 July 2017 and operates under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*. In addition to providing services to the Swan River Trust and the Conservation and Parks Commission, the Department also supports and provides services to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority (Statutory Authorities).

Responsible Ministers

The Department reports to the Minister for Environment Hon Stephen Dawson MLC and the Minister for Tourism Hon Paul Papalia CSC, MLA. The Ministers, the Department and the Statutory Authorities administer the legislation listed below. The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority report separately.

Legislation administered by the Department at 30 June 2019

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*
- *Swan and Canning Rivers (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2006*
- *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*

Regulations

- Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018
- Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002
- Forest Management Regulations 1993
- Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007

Legislation administered by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority at 30 June 2019

Acts

- *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998*
- *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987*
- *Zoological Parks Authority Act 2001*

Regulations

- Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Regulations 1999
- Rottnest Island Authority Regulations 1988

- Zoological Parks Authority Regulations 2002

Changes made in 2018–19 to legislation administered

On 21 September 2016, the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (Biodiversity Conservation Act) received Royal Assent. 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 (other than Part 9) became operable when the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 commenced on 1 January 2019.

The commencement of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations repealed the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929* and their associated regulations.

The Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2018 (published in the *Government Gazette* on 28 August 2018) amended the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 in relation to the fees for Geikie Gorge National Park Boat Trips, entrance fees for Monkey Mia Conservation Park, and for apiary site authorities.

The Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations 2018 (published in the *Government Gazette* on 14 September 2018) amended the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 to make consequential amendments as a result of the commencement of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018.

The Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Regulations 2018 (published in the *Government Gazette* on 17 September 2018) amended the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 in relation to references to rare flora and specially protected fauna notices.

The Biodiversity Conservation Amendment Regulations (No. 2) 2018 published in the *Government Gazette* on 21 December 2018 amended the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 in relation to administrative amendments recommended by the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation.

Notices, appointments, orders and approvals

The following notices, appointments and orders were published:

- *North Lalang-garram Marine Park (Classified Waters) Notice 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 13 July 2018 pursuant to s.62(1a) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Forest Management (Public Firewood Areas) Order 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 4 September 2018 pursuant to r.98 of the *Forest Management Regulations 1993*
- *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 11 September 2018 pursuant to s.23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*
- *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 11 September 2018 pursuant to s.14(4) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*
- *North Kimberley Marine Park Joint Management Plan 2016: Uunguu, Balangarra, Miriuwung Gajerrong and Wilinggin Management Areas, Management Plan 89 Amendment to Management Plan* published in the *Government Gazette* on 19 October 2018 prepared in accordance with s.61 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Biodiversity Conservation (Exemptions) Order 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 21 December 2018 pursuant to s.271(2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2018*

- *Biodiversity Conservation (Chromista Kingdom) Order 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 21 December 2018 pursuant to s.10(1) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2018*
- *Biodiversity Conservation (Property in Live Fauna) Order 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 21 December 2018 pursuant to s.147(3) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2018*
- *Biodiversity Conservation (Microbialite Ecological Communities) Order 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 21 December 2018 pursuant to ss.9(5) and 10(1) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2018*
- *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from Timber Reserve) Order (No. 1) 2019* published in the *Government Gazette* on 15 March 2019 pursuant to s.17(6a) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*

Performance management framework

DBCA supports Government goals with more specific desired outcomes, achieved via delivery across specific services. Funding is also provided by the Department to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority for the delivery of visitor services and public programs respectively at Kings Park and Bold Park, Rottnest Island and Perth Zoo.

Changes from the 2017–18 reporting year

The cost of producing an annual report is not required to be provided to the Public Sector Commission as in previous years.

Shared responsibilities with other agencies

During the year, the Department contributed to whole-of-Government reform initiatives including efficiency and other targeted savings measures.

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

Government goal

A liveable environment:
Ensuring a sustainable future by linking homes to transport, conserving land and reducing waste

Desired outcomes

Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care.

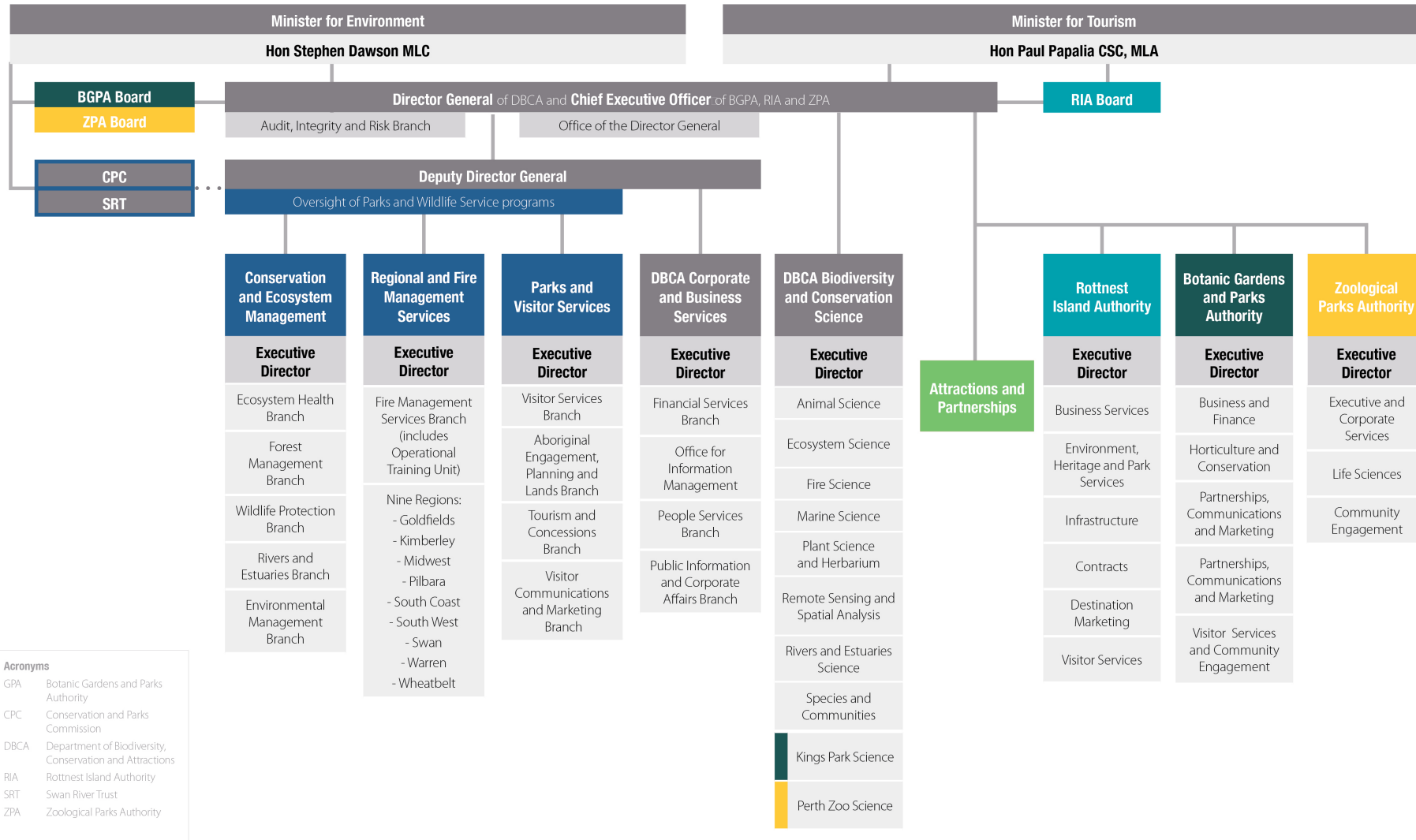
Plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation utilises evidenced-based science.

Sustainable use of forest resources.

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.

Services

1. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park
2. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island
3. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo
4. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark
5. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters
6. Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities
7. Research and Conservation Partnerships
8. Implementation of the Forest Management Plan
9. Prescribed Burning and Fire Management
10. Bushfire Suppression

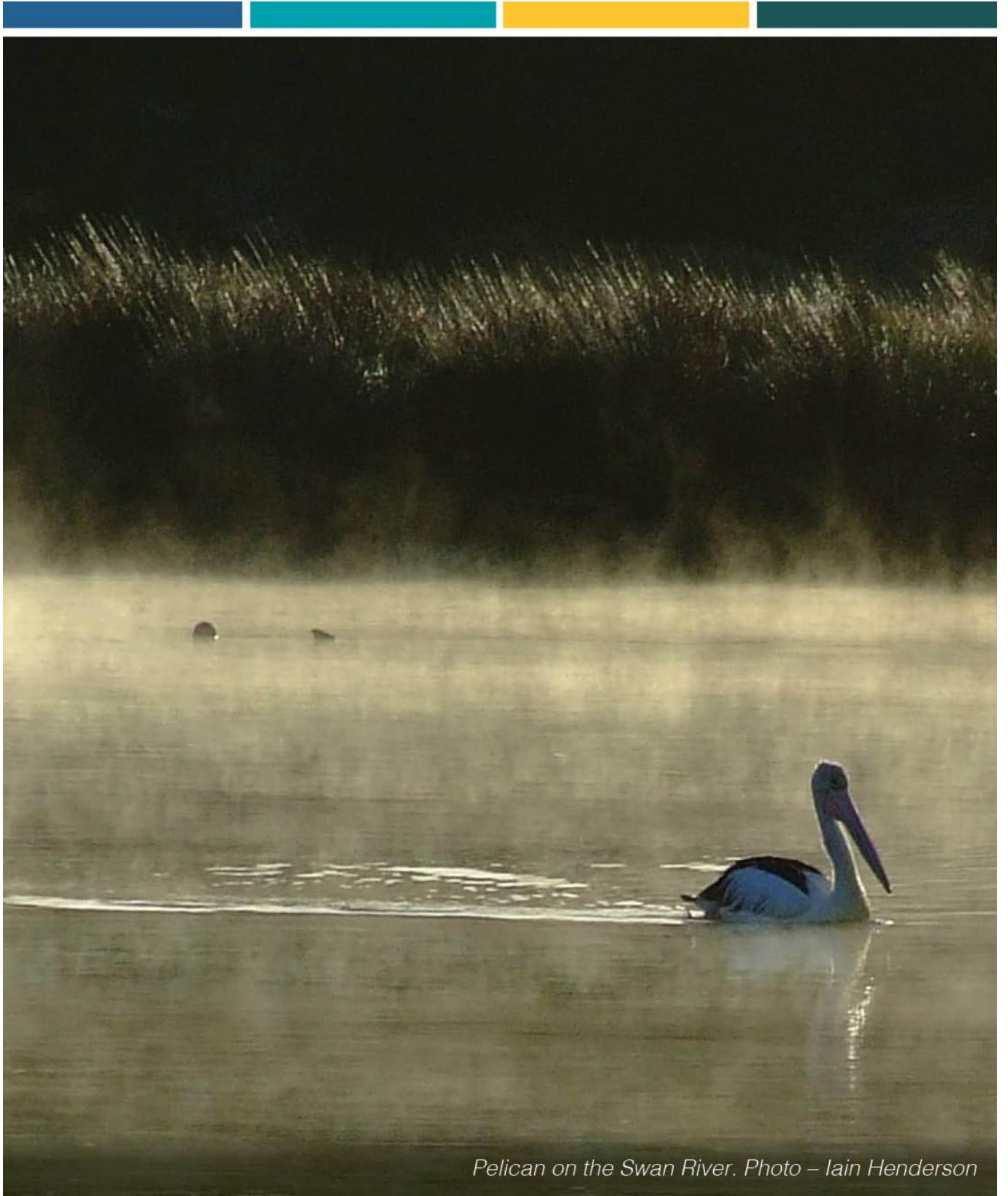




Agency performance

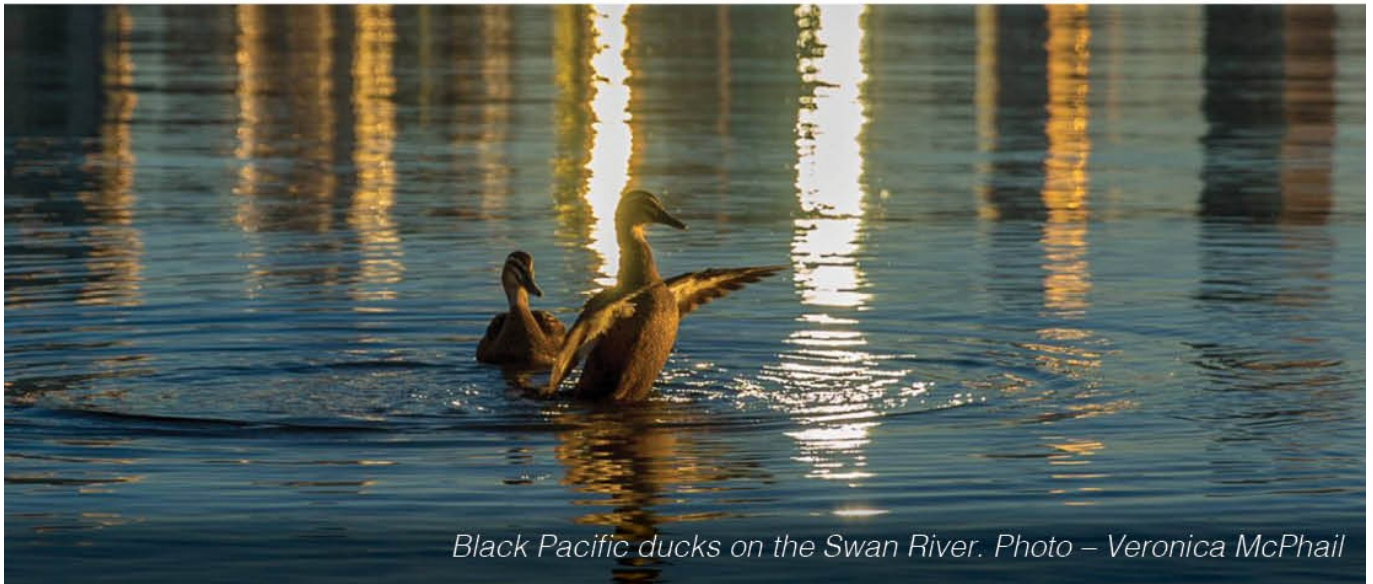
DBCA has a legislative requirement to report its achievements against the 10 services it provides. For Parliamentary reporting purposes, DBCA and the three Statutory Authorities are required to prepare separate annual reports. Services 4 to 10 are reported in this Annual Report. Service 6 will also be partially reported in the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority 2018–19 Annual Report and Rottnest Island Authority 2018–19 Annual Report. Service 7 will also be also partially reported in the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority 2018–19 Annual Report and Zoological Parks Authority 2018–19 Annual Report.

Service 1 is reported in the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority 2018–19 Annual Report. Service 2 is reported in the Rottnest Island Authority 2018–19 Annual Report. Service 3 is reported in the Zoological Parks Authority 2018–19 Annual Report.



Pelican on the Swan River. Photo – Iain Henderson

Service 4: Visitor Services and Public Programs in the Swan and Canning Riverpark



Black Pacific ducks on the Swan River. Photo – Veronica McPhail

Responsibilities

This service is responsible for the provision of facilities, experiences and programs for visitors to the Swan Canning Riverpark for their enjoyment and appreciation of natural, cultural and heritage values and to strengthen community understanding and support for conservation of plants, animals and habitats.

The desired outcome of the service is community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care.

The priorities for this service in 2018–19 were:

- integrated delivery of environmental management programs critical to the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy (SCRPS) and the Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan
- intercepting pollutants as they travel through tributaries and drains using nutrient intervention systems and technologies, such as the nutrient stripping wetland systems now operational in the Ellen Brook and Bayswater catchments
- oxygenation of the upper Swan and Canning rivers, reducing the risk of harmful algal blooms and conditions that are hostile to aquatic fauna
- expert advice and distribution of \$1 million in funding for foreshore restoration and protection works through landholder partnerships in the *Riverbank Program*. This funding will continue to be matched by riverside land managers, equating to a \$2 million investment along our rivers
- delivering the *River Guardians* community engagement program, including the *Dolphin Watch*, *Reel It In* and *Phosphorus Awareness* projects, and delivering *RiverWise* sustainable gardening workshops and behaviour change program in priority nutrient suburbs
- providing advice to the Minister for Environment, the Western Australian Planning Commission and local government authorities with respect to development on and around the Swan Canning Riverpark.



Strategies and key activities

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2018–19. The service is delivered by multiple work groups across the Department.

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

- reviewing development policies to ensure they are consistent with Swan River Trust and DBCA aims and objectives and reflective of community values
- preparing precinct plans for identified areas of the Riverpark in conjunction with the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and local government authorities
- assessing development applications, providing advice to the WAPC and local government, ensuring developments are compliant with approval conditions and working with relevant authorities and developers to manage impacts on the river from the development of projects of State significance
- influencing planning decisions and providing advice and input to strategic plans, policies, guidelines and programs relevant to urban water management to limit nutrient and contaminant inputs to the Swan and Canning rivers, maintain stormwater and groundwater quantity flows to the river system, and improve foreshore condition
- influencing and supporting the implementation of a water sensitive Perth through membership of the Water Sensitive Transition Network, supporting the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities and the New WAtEr Ways capacity building program.

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

- actively and financially supporting:
 - the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program as a source of additional funding to local environmental groups delivering on-ground projects to improve water quality
 - Natural Resource Management sub-regional groups to maintain community capacity across

- the Swan and lower Avon catchments
 - the Phosphorus Awareness Project to improve community understanding on the correct use of fertilisers and methods to reduce nutrient runoff
- providing \$300,000 of first round grant funding to community volunteer groups projects that will restore foreshores, reduce nutrient inflows, protect fish habitat and enhance waterbird conservation within the river system
- commissioning and operating wetland intervention projects to trap nutrients, organic material, sediments and other pollutants in Bayswater Brook and Ellen Brook catchments, implementing fencing and revegetation projects at Bennett Brook, Ellen Brook and other priority catchments, and re-engineering urban drains to living streams at Bayswater Brook
- commissioning recently upgraded oxygenation infrastructure on the Canning River, and continuing to operate and maintain four oxygenation plants on the Swan and Canning rivers
- working with landholders and stakeholders to improve soil health and water quality in the Swan-Avon river system and reduce sediment loads entering drains and tributaries from subdivisions and building sites
- undertaking estuarine (weekly) and catchment (fortnightly) water quality monitoring throughout the Swan Canning catchment
- tracking priority estuarine fish species, assessing estuary condition based on the fish community indices and monitoring the upstream extent of feral fish species in the Canning River
- investigating and reducing non-nutrient contaminants throughout the river system to understand their impact on the ecology of the river system and supporting the Department of Health in its public health advice
- demonstrating the effectiveness of nutrient intervention and water sensitive urban design projects in urban and rural catchments including monitoring and evaluation and cost benefit analysis
- coordinating, implementing and evaluating the Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan, including a review of sub-catchment modelling
- pursuing opportunities to progress a concept plan and preliminary site investigations for a constructed wetland and restoration project at Ashfield Flats that could treat water from a 295 hectares catchment area within the Town of Bassendean
- contributing to the delivery of the research strategy for the Riverpark through science coordination, support and communication, including:
 - progressing development of the estuarine response model and frameworks to assist in understanding and predicting riparian decline in the upper Swan
 - assessing the potential ecological impacts of in-river barriers in the Canning River
 - finalising validation of a seagrass condition index and completing a pressure assessment of Lucky Bay seagrass
 - undertaking assessment of fluorometers and Flow-Cam to value add to water quality monitoring and for reporting
 - investigating approaches to algal control and initiating trials of new technologies for monitoring phytoplankton and zooplankton in the Riverpark
 - investigating Riverpark dolphin health
 - understanding stock status of western school prawn and determining habitat value of seagrass and macroalgae for this species
- involvement in strategic initiatives that complement the SCRPS and improve the health of the river system
- supporting foreshore landholders in the delivery of foreshore projects via the Best Management Practices publications

3. Delivering operational and compliance activities, recreation and commercial activities in the

Riverpark to enhance community benefit and amenity by:

- implementing the Riverpark Trail Master Plan and 'Marli Riverpark' Interpretation Plan through the development of interpretation facilities at selected locations
- implementing the River Journeys trail project by developing key interpretation nodes and facilities near popular Riverpark destinations
- maintaining high visitor satisfaction levels through positive response to community needs and engagement with stakeholders and undertaking an annual visitor satisfaction survey
- ensuring ongoing management cooperation and coordination with all Riverpark management organisations and stakeholders including Aboriginal custodians
- identifying, facilitating and supporting the establishment and management of sustainable commercial activities and opportunities in the Riverpark, through engagement with proponents
- ensuring river reserve leases are managed sustainably, benefit the community, and include appropriate environmental management systems
- implementing a land management strategy in the Upper Canning to address specific 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 and working in partnership with foreshore land managers to remove hazards and litter
- facilitating enjoyment of the Riverpark by maintaining courtesy moorings and other public facilities
- ensuring responsible use of the river through the Swan Canning Riverpark Boating Management Strategy, compliance and educational activities, in partnership with other agencies
- implementing and maintaining an effective incident response framework and capability, for algal blooms, fish kills, hydrocarbon spills, wastewater overflow, bushfire, and dolphin entanglement, injury or death.

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

- coordinating interagency strategic policy and management planning contributions
- supporting implementation of the SCRPS and reporting to the Swan River Trust as required by the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*. This includes leading a multi-agency SCRPS Advisory Group and managing a reporting framework with SCRPS partners
- coordinating policy and advice functions on behalf of the Swan River Trust
- 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
- coordinating a review of the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007 to improve efficiency
- developing, reviewing and implementing legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines to continually improve Riverpark outcomes for community enjoyment.

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

- building a membership of *RiverWise* opinion leaders and *River Guardians* online subscribers through education, citizen science, free community events and member benefits
- developing the *Dolphin Watch* project and smartphone app to improve *Dolphin Watch* data and education and further support dolphin research in the Riverpark and provide a framework for the expansion of the *Dolphin Watch* project throughout WA
- expanding the fishing line bin project in the Riverpark and at priority WA coastal fishing locations

- providing high quality publications, displays and information that promote awareness and appreciation of the Riverpark
- building strategic alliances and corporate partnering opportunities that support Riverpark objectives
- delivering a *RiverWise/WaterWise* behaviour change program to reduce fertiliser use and encourage sustainable living practices by residents in priority nutrient input suburbs, including through delivery of sustainable gardening workshops and special events
- providing communication services to inform the public and encourage participating and engagement in managing and protecting the Riverpark.

Table 1: Service 4 performance summary

	2018–19 target	2018–19 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$13,888,000	\$15,768,000	\$1,880,000
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare of managing the Swan Canning Riverpark*	\$1,897*	\$2,154	\$257
Key effectiveness indicator			
Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark**	90.00%*	83.10%	(6.90%)

*The area used in the calculation consists of the number of hectares of Riverpark for which the Department is responsible under the SCRM Act. The area includes the Swan Canning waterway (vested with Swan River Trust) and adjoining public lands (vested with State and local authorities) included in parks and recreation reservation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. 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.

**This target figure was based on overall visitor satisfaction in the Riverpark and not average satisfaction.

Outcome: Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care.

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found in the *Disclosures and Legal Compliance* section under *Key performance indicators*.



Performance highlights

River System Management

The Swan Canning river system continues to face a range of water quality and ecosystem health challenges. In 2018-19, 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 (SALP) is a partnership program providing support and funding to community groups. It is funded by the Department, Alcoa of Australia and the Burswood Park Board and is administered by Perth NRM. In 2018-19, SALP provided \$332,756 to 21 community groups to implement 59 landcare projects throughout the Swan Canning NRM group.
- Funding of \$610,000 was provided to sub-regional natural resource management groups to coordinate community projects that improve the water quality entering the river system.
- Through round two of the *Community Rivercare Program*, nine community groups were awarded \$300,000 in funding to deliver projects in 2019-20 that address water quality improvement, foreshore restoration and habitat creation in waterways of the Swan NRM region.

Drainage and Nutrient Intervention Program

- Monitoring of the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary wetland continued through a partnership with the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC), The University of Western Australia (UWA) and the City of Bayswater. An assessment of wetland performance in improving water quality is due to be completed later this year.
- The Ellen Brook constructed wetland treated over 170 megalitres of water from Ellen Brook, which flows into the Swan River. The wetland uses Iron Man Gypsum, a by-product of Iluka Resources mineral sands mining, to strip nutrients from the water.
- Site selection and prioritisation for new drainage intervention works continued. This decision

support tool is assisting public land managers by providing strategic advice and guiding the Department's future investment in drainage improvement works in the Swan Canning catchment.

- Ashfield Flats Reserve is a high conservation value asset representing the largest remaining river flat in the Perth metropolitan area. Understanding the site's hydrology is crucial for determining the best management for the reserve and informing the design of any future interventions aimed at improving water quality. A hydrological study of the reserve, funded by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, will capture seasonal and event data throughout 2019 with the aim of producing a final report and recommendations by mid-2020.
- Hydrological and nutrient modelling of Swan Canning catchment-estuary system commenced in late 2018. The project is being undertaken by UWA through the CRCWSC and will update and expand on modelling originally undertaken in 2008. Findings from the 2008 model supported development of the Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan in 2009. This updated modelling will support revision of management strategies and actions.

Riverbank funding

- More than \$1 million was distributed to 15 priority riverbank projects across 11 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.
- The Riverbank Shoreline Management System (RSMS) has completed its eight-year development phase. The RSMS documents type, extent, condition and value of the entire 330km of Swan Canning natural and built shorelines. It enables analysis of shorelines via asset management systems, asset-threat-response models, and social impact assessment of facilities. Riverbank funding decisions now benefit from up-to-date data collation, immediate priority identification and clear risk communication, assisting in demonstrating value for money.

River Health Program

- DBCA worked with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to operate two oxygenation plants on the Upper Swan estuary that successfully provide oxygen relief to a 10km stretch of river susceptible to poor water quality. Two oxygenation plants on the Canning River also delivered oxygenated water over 4.5km, ensuring that oxygen relief was provided to all feasible areas upstream of Kent Street Weir.
- The Department, in partnership with DWER, continued weekly monitoring of water quality in the Swan Canning estuary at 41 sites and fortnightly monitoring of nutrients at 20 routine sites. Water quality was also monitored fortnightly at 33 sites through the Swan Canning catchment.
- A bloom of the algae *Alexandrium* occurred between March and May 2019. This algal species can release toxins that may cause paralytic shellfish poisoning in people who eat contaminated shellfish. In partnership with DWER, the Department of Health and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), additional water monitoring sites and biota (mussels, crabs and fish) were sampled to track the development of the bloom and support delivery of appropriate public health warnings to ensure the community was kept informed about the bloom. Final sampling conducted in mid-June 2019 confirmed the bloom had subsided and toxins were no longer present in biota, allowing the public health warning to be lifted.

Science to support water quality and ecological health management

- Information on science projects supporting water quality and ecological health management of the Swan and Canning rivers can be found in *Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities* within this report.

Investigations underpinning the understanding of Riverpark values, threats and mitigation

- Investigations into construction site sediment transport into drainage infrastructure continued to measure turbidity generated by construction activities. A numerical model to determine the impact of storm events on sediment transport through the drains is being developed, with the final product designed to influence construction management behaviour and reduce sediment transport to infrastructure and receiving waters.
- Investigations into non-nutrient contaminants in the Swan Canning estuary and its catchment continued, with a focus on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in surface waters and key recreational fishing species.
- Investigations into the ecological response of the Canning and Helena rivers to environmental water releases continued, with a focus on connectivity around in-river barriers, including the Kent Street Weir and fishway, and the restriction of the upstream distribution of feral fish species by strategic barriers.
- The Swan Canning Acoustic Array (SCAA), which consists of 30 acoustic receivers deployed throughout the Swan Canning estuary, provided valuable information on fish movements relative to water quality, particularly dissolved oxygen concentrations and major in-river barriers, such as the upgraded Kent Street Weir and newly constructed fishway. The SCAA has tracked 120 black bream since 2016.

Boating Management Strategy

- The Department continued to deliver the Swan Canning Riverpark Boating Management Strategy and worked with the Department of Transport on marine safety matters in the Riverpark.

Land Management Strategy

- The land management strategy for the upper Canning River was delivered along a section of the Canning River between Burslem Drive, Maddington and Royal Street, Kenwick. This initiative helped identify unlawful activity along the Canning River foreshore, with three issues being identified and resolved.

Events, complaints, incidents and compliance activities

- The Department responded to 224 complaints in and around the Riverpark, compared with 287 complaints in the previous financial year
- Two foreshore vegetation protection signs were installed in the Riverpark. These signs are a successful tool to reduce vegetation damage and help educate the public about the value of shoreline vegetation. There was a decrease in reported incidents of vegetation damage with 11 incidents recorded during 2018–19, in comparison with 25 the previous year.

Maintaining the Riverpark's amenity

- The Department maintained the Riverpark's amenity through its annual program of removing rubbish and dumped materials, reshaping eroded beaches, foreshore protection works and responding to incidents such as fish kills, algal blooms, injured wildlife, sewage spills and other pollution events.
- This year the Department responded to 17 aquatic deaths and two algal bloom events.

River Journeys project

- Another interpretation node was completed at John Tonkin Park, East Fremantle through the River Journeys project, which develops trail interpretation nodes throughout the Riverpark. The Department was also successful in obtaining grant funding from Woodside, through the WA Parks Foundation, to develop another three interpretation nodes.

Visitor Satisfaction Survey

- A visitor satisfaction survey was undertaken to gain valuable information and data on community feedback and perceptions of users and visitors to the Riverpark. Overall satisfaction was rated at 96.5 per cent, with average satisfaction of 83.1 per cent, based on 230 interview respondents.

Statutory Assessments

- The Rivers and Estuaries Branch Statutory Assessments Unit issued more than 192 approvals for works or activities in the Swan Canning Development Control Area (DCA) and provided advice on 152 development and subdivision applications that were in, next to, or affecting the Swan and Canning rivers. Five development applications were assessed under Part 5 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* and determined by the Minister for Environment.
- The Department provided ongoing advice on river protection and foreshore enhancement matters for major projects of State significance on and around the Swan and Canning rivers, including the Matagarup Pedestrian Bridge and Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority projects at Waterbank, East Perth, Elizabeth Quay, Midland and Armadale.
- Twenty-four tourism operator licences were approved on the Swan and Canning rivers, including nine charter operators using a total of 13 vessels. Sixteen aquatic activities, including watersport lessons and equipment hire were also approved. A further two commercial operators were approved to use the foreshore, primarily for pop-up food and beverage outlets.

Strategic activities

- Development of the Perth Water Precinct Plan has substantially progressed in collaboration with seven other State agencies and local governments. The plan will guide future improvement and development of Perth Water, its foreshores and abutting private development interface. A trial of the use of Perth Water by commercial seaplane operators continued.
- The Department worked with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on a review of State Planning Policy 2.10: Swan-Canning River System and State Planning Policy 2.9 Water Resources and associated guidelines to ensure that activities, land use and development maintain and enhance the health, amenity and landscape values of the rivers, including recreational and scenic values.
- The Department is reviewing the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007 to improve operational efficiencies and reduce the regulatory burden for small business.

Water sensitive cities program

- The Department continued to resource and support the New WAter Ways program and the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC), and influence and advocate for the implementation of a water sensitive Perth through membership of the Water Sensitive Transition Network (WSTN). The Vision and Transition Strategy for a Water Sensitive Greater Perth were released by CRCWCS and WSTN and the associated Implementation Plan was completed by WSTN.
- The Department is resourcing and supporting, through membership on the project steering

committee, a UWA/clean air and urban landscapes hub project on *Reconstructing an understanding of Noongar knowledge for the Swan Canning catchment – implications for land-use and water planning in Perth*.

- The Department also provided comments on the Local Government Guidelines for Subdivisional Development (Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia) that are undergoing a review.

Swan Canning River Protection Strategy

- The Department continued to work with members of the SCRPS Advisory Group to oversee implementation and reporting of management actions to the Swan River Trust.

Community engagement

- A number of community engagement projects were undertaken to support behaviour change and citizen science for the Swan and Canning rivers. The following programs and projects were delivered and/or supported by the Department's Public Information and Corporate Affairs branch:
 - The *River Guardians* program has 2925 subscribers. *River Guardians* continued to provide *RiverWise* training, volunteering opportunities and presentations from scientific and behaviour change experts addressing key issues impacting our rivers.
 - The *Dolphin Watch* citizen science research project continued to be delivered in Perth and was expanded to Mandurah and Broome in 2018, and further consolidated in 2019. The Department trained and registered 270 new *Dolphin Watch* volunteers. There were 1668 dolphin monitoring reports submitted and volunteers contributed 1339 hours. *Junior Dolphin Watch* engaged with 150 students from five schools.
 - The *Reel It In* fishing line bin project now has 66 dedicated fishing line bins at popular jetties, fishing platforms, traffic bridges and foreshores throughout the Swan Canning Riverpark. These bins helped remove more than 28km of fishing line from the Riverpark during the year. Project partner Native Animal Rescue emptied the fishing line bins on a weekly basis and more than 50 volunteers have adopted 36 fishing line bin sites throughout the Riverpark. Twenty fishing line bins have also been installed at popular fishing sites in the Peel-Harvey estuary.
 - A priority nutrient input catchment in Bull Creek was selected for the 2019 *RiverWise Gardens* program. The behaviour change program engaged 3000 households and personally contacted 600 households. It involves deploying a personalised coaching approach, combined with on-site garden consultations, feedback letters and referrals to a gardening workshop. The coaching team talked to 412 households and participants agreed to around 700 *RiverWise* actions. The program recruited higher fertiliser users (30 per cent of participants) into the garden consultation service, completing 97 garden assessments. A further 147 participants attended a special *RiverWise* gardening workshop delivered by ABC's Gardening Australia presenter, Dr Josh Byrne.
 - The Department funded six *RiverWise* gardening workshops in priority catchments in the Perth metropolitan area to encourage sustainable gardening practices including responsible fertiliser use. The program reached 575 people at an average attendance rate of 96 people per event.
 - The Department continued to support a variety of key community Riverpark events including the Matilda Bay Swim Thru, Skyworks, the Festival of Movement, Swanfish, the Algal Bloom yacht race, Avon Descent, Clean Up Australia Day and a variety of scuba dive club underwater clean ups in the Swan River.



Murujuga received a World Heritage nomination. Photo – Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation

Service 5: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters



Responsibilities

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 this service are community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of the attractions under the Department's care.

The priorities of this service in 2018–19 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 vesting and management of reserves
- implementing the Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative
- continuing 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
- continuing to meet Government election policy commitments for the establishment of new and improved visitor facilities in Wellington District including Wellington National Park, Lake Kepwari and Stockton Lake
- working closely with the community and regional development commissions to plan for strategic investments in park visitor infrastructure
- building and strengthening community connections through the continued use of volunteers and 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, including Aboriginal cultural tourism experiences, that also generate direct expenditure in regional communities
- continuing to improve environmental, cultural and public health and safety outcomes for Wedge and Grey reserves

- commencing planning and design for the provision of new and improved tourist facilities on the Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park to support regional economic growth in the Midwest
- progress the World Heritage nomination for the Burrup Peninsula and Dampier Archipelago national heritage listed area, in partnership with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation and in consultation with the Australian Government and stakeholders
- continuing to work with the WA Parks Foundation for the protection and presentation of parks.



Strategies and key activities

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2018–19:

1. Planning and advocating for a world-class park system which maintains or enhances WA's natural environment, by:

- ongoing planning and management of new parks and reserves across the State, including the proposed Fitzroy River National Park, the proposed Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park and priorities established under the Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative
- continuing to prepare *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) marine and terrestrial management plans on behalf of the Conservation and Parks Commission and joint management partners
- 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 in selected areas
- continuing to undertake recreation and interpretation master planning at high priority sites identified for development
- continuing to plan for commercial activity opportunities
- assisting in the preparation of regional and local mountain bike trails strategies and master plans
- continuing to undertake Parks and Visitor Services strategic planning.

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 that can make a contribution to their management and to offer a spectrum of high-quality visitor experiences
- developing opportunities to provide a range of trails including kayaking, walking,

cycling, snorkeling and diving

- continuing to develop and enhance camping opportunities in parks
- continuing to invest in roads used to access parks with a focus on protecting high-value road assets, addressing visitor risk and providing visitors with an enjoyable driving experience
- continuing to implement a bridge replacement program including the use of modular bridge products.

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
- implementing a bridge maintenance program for south-west forest region districts
- continuing to undertake compliance and law enforcement activities as required.

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 and cultural environment
- developing and implementing park sign plans in accordance with the sign design guidelines
- continuing to improve features in the Explore Parks website and Park Stay WA campsite booking system
- using social media and applying 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
- coordinating and administering 11 projects from the first round of Aboriginal Ranger Program funding (expressions of Interest were called for Round 2 of the program, and case study evaluations of the program commenced)
- 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
- developing and implementing joint management arrangements with traditional owners.
- 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 traditional owners
- 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
- working with recreation user groups with a focus on long trails, bushwalking, mountain bike, horse

riding and off-road vehicle groups

- continuing to build and strengthen relationships with partner groups, key stakeholders and Government agencies
- continuing to offer community partnership models of campground management where appropriate
- continuing to promote Parks and Visitor Services objectives and outcomes.

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 promote and explore opportunities for implementation of the Department's *Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2017–19 Reconciliation Action Plan* and State Aboriginal Procurement Strategy
- continuing to provide specialist training support to regional staff to assist professional development and productivity outputs
- continuing to improve technology management and information connectivity.

Table 2: Service 5 performance summary

	2018-19 target	2018-19 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$91,810,000	\$93,990,000	\$2,180,000
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare in national parks and other lands and waters	\$2.92	\$2.97	\$0.05
Key effectiveness indicator			
Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters	90.0%	94.8%	4.8%

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found in *Disclosures and Legal Compliance* section under *Key performance indicators*



Performance highlights

Management planning

- Five CALM Act management plans were released for formal public comment:
 - Wheatbelt Region parks and reserves draft management plan
 - Nynggulu (Ningaloo) coastal reserves draft joint management plan
 - Jalangurru Manyjarrwa Bunuba Muwayi Yarrangu draft joint management plan
 - Proposed Niiwalarra Islands (Sir Graham Moore Islands) National Park and Lesueur Island Nature Reserve draft joint management plan
 - Guniyan Binba Conservation Park draft joint management plan.
- Management zoning was gazetted for North Lalang-garram Marine Park.

Aboriginal engagement

- The Department continues to work with key tourism stakeholders and the Aboriginal community to support the *Culture in the Parks* program, which identifies and 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.
- Joint management of the proposed Ningaloo Coastal Reserves has commenced through the establishment of an interim joint management body and employment of Aboriginal rangers, whilst the Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the Ningaloo Coastal Reserves proceeds through final approvals process.
- Continued increase in registration of Aboriginal tourism operators.
- Mandatory Aboriginal cross-cultural awareness training for staff across the State continued to be implemented.
- The Department's *Reconciliation Action Plan 2018–20* was launched to help strengthen engagement and relationships with Aboriginal people.
- Increase in subscribers to the Aboriginal engagement e-publication *Yarning Time*
- Development of a resource to provide volunteers with information on Aboriginal engagement and

culture.

- Consultation, engagement and planning with native title groups across the State on the implementation of the Plan for Our Parks initiative.
- The first round of the Aboriginal Ranger Program allocated more than \$8 million (incl GST) to 11 projects across the State. This supported 45 full and part-time jobs for Aboriginal people (24 of which were female) and created 53 casual Aboriginal employee positions.

Tourism and accommodation

- The process to identify a suitable proponent to develop an ecotourism facility in Millstream Chichester National Park concluded and will result in new accommodation for visitors with economic and social benefits for the regional community.
- The Department continued to facilitate opportunities for a broad range of visitor experiences and services in parks through partnerships with commercial operators. Competitive processes were applied to commercial opportunities in Cape Range National Park for a food van at Milyering Visitor Centre and for ecotourism opportunities at the Gloucester Tree and Pemberton Arboretum.
- The whale shark industry in Ningaloo Marine Park had a record 1814 tours and a whale shark contact success rate of 97 per cent during the 2018 season (1 March to 31 July). Passenger numbers increased from 29,197 in the 2017 season to 32,054 in the 2018 season.
- The third season of the trial on in-water interactions with humpback whales in Ningaloo Marine Park was conducted from July 2018 to November 2018 in partnership with 15 licensed whale shark operators. This unique activity was experienced by 2851 people on 272 tours. Of attempted interactions with humpback whales, 76 per cent were successful. Approval has been granted for in-water interactions to continue until 2020 with the aim to transition to a licensed industry.
- The Commercial Operator Handbook, which contains information for tourism operators as well as licence conditions, was revised to include updated information and new parks.
- The Department continued to implement the recommendations of the *90-Day Regulatory Mapping and Reform Project on Eco and Nature-Based Tourism* to improve efficiency and reduce administrative burden for operators and the Department. This included the development of an online licensing system and the start of discussions with accreditation agencies to align the Department's sustainability audits requirements, with the aim of reducing time and cost for operators.

World Heritage management

- The Department continued to provide day-to-day management of Shark Bay, Ningaloo Coast and Purnululu National Park World Heritage areas, including executive support to property-specific advisory committees.
- In September 2018, the Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee convened a workshop to lay the foundations for the development of a climate change adaptation strategy and action plan for the Shark Bay World Heritage Property using a rapid assessment tool (Climate-change Vulnerability Index). The advisory committee will develop the strategy and action plan, and the Western Australian Marine Science Institution will facilitate its implementation and develop a science plan to support the ongoing management of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area in a changing climate.
- Following the August 2018 announcement of a World Heritage nomination for Murujuga, the Department, in partnership with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, has made steady progress toward the nomination; establishing a technical advisory and governance framework, commencing preparation of a Tentative List Submission and undertaking stakeholder engagement activities. It is anticipated that Murujuga will be added to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List in 2020.

Recreation and trails

- The Department continues to work closely with key recreation bodies to develop and implement strategic planning initiatives, including the development of the Western Australian Bushwalking and Trail Running Strategy, the Peel Regional Trails Strategy and the Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan.
- The Department maintains a collaborative partnership with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in the implementation of the *Western Australian State Trails Blueprint 2017–2021*, and in the management of outdoor recreation activities.
- Building on existing relationships, the Department partnered with the Shire of Murray in a successful application for the Australian Government's Building Better Regions funding towards the development of new trails and recreation facilities in Lane Poole Reserve and Dwellingup to support the Shire's vision for Dwellingup as a nationally significant trail town.
- Similarly, the Department successfully partnered with the Shire of Collie for future Royalties for Regions funding to develop Collie and the neighbouring Wellington National Park as a nationally significant trail town.
- New mountain bike trails were constructed and opened in Wooditjup National Park (5km), Arklow forest block near Collie (5km) and the Murray Valley (5km) within Lane Poole Reserve near Dwellingup.
- The first stage (20km) of the Wiilman Bilya Walk Trail from Wellington Dam to the Coalfields Highway was constructed. When completed, the walk trail will be a five-day, four-night 75km facility, starting and finishing in Collie and stretching around Wellington Dam.
- The Department continued to partner with and support recreation stakeholders and volunteers, including the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail foundations, Friends of the Cape to Cape Track, TrailsWA, OutdoorsWA, 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.
- A new trail map and logo for the Cape to Cape Track were developed and launched, with the Friends of the Cape to Cape Track commencing a project to update the trail marking with the new logo.
- Bibbulmun Track Foundation volunteers continued to assist the Department on major maintenance work on the Bibbulmun Track, including bridge maintenance, shelter refurbishment and improvements.
- A new rammed earth shelter was constructed at the Helena campsite on the Bibbulmun Track to replace the one destroyed by bushfire in early 2018.
- The Department's partnership with the four-wheel drive community continued, with volunteers working alongside staff on projects such as the Fawcett Track in Lane Poole Reserve, and facility maintenance in the Karara rangelands.
- The Department continues to collaborate through an inter-agency working group with other government agencies to manage recreation in and around public drinking water source areas.

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.
- Significant improvements were made to the Explore Parks WA website, and Park Stay WA online campsite booking system was introduced at seven additional campgrounds (Dales Campground and overflow in Karijini National Park; Steep Point, Shelter Bay and False Entrance in Edel Land proposed National Park; Lucky Bay and Le Grand Beach in Cape Le Grand National Park).
- The *Western Australia's national parks* visitor guide was published and distributed through more

than 300 locations statewide including Parks and Wildlife Service offices, visitor centres, accommodation, car hire and retail outlets.

- Recreation site planning and detailed design continued for the Skywalk project in Kalbarri National Park, improved visitor infrastructure in John Forrest National Park, Lane Poole Reserve and William Bay National Park and began in Monkey Mia, Karijini National Park and Dryandra Woodland.
- Master planning continued for recreation assessments in the west Kimberley with Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation, Ningaloo Coastal Reserve, and Wedge and Grey shack settlements. Master planning began for Cape Peron in Rockingham Lakes Regional Park, Walyunga National Park, Cape Arid National Park and for national parks in the Jurien Bay area.
- Visitor planning and community consultation was undertaken for the Lalang-garram/ Horizontal Falls, North Lalang-garram, Lalang-garram/ Camden Sound marine parks.
- Design and engineering were undertaken for Deep Gorge in Murujuga to allow safe and respectful access to rock art.
- The Department partnered with Google to capture imagery on key tourist trails and attractions for inclusion on Google Street View.
- The Google Street View Trekker has continued to capture imagery of WA's parks to promote them as key tourism and community assets and as nature-based tourism destinations. Trails in the Pilbara and Midwest regions, and Wellington, Donnelly, Blackwood, Swan Coastal, Esperance and Albany districts have been captured to date.
- Images of sections of the Bibbulmun Track have started being captured with the support of Bibbulmun Track Foundation volunteers.

Improving facilities

- Maintenance continued on the Department's 37,000km road network, with road upgrade projects completed in Wellington and John Forrest national parks.
- The \$24 million Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure Project continued with the fabrication of the two lookout structures and commencement of the sealing of the car parks at Z Bend and Meanarra Hill recreation sites.
- Implementation of the \$5.9 million Public Recreation and Joint Management Arrangements for the Ningaloo Coast project continued with the establishment of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement to enable the creation of a conservation and recreation reserve along the southern sections of the Ningaloo Coast and joint management arrangements with traditional owners. The access roads to Red Bluff and Tombstones recreation sites were upgraded and several recreation sites around Coral Bay improved.
- Improvements to infrastructure and facilities in John Forrest National Park continued with the upgrade of the Jane Brook picnic area and main access road.
- The upgrade of visitor facilities at Black Point in D'Entrecasteaux National Park has started and will be completed in 2019-20.
- Construction of upgraded trails and refurbishment of the lookout structure at Cape Peron in Rockingham Lakes Regional Park was completed.
- A new lookout structure at Fortescue Falls in Karijini National Park was built.
- Restoration of flood-damaged roads around Millstream homestead in Millstream Chichester National Park was completed.
- Restoration of storm-damaged heritage buildings and structures at Thundelarra homestead in Karara Rangelands Park was completed.
- \$1.739 million was invested to replace or repair 23 vehicle bridges across the south-west of the State including installation of a new bridge on Palings Road in Donnelly District.

- Planning commenced for the development of a further three interpretation nodes in the Swan Canning Riverpark with support and funding from Rio Tinto and the WA Parks Foundation.

Interpretation

- Sign planning was conducted for new and redeveloped campgrounds and recreation sites.
- The Department continued to provide advice to special interest groups, local governments and agencies for a variety of visitor communication and planning needs.

Working with the community

- At 30 June 2019, the number of Parks and Wildlife Service registered volunteers was 15,187, of whom 5,863 contributed 779,840 hours to projects across the State. Volunteer projects included campground hosting, collecting seeds, clearing weeds, wildlife rehabilitation, terrestrial and marine plant and animal surveys and track, trail and park maintenance. The Volunteer Coordination Unit (VCU) continued to support Parks and Wildlife Service staff and community stakeholders to supervise more than 200 active volunteer projects across WA, including 'Friends of' and four-wheel drive groups, major wildlife rehabilitation centres and other community-based organisations.
- Across the Department, eight new volunteer projects were created, including Capes Hooded Plover project in Blackwood District, Whale Shark ID project in Exmouth and Swan Canning Riverpark seagrass monitoring. The Department recruited and registered 1,671 new volunteers.
- The Rio Tinto Earth Assist MOU continued to deliver effective on-ground conservation work and in-school environmental programs to primary and secondary school students.
- A corporate volunteer project with Bankwest is now in its second year. Six teams (one in each Noongar season), each consisting of up to 30 participants, volunteered at Yanchep National Park with weed control, fauna monitoring, revegetation, Wildflower Garden maintenance and cave conservation. As Bankwest has a strong focus on reconciliation, each day starts with an Aboriginal Experience in Noongar culture.
- The Wildcare Helpline's 46 office and home-based volunteers contributed 8,249 hours fielding more than 12,000 calls from members of the public concerned with sick or injured native wildlife. The Helpline's referral network supported by the VCU includes 15 major native wildlife rehabilitation centres across WA and more than 100 Animal Control Agents. The Wildcare Helpline smartphone app has been downloaded more than 650 times since July 2018.
- The Campground Host program had 244 volunteers at 50 campsites across all regions of WA, providing 173,477 hours of voluntary park and visitor management assistance. One hundred and twenty campground hosts attended the annual workshop at Kensington in November 2018.
- Wildlife rehabilitators across the State, supported by VCU alongside Wildlife Protection Branch, provided more than 396,881 voluntary hours of care for native wildlife.
- A total of 271 volunteers attended on-site training, including 73 at wildlife rehabilitation courses in Kensington and Kalgoorlie and 24 Animal Control Agents attending de-escalation training. 32 campground hosts and long trails volunteers attended basic fire awareness training.

Park visitor statistics

- The 2018-19 visitor satisfaction index, averages from visitor responses to surveys at selected parks, reserves and forest areas around the State, was 94.8 per cent. This outcome, with results from previous years of the survey program, is illustrated in Figure 1.
- The total number of visits to Department-managed lands and waters was 20.35 million, an increase from 20.23 million last year (Figure 2).

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

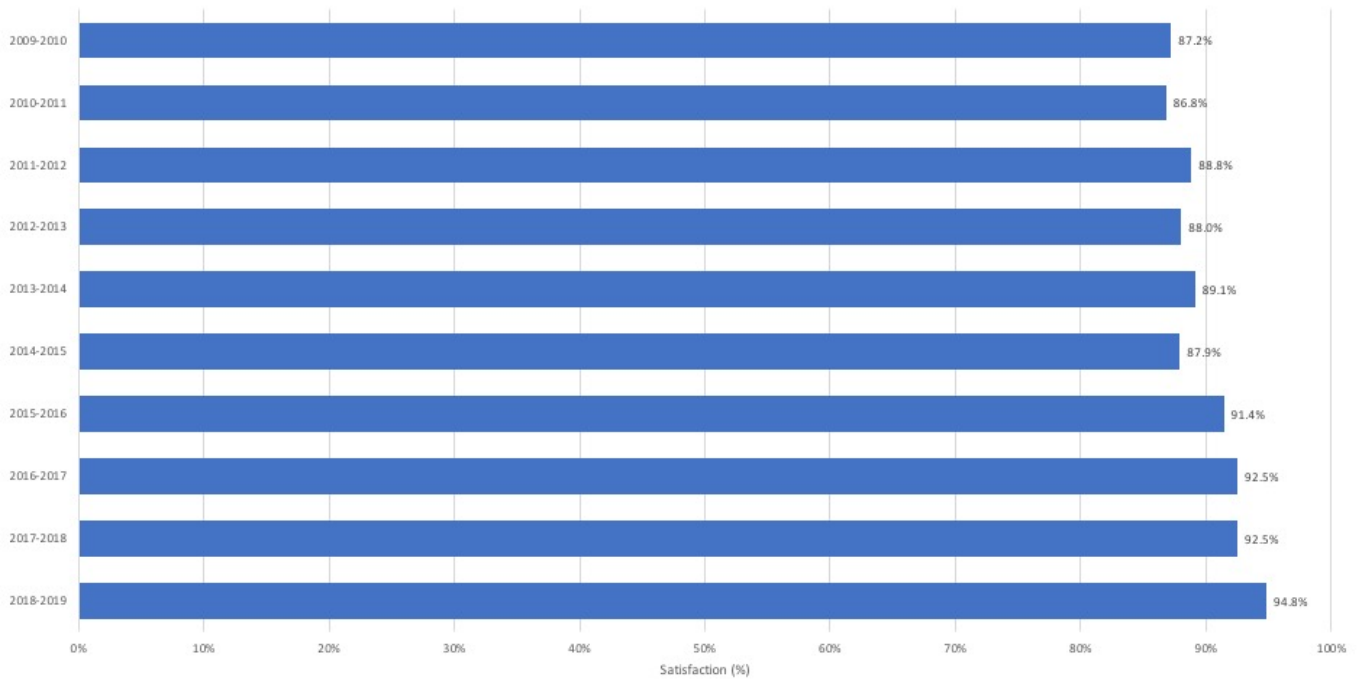
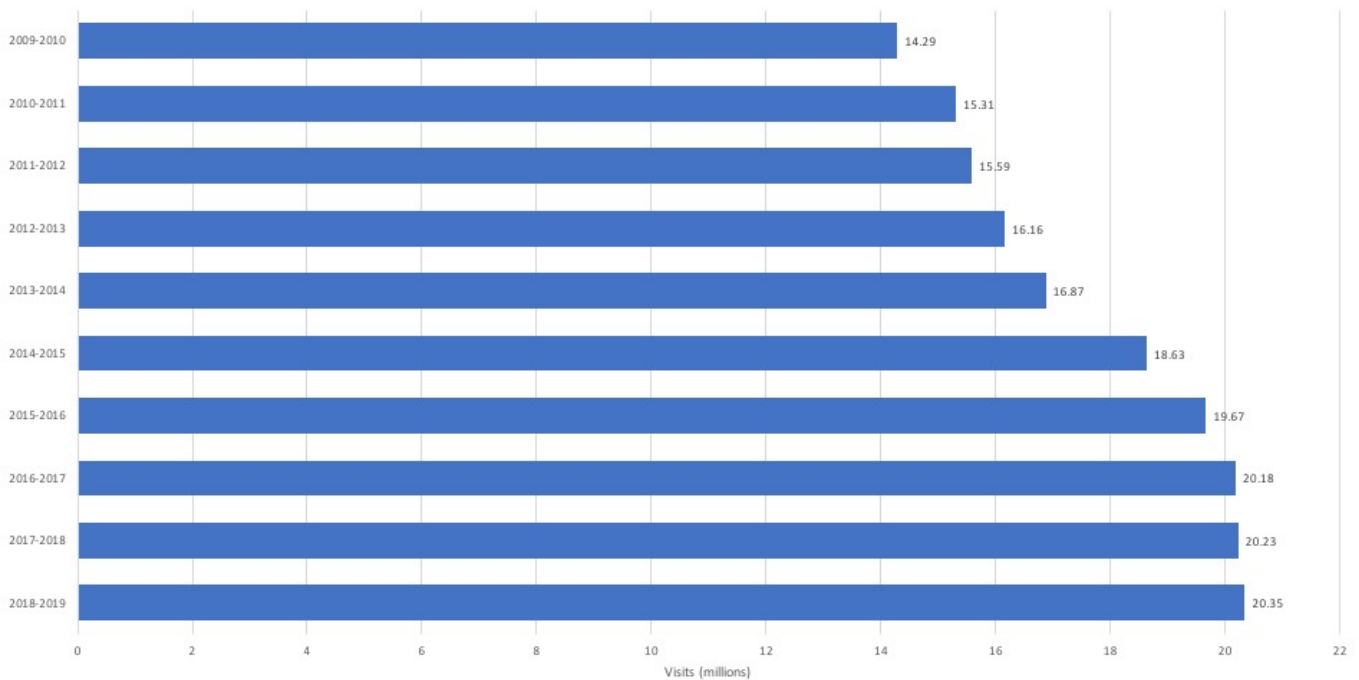


Figure 2. Total visits to Parks and Wildlife Service-managed lands and waters



Norte: 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.



Carnaby's cockatoos. Photo – Rick Dawson

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities



Responsibilities

This service is responsible for developing and implementing programs for the conservation and improved management of the State's biodiversity including plants, animals, genes and ecosystems, based on best practice science.

The desired outcome of the service is that plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation utilises evidence-based science.

The priorities of this service in 2018-19 were:

- continuing to develop and implement a legislative and policy framework that effectively supports biodiversity 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, climate change, 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 biodiversity conservation and land management
- effectively collecting, storing and managing data and information so they are available and used to improve biodiversity conservation and land management
- promoting public and stakeholder awareness, understanding and support for biodiversity conservation, including through being involved in conservation programs.



*Spectacled hare wallaby release in Hermite Island, Montebello Marine Park.
Photo – Judy Dunlop*

Strategies and key activities

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2018-19. The service is delivered by multiple divisions and Statutory Authorities across the Department.

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

- developing and implementing regulations and other supporting mechanisms for the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- developing strategic documents and programs prioritised to support policy implementation
- developing a new framework for the nine regional nature conservation plans.

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

- continuing to establish the formal terrestrial and marine conservation reserve system, with priority for:
 - Fitzroy River valley, Buccaneer Archipelago, and Wellington National Park expansion
 - lands purchased for conservation
 - proposals in the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) regions with less than 10 per cent in conservation reserves
- progressively implementing priority conservation and science actions in marine reserve management plans
- progressively implementing priority conservation and science actions in terrestrial reserve management plans or taking action to effectively manage terrestrial reserves through other appropriate mechanisms
- 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 monitoring and research programs in the Swan Canning Riverpark

- 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 natural resources, through:

- developing and implementing approved biodiversity management programs including recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities
- continuing to maintain, review and update, as necessary, the lists of threatened and priority species and threatened and priority ecological communities
- developing, refining and implementing processes for listing critical habitat
- continuing to ensure the sustainable use of flora and fauna, hobby keeping of fauna and the trade in wildlife are appropriately regulated and managed
- maintaining an effective system for monitoring and compliance with legislation for biodiversity conservation and land management
- managing wildlife interactions to protect life and property and responding to nuisance and damage caused by wildlife
- implementing programs to improve the management of sandalwood.

4. Reducing impacts of key threatening processes, by:

- developing and implementing processes for listing key threatening processes
- ensuring appropriate monitoring and reporting is conducted to meet the ecosystem health and biodiversity key performance indicators in the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* and other key strategic documents
- reviewing and determining priorities for pest animal management, developing and conducting training, and undertaking actions to achieve conservation and protection of native fauna and other values, including through the *Western Shield* program and the *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2014-19*
- 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 and protection of native flora and other values
- reviewing and determining priorities for plant disease management, developing and conducting training, and undertaking actions to achieve conservation and protection of native flora and other values, including through programs to manage *Phytophthora dieback*, with a focus on identified protectable areas
- continuing to manage the threats of foxes and feral cats to native fauna in *Western Shield* areas, including integration of the Eradicat® feral cat bait, as appropriate
- 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 and other lands managed by the Department
- implementing strategic actions to improve the resilience of threatened terrestrial and marine species and ecological communities under predicted climate change settings
- continuing to provide effective, 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

biodiversity conservation and land management, through:

- ensuring that science programs prioritise and address gaps in knowledge in order to deliver improved management strategies implemented by the Department for effective conservation, protection and management of flora, fauna, ecological communities and conservation reserves
- 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 control and developing more effective control regimes
- continuing to plan and implement translocations focusing on high priority threatened flora and fauna and the development of success criteria
- continuing to use spatial analysis based approaches, including remote sensing to support biodiversity conservation and management
- undertaking fire science to support protection of life and property and the conservation of biodiversity in a changing climate and ensuring continuous improvement in knowledge and application of fire to support conservation and land management
- managing and curating the Western Australian Herbarium to improve representation of rare and poorly known taxa on and off 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
- managing the State's native seed collection to improve conservation of threatened taxa and restoration of degraded lands, and undertake research in seed biology
- undertaking research on population genetics, demography, eco-physiology and reproductive biology to improve management and conservation of threatened flora and fauna
- undertaking research to support restoration of disturbed and degraded land
- continuing to build partnerships and facilitating the development of models to determine the effects of human-induced climate change on biodiversity
- maintaining detection, diagnostic and mapping services for *Phytophthora* species.

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

- providing core services and information on all plants, algae and fungi in WA
- continuing to develop and support the implementation of a survey database to provide access to information on biodiversity
- developing a geographical database to deliver information on the distribution and management of weeds, pests and diseases that may affect conservation values, in order to measure management effectiveness and better target works programs
- 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 internal and public communications to enhance community understanding about the value of biodiversity and its conservation requirements and the positive

contribution that biodiversity makes to people's lives

- improving communication with stakeholders to ensure that conservation funding is targeted towards programs and actions that will provide high value conservation outcomes
- facilitating conservation actions on land not managed by the Department.

Table 3: Service 6 performance summary

	2018-19 target	2018-19 actual	Variance
Expenses by service	\$65,828,000	\$64,439,000	(\$1,389,000)
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat	\$2.08	\$2.04	(\$0.04)
Key effectiveness indicators			
Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan	72.00%	73.20%	1.20%
Area of land baited for introduced predators	4,347,107 hectares	4,110,063 hectares	(237,044 hectares)

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found in the *Disclosures and Legal Compliance* section under *Key performance indicators*



Performance highlights

Wildlife legislation, policy and strategic programs

- The Department finalised development of regulations to support full proclamation of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. The Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 were published on 14 September 2018 and came into effect on 1 January 2019 at which time the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929* were repealed. The Department has made significant progress in preparing supporting guidance documents to implement the regulations and continues to focus on education and awareness for those in the community affected by changes. Progress has been made on the development of a new online licensing system that will integrate the issue and management of licences, other authorisations and CEO approvals that relate to licences.
- The Department prepared *Biodiversity and Conservation Science Program Plans 2018-21* that identify research activities and key deliverables to achieve the goals of the *Science Strategic Plan 2018–21* and support the Department's *Strategic Directions 2018–21*.
- The Department provided information to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on protecting biodiversity for a climate change issues paper for the State.
- The Department continued to provide assistance to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions, particularly in relation to biodiversity conservation.
- The Department is developing an integrated species and ecological communities data management system to facilitate improved management of threatened species and communities. Phase 2 of the system was completed in June 2019.
- Biodiversity survey data continues to be added to BioSys, which is the primary repository for new biodiversity data sets within the Department. Legacy data sets are also being migrated to the new system, including important historical regional surveys, surveys of targeted areas, and a wide range of other data sets.

Establish and manage the conservation reserve system

- During 2018-19 three new conservation reserves were established and other conservation reserves had land added resulting in an increase in the State's conservation reserve system to 25,006,717 hectares.
- The Plan for Our Parks initiative commenced, whereby five million hectares of new and expanded parks and reserves will be created over the next five years, expanding the State's conservation estate by 20 per cent.
- Consultation commenced with traditional owners, conservation groups, the resource sector, pastoralists, neighbours, commercial and recreational fishers, local government authorities and other key stakeholders as part of preparing a refined Plan for Our Parks.
- Work also continued towards establishing new and expanded parks, including working to create a marine park and island national parks at the Buccaneer Archipelago, a Fitzroy River National Park, expansion of Wellington National Park, a Preston River to Ocean Regional Park and Leschenault Regional Park, additions to Beeliar Regional Park and proposed national parks at the Abrolhos Islands and along the Ningaloo Coast.
- Biodiversity conservation projects commenced to eradicate the Golden Crown Beard (*Verbesina enceliodes*), monitor Australian sea lion population and to recover the Abrolhos painted button-quail (*Turnix varius scintillans*) in the proposed Abrolhos Islands National Park.
- 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 on them. During 2018-19, planning and implementation of long-term monitoring in the Kimberley marine reserves continued, assessing ecological assets including coral communities, water quality, dolphins, turtles and crocodiles. Monitoring data was also collected for various ecological values including fish, coral, invertebrate fauna, seagrass, little penguins and deep reef communities at Rowley Shoals Marine Park, the Ningaloo Marine Reserves, Shark Bay Marine Reserves, Jurien Bay Marine Park, metropolitan marine reserves, Ngari Capes Marine Park, and Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park.

Threatened species listing

- The Department is a member of a national working group to implement a Memorandum of Understanding for a common assessment method for listing threatened species in a consistent manner between the Australian Government and States and Territories, with the objective of developing a single national threatened species list.
- Twenty-five species of flora and fauna had their status under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) changed as part of the process to align threatened species listed under the EPBC Act with threatened species listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. This brings the total number of species with changed EPBC Act status under this process to 74.
- The recommendations of the 2018 meeting of the WA Threatened Species Scientific Committee were endorsed by the Minister for Environment and the new threatened species lists were gazetted on 11 September 2018.
- On 1 January 2019 the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* threatened species lists (Specially Protected Fauna and Rare Flora as gazetted on 11 September 2018) were transitioned to be the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* lists of Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected Species (Fauna and Flora).

Threatened animals

- One extinct fauna species, Douglas's broad-headed bee (*Hesperocolletes douglasii*), was

rediscovered and transferred to the list of threatened (critically endangered) fauna. There were no other additions to the list of threatened fauna. Seven species of threatened fauna were moved to a higher threat category to align with the national status, one species had a change in listing criteria, and one species was added to the specially protected list of migratory fauna.

- Taxonomic revision resulted in two mammal species being added to the extinct fauna list - marl (*Perameles myosuros*) and Nullarbor barred bandicoot (*Perameles papillon*), neither species has been recorded alive in approximately 100 years.
- One additional species, Gould's mouse (*Pseudomys gouldii*), was removed from the extinct list due to re-identification of museum specimens as an extant (alive) species
- A summary of the changes to the Fauna Notice and the gazette notice are available on the Department's website.
- At 30 June 2019, there were 249 threatened fauna species (57 critically endangered, 58 endangered and 134 vulnerable), 23 extinct fauna species, 110 specially protected fauna species (seven conservation dependent, seven otherwise in need of special protection and 74 migratory) and 219 species on the Department's priority fauna list.
- There were 2690 records of sightings, captures or evidence of threatened and priority fauna added to the Threatened and Priority Fauna database.
- A recovery plan was approved for the Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) in WA. Research into their populations and habitat use continued and investigations commenced into the feasibility of trapping and satellite tagging to understand movements and ranges. A recovery team was formed to support implementation of the plan, research was undertaken to identify key habitat requirements and to determine the implications and potential responses to declining water depths in wetland habitats as a result of climate change.
- The national *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* (Commonwealth of Australia 2015) was adopted as an interim recovery plan for eight species of threatened migratory shorebirds visiting WA. Two multi-jurisdictional recovery plans, for the brush-tailed rabbit-rat (*Conilurus penicillatus*) and the central rock-rat (*Zyzomys pedunculatus*), prepared by the Northern Territory in consultation with the Department were endorsed and adopted as national recovery plans under the EPBC Act.
- The Department collaborated with DWER and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for further conservation of the critically endangered Margaret River hairy marron (*Cherax tenuimanus*).
- The Department coordinates fauna recovery teams to guide recovery actions for fauna species.
- With guidance from the western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) recovery team, Main Roads WA has undertaken a regional context survey for this critically endangered species to improve the understanding of its conservation status.
- Five additional western ground parrots (*Pezoporus flaviventris*) were captured to augment the captive populations at Perth Zoo and increase the chances of breeding success. Radio tracking of western ground parrots in the wild was undertaken concurrently, and will improve knowledge of this critically endangered bird's biology.
- The Department initiated a long-term monitoring program of the health of the Rottnest Island quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) population. The monitoring program will be undertaken annually for three years to determine the required frequency for longer term monitoring.

Threatened plants

- One species of flora was added to the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* list of specially protected (threatened) flora under the category of critically endangered, and three species have moved to a lower category of threat. A summary of the changes to the Rare Flora Notice and the gazette notice are available on the Department's website.
- At 30 June 2019, there were 429 extant threatened flora species (160 critically endangered, 140

endangered and 129 vulnerable), 15 listed as presumed to be extinct and 3279 taxa on the Department's priority flora list. One species listed as extinct was rediscovered and is now regarded as a threatened species under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* until formally considered for listing.

- A total of 842 populations, comprising 396 species of threatened and priority flora, were surveyed or monitored, and 69 new populations of threatened flora and 151 new populations of priority flora were located. Of the 556 records added to the Threatened and Priority Flora database, 116 were for new populations.
- A recovery plan was approved for one species of threatened flora and interim recovery plans were approved for five species of threatened flora.
- Management actions including weed control, fencing, signage, feral and pest animal control, vegetation management, habitat restoration, recruitment stimulation, dieback control, fire management, and investigations into fire response, pollinators, disease and population dynamics, were undertaken to protect 288 populations of 198 species of threatened and priority flora across the State.
- The number of plant specimens held at the Western Australian Herbarium increased by 1.37 per cent (a net increase of 10,862 specimens), bringing the number of specimens held to 802,107. A total of 423 names were added to the WA Plant Census. Names for 53 taxa were published in the Western Australian Herbarium journal *Nuytsia*.
- A total of 116 seed collections for 39 threatened species and 18 priority species were banked at the Western Australian Seed Centre; 97 of these collections were listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable; four collections were made for a species presumed to be extinct following discovery of an extant population. The Department continued to provide technical advice and assistance for projects involving seed collection and use. Collections of 10 critically endangered, three endangered and two vulnerable species were withdrawn from the seed bank and germinated for use in Department translocation projects. The seed bank now contains collections of 386 threatened flora and 877 priority flora.
- New populations of threatened plants continue to be established in areas free or largely free of key threats, with planting and monitoring at 13 translocation sites for ten species.
- The Department completed several prescribed burns to stimulate recruitment of threatened flora populations and regenerate senescing habitat in the Wheatbelt. Follow-up monitoring is being undertaken to determine their fire response and population dynamics, and the recovery of habitat.
- Genomic analysis of *Banksia biterax* was undertaken to inform conservation management of the very small Busselton populations.

Threatened ecological communities

- At 30 June 2019, there were 65 extant ecological communities listed as threatened through a non-statutory process (20 critically endangered, 17 endangered and 28 vulnerable), and four listed as collapsed. Another 393 ecological communities were on the priority list.
- The relevant sections of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* have now been proclaimed and provides the capacity for statutory listing of threatened ecological communities (TECs) in WA. The existing non-statutory list will be considered for listing under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- New occurrence information was added to the Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities database for 179 occurrences of TECs and priority ecological communities (PECs) distributed across the State, helping resolve the status of the PECs and providing improved information for land use planning. Surveys were completed in 53 occurrences of TECs and PECs throughout the State.
- Management actions including weed mapping and control, fencing, signage, feral and pest animal control, hydrological investigations, monitoring, revegetation, dieback control and fire management

were undertaken to protect 20 TECs and 10 PECs across the State.

- The *Rottnest Island Woodland Experience* (Management Plan) for the conservation and expansion of the Rottnest Woodlands threatened ecological community *Melaleuca lanceolata* and *Callitris preissii* was developed. The plan also aims to develop a woodland visitor attraction and a sustainable tourism funding initiative that generates income for implementation of the plan and maintenance of the Rottnest Woodlands.
- The effects of threatened flora translocation and vegetation burning on a priority banksia woodland community were investigated in a Wheatbelt nature reserve.
- Biological survey and mapping of a West Kimberley mound spring priority ecological community was completed, to help resolve its status and inform management.

Managing threats

- The Department continued to implement the *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2014–19*, with a focus on protecting native wildlife. The strategy also encompasses education and public awareness, and quarantine strategies to prevent the establishment of new satellite populations ahead of the frontline. The Department has refocused the cane toad program to implement research outcomes, including taste aversion training of threatened northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) and other vulnerable taxa.
- The Department continued to support a coordinated corella control project to manage introduced white corellas in the Perth metropolitan and south-west areas. The project is overseen by the Corella Coordination Working Group, chaired by the WA Local Government Association with representatives from local government, DPIRD and BirdLife WA.
- Critically endangered flora and ecological communities were treated aerially with phosphite to protect them from the impacts of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, including the critically endangered Busselton ironstone threatened ecological community. Barriers around an infestation on the Bell Track have prevented the spread of *P. cinnamomi* to date.
- The Department continued to enhance its dieback management capacity with:
 - training delivered to support deployment of the Phytophthora Dieback Management Manual;
 - Green Card training for 98 DBCA and Forest Products Commission staff, and external proponents; since 2014, 1038 people have undertaken Green Card training; and
 - Dieback Management Planning training for 12 DBCA staff, private sector dieback interpreters and personnel from natural resource management groups. The total number of people who have completed this training is now 165.
- The Department's Vegetation Health Service (VHS) continued its collaboration with the Murdoch University Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management on the identification of Phytophthora species. The VHS tested 1235 samples.
- The Department partnered with Main Roads WA on three projects to improve options for access to uninfested basic raw materials for road building to minimise the spread of Phytophthora dieback.
- The Department sponsored the annual Dieback Information Group Conference organised by the Dieback Working Group, and continued to provide annual point data for Phytophthora dieback samples to maintain the Dieback Information Delivery and Management System (a system to aid in education and inform dieback management across tenures) developed under Project Dieback.
- DBCA collaborated with DPIRD on biosecurity preparedness for possible myrtle rust (a fungal plant pathogen) incursion into WA, by participating in training and undertaking surveillance.
- In February 2019, DBCA partnered with Plant Health Australia to host the Enhancing Biosecurity to Protect Western Australia's Forests seminar to kickstart work for the National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Strategy.
- Staff from Kimberley Region and Biodiversity and Conservation Science conducted an annual landscape scale adaptive management program (prescribed fire, introduced herbivore cull and weed control) combined with monitoring and evaluation, to improve conservation outcomes for

threatened iconic critical weight range mammals in the Kimberley.

- 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.
- Mobile mapping software applications were implemented 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.
- The Department continued to negotiate with recognised recreational hunting and shooting groups to undertake pest animal control work to complement strategic management and conservation outcomes. The Department worked with groups to manage pest animals in Avon Valley National Park, Walyunga National Park and Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. The Regional Parks Unit is currently undertaking work on feral deer with the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia.
- The Department continued to participate in wild dog management in the eastern and central Wheatbelt through declared species groups, and in the rangelands with recognised biosecurity groups, to ensure a coordinated landscape-wide approach to minimising the impact of wild dogs on pastoral production and biodiversity.
- The Department collaborated with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy to develop draft National Light Pollution Guidelines that will reduce impacts to sea turtles and birds.
- Technical information was provided by the Department on reserves, species, ecosystems and landscapes to facilitate environmental impact assessment, regulation of land clearing and land use planning.
- The Department continued to monitor water quality of ground and surface waters associated with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* Operating Licences for the wastewater treatment plant and Forbes Hill landfill on Rottnest Island.
- Detailed site investigations for the Forbes Hill Landfill were completed to determine the nature and extent of groundwater and receiving water bodies, update site conceptual model, determine any risks to human and ecological receptors under the current land use and identify potential future monitoring priorities.
- The Department continued revegetation of a Salt Lake bank to improve quality of fringing vegetation and provide a buffer function to priority microbial and coastal saltmarsh ecological communities on Rottnest Island.
- A long-term prescribed burn program to regenerate senescing vegetation and maintain biodiversity was developed for several nature reserves at Tarin Rock. The process was completed using the Wheatbelt Region's Fire Regime Optimisation Planning System tool. The long-term absence of fire from many Wheatbelt reserves is an emerging consideration in managing biodiversity.

Western Shield

- The *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program continued to implement broadscale fox and feral cat control for native animal conservation across a network of sites in WA. About 3.7 million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest were baited as part of the core program. The total area baited for foxes and feral cats as part of *Western Shield* and related projects (externally funded) was about 4 million hectares involving the use of approximately 584,000 fox baits and 572,000 Eradicat® feral cat baits.
- Regular monitoring of baited areas continued to track the recovery of native species.
- There are currently more than 5000 volunteers registered on the *Western Shield* – Camera Watch webpage, hosted by Zooniverse. Collectively volunteers have provided more than one million classifications, contributing substantially to our ability to understand the activity of native and introduced species in the northern jarrah forest.

Wildlife sanctuaries and translocations

- Monitoring of woylies (*Bettongia penicillata*) and numbats (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) continued inside the Dryandra Woodland Sanctuary, a 1000-hectare predator-proof enclosure in the proposed Dryandra Woodland National Park. This indicated high survivorship of founders and ongoing breeding inside the sanctuary. Five malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) were also released into the sanctuary. Remote camera surveillance has not detected any incursions by feral cats or foxes.
- 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 (*Isodon auratus*) and boodie (*Bettongia lesueur*) continue to be monitored. All species are breeding and golden bandicoots are persisting outside the fenced enclosure. Martu traditional owners and the Department will continue to jointly manage this property on the Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara Indigenous Protected Area for conservation and cultural purposes.
- Perup Sanctuary continued to support robust populations of threatened woylies, numbats, chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*) and western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*). Ongoing monitoring of recent western ringtail possum translocations show signs of recruitment.
- Nangeen Sanctuary, located in Nangeen Hill Nature Reserve, continued to protect an important population of the black-flanked rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis lateralis*) in the Wheatbelt.
- A translocation of noisy scrub-birds (*Atrichornis clamosus*) from Bald Island to Mondrian Island was conducted to trial establishment of a second predator-free island population.
- The Perth Zoo breeding program continued to produce numbats, dibblers (*Parantechinus apicalis*) and western swamp tortoises (*Pseudemydura umbrina*) for wild release at sites in WA. A program to rear orange-bellied frogs (*Geocrinia vitellina*) and white-bellied frogs (*Geocrinia alba*) was also undertaken to supplement wild populations near Margaret River.
- Seventeen critically endangered western swamp tortoise were translocated from Perth Zoo to Meerup (D'Entrecasteaux National Park) in stage two of an assisted colonisation trial.
- In August 2018, 12 western swamp tortoises, fitted with data loggers to record behavioural information for researchers, were released into the Ellen Brook Nature Reserve. The trial is enabling researchers to compare tortoises of similar age, genetics and history to tortoises being released at other nature reserves containing populations of the species.
- After the success of the trial translocation, Dirk Hartog Island National Park received an additional 50 rufous-hare wallabies (*Lagorchestes hirsutus* subsp. (Central Australia)) and 90 banded-hare wallabies (*Lagostrophus fasciatus fasciatus*) from Bernier and Dorre Islands. Monitoring is showing females are now producing young.

Marine science

- Research to address key management-related knowledge gaps regarding ecological processes, key pressures, along with biological surveys were carried out in marine reserves at Ningaloo, Shark Bay, Ngari Capes and in the Perth metropolitan area.
- The *Dolphin Watch* app was expanded to include Roebuck Bay, and a dolphin fin identification book was published to facilitate community participation in the monitoring of dolphin species in the Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park. Structured dolphin surveys were also conducted in Roebuck Bay and Prince Regent River.
- Research into resident flatback turtles at their foraging grounds began to investigate how environmental drivers influence turtle distribution, movement and foraging ranges.
- The Rottnest Seagrass Monitoring Program was implemented by the West Australian Divers for Diversity Inc, which aims to develop a benchmark to enable long term monitoring and reporting on the viability of seagrass meadows in the Rottnest Island Reserve.
- The Rottnest reef fish surveys continued to be implemented by Reef Life Survey to provide for a long-term monitoring program for reef fish in the waters around Rottnest Island.

Rivers and estuaries science

- The Department continued to partner with the University of Western Australia to address key data requirements of the Swan Canning Estuarine Response Model and develop a virtual observatory for the estuary.
- The 2018 condition assessment of the Swan and Canning estuary based on the fish community index identified an improvement in ecological condition compared with 2017, when the estuary was impacted by atypical summer river flows. The Swan Canning Acoustic Array (30 acoustic receivers deployed throughout the estuary) continued to provide valuable information on fish movement relative to water quality and major in-river barriers.
- Stock assessment of western school prawns indicated success of restocking and confirmed the decimating effects of unseasonal weather conditions in 2016-17.
- Non-nutrient contaminants in water, sediments and biota, continued to be investigated to inform management of the river system and provide consumption guidance for recreational fishers.
- Water quality and biotic sampling was conducted in response to a toxic algal bloom in the Swan estuary. The *Alexandrium* bloom, led to the Department of Health issuing a health warning to advise the public to not consume fish, crabs or shellfish from the affected areas of the estuary. Investigations of algal control approaches were undertaken and new tools for water quality assessment were investigated.
- Scientific support was provided for hydrological and nutrient remodelling of coastal catchments. Investigations were undertaken to provide management advice on water releases for the Helena River.

Wetlands

- The Department is collaborating with the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council to assess suitability of Crown land buffering the Peel-Yalgorup System Ramsar site as a boundary extension.
- Preliminary assessments to determine the status of the Muir-Byenup System and the Lake Gore Ramsar sites have been completed, and a draft report has been completed for the Vasse-Wonnerup System Ramsar site.
- In the Muir-Byenup System Ramsar site, a project continued to investigate the resilience of peat wetlands under a drying climate and assess risks from acidification. This work will inform fire management around other peat wetlands and contribute to a better understanding of the hydrology of this important wetland suite and other similar wetland areas.
- A waterbird survey report was completed for the Ord River Floodplains Ramsar site over the dry season of 2018. This was the area's first comprehensive waterbird survey since the 1980s.
- At Toolibin Lake, monitoring of catchment hydrology and biodiversity continued. Regular works and maintenance to the groundwater pumping system on the floor of the lake have contributed to greater pumping volumes, and 8000 native seedlings were planted on conservation reserves and private property situated upslope of Toolibin Lake. High resolution topographic data has been acquired and quality assured to assist in managing surface water, while a three-dimensional hydrogeological model is being developed to help assess the groundwater pumping program.
- Following a filling event at Toolibin Lake in 2017, waterbirds and aquatic invertebrates were surveyed to determine the wetland's ability to support these values after 20 years of drought. A report on the hydrology of the 2017 filling event was completed and an investigation into the effects of this event on salt storage in the lake's sediment profile was commenced.
- A report on the 2017 biological survey and mapping of springs supporting priority ecological communities in the Kimberley Region was completed and will assist with decision-making around

groundwater resource management.

- Monitoring of littoral vegetation spatial cover, shore birds, water quality and frogs on Rottnest Island wetlands continued.

Forest science

- Monitoring of plant and invertebrate communities continued at seven FORESTCHECK grids burnt in 2015 by the Lower Hotham bushfire. Monitoring of the understorey vegetation was also undertaken on three grids at Dwellingup and nine grids in the southern jarrah forest.
- The effects of timber harvesting and fire history on coarse woody debris (CWD) in the jarrah forest were modelled using data from 48 FORESTCHECK monitoring grids. The accumulated volume of CWD was greater at sites subject to timber harvesting and prescribed burning, and lower at sites that had experienced repeated summer bushfires.
- Research to inform silvicultural practices and potential adaptation strategies under a drying climate continued, with the Yarragil 4L experimental catchment east of Dwellingup being thinned to investigate the effectiveness of silvicultural treatments for maintaining streamflow and groundwater levels under current climate settings. Monitoring of groundwater bores in the Warren Region continued.
- Findings from a 30-year experimental study comparing the response of jarrah forest understorey plants to different regimes of prescribed fire were published in a scientific paper.

Off reserve conservation

- The partnership agreement with Natural Resource Management (NRM) WA for the delivery of the *Land for Wildlife* conservation program is now well established, and a project to improve access to program information is underway. The program registered 23 new properties, bringing the total area of registered sites managed privately for conservation to 677,037 hectares over 1944 properties.
- The voluntary Nature Conservation Covenant Program registered 13 new covenants (seven conditional and six voluntary). Through the program, covenants have been established on 350 titles covering 27,273 hectares, including habitat for threatened species and ecological communities, a Ramsar-listed wetland and registered Aboriginal heritage sites.
- The Department's Urban Nature work group collaborated with community groups, private landholders, local governments, State Government agencies, schools and universities to facilitate best practice management of urban bushland. Staff held field days, restoration trials, workshops, nature walks, gave presentations and published a quarterly newsletter to support community involvement in bushland conservation.
- The Roadside Conservation Committee met four times during the year and undertook a range of activities to raise awareness of roadside conservation and engage with stakeholders, including providing training for five local governments, attending three WALGA road forums, and speaking to a rural Local Government Professional Association. Four guidance documents and a brochure on Wildflower drives in the south west were drafted and reviewed by the committee.

Sustainable use of natural resources

- The *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in Western Australia 2019-2023* was declared as an approved wildlife trade management plan by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment. The plan applies from 1 January 2019 and will ensure the continued sustainable commercial harvest of western grey and red kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus* and *M. rufus*) in WA. Quotas will continue to be set for each management region.
- The Management of commercial flora harvesting continued to be regulated under the State

management plan *Management of Commercial Harvesting of Protected Flora in Western Australia 2018 – 2023*, which was also approved by the Federal Government.

- Three prosecutions were initiated. These involved nine charges covering a broad range of offences including the illegal taking or possession of protected and rare fauna and cruelty to fauna. Over the year, 624 offences were reported, with 98 per cent of these dealt with by way of infringement or caution notices.*

Licensing

- To support the sustainable use of wildlife, the Department issued 6201 licences to take, collect, keep and breed, deal in, trap, import or export native animals, and 1322 licences to collect native plants. A further 940 licences were issued to either scare, destroy, trap or relocate nuisance wildlife or dangerous wildlife and wildlife causing damage.*

* Reporting of these figures is made under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* or the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and associated Biodiversity Conservations Regulations 2018 which came into force on 1 January 2019.

For information about prosecutions under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and associated regulations please see the *Supporting our Department* section under *Legal matters*



Western Shield fauna trapping in Cape Arid National Park.

Service 7: Conservation Partnerships



Responsibilities

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

The desired outcome of the service is that plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation utilises evidence-based science and effective partnerships.

The priorities of this service in 2018-19 were:

- 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 Commonwealth and State Government agencies, natural resource management bodies, traditional owner representative bodies, local government, non-government organisations and community groups to leverage additional funding to support Departmental priorities
- effectively managing 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, climate change, 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 biodiversity conservation and land management.



Yuna Spider Orchid (Caladenia pluvialis), Photo – Andrew Brown

Strategies and key activities

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2018-19. The service is delivered by multiple divisions, services and Statutory Authorities across the Department.

1. Developing, negotiating and improving partnerships to leverage additional funding to support government and Departmental priorities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, by:

- developing and maintaining good working relationships with a range of organisations, groups and stakeholders involved or interested in biodiversity conservation, including WABSI and WAMSI
- continuing to apply for external funds to deliver on-ground management, monitoring and research that improves 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 and Departmental priorities
- implementing externally funded projects, including development project offsets, as agreed under governance and other arrangements, meeting agreed milestones and outcomes.

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

- progressively implementing priority conservation and science actions in marine reserve management plans
- progressively implementing priority conservation and science actions in terrestrial reserve management plans or taking action to effectively manage terrestrial reserves through other appropriate mechanisms
- continuing to effectively manage World Heritage-listed areas through the implementation of collaborative conservation management programs across various tenures
- working with traditional owners to implement priority conservation and science actions on Indigenous Protected Areas and jointly managed conservation estate.

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 biodiversity management 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 through 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 (e.g. climate variability, secondary salinity, acidification and eutrophication) on biodiversity and other values on CALM Act and jointly managed land
- implementing strategic actions to improve the resilience of threatened terrestrial and marine species and ecological communities under predicted climate change settings.

5. Undertaking targeted scientific investigations and integrating science knowledge into biodiversity conservation and land management, by:

- ensuring that externally funded science programs are aligned with government priorities to address gaps in knowledge in order to deliver improved management strategies implemented by the Department for effective conservation, protection and management of flora, fauna, ecological communities and conservation reserves
- undertaking research on population genetics, demography, eco-physiology, seed biology and reproductive ecology to improve management and conservation of threatened flora and fauna
- undertaking research to support restoration of disturbed and degraded land
- continuing to deliver the Dirk Hartog Island National Park Ecological Restoration Project (*Return to 1616*), according to the project plan
- 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 biodiversity and conservation reserve management, including joint management with traditional owners
- undertaking research on the marine environment and in the Swan Canning Riverpark, including large fauna, to inform and improve management programs
- undertaking breeding of native animals to support conservation, where required
- continuing to deliver the Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program
- continuing to undertake research and monitoring, including the use of GIS based approaches, to inform the development and delivery of landscape scale management
- continuing to facilitate the development of models to determine the effects of human-induced climate change on biodiversity.

Table 4: Service 7 performance summary

	2018-19 target	2018-19 actual	Variance
Expenses by service	\$32,302,000	\$21,729,000	(\$10,573,000)
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat	\$ 1.02	\$0.69	(\$0.33)

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found in the *Disclosures and Legal Compliance* section under *Key performance indicators*



Nancy Donega, Minyma Uninpa – The Seed Women, completing biology and ecology training at the WA Herbarium

Performance highlights

Strategic partnerships

- The Department is a partner in the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Northern Australian Environment Resources Hub and continued 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 also commenced a bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) project in the Fitzroy Catchment with traditional owners.
- 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 improved threatened plant reintroduction and species recovery; fire and introduced predator management; improving threatened species assessments and developing a national threatened species index and a Red Hot List for imperilled plants; translocation, reintroduction and fencing for threatened fauna; and conserving species on islands including predicting the spread of cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) to Kimberley islands.
- The WAMSI Kimberley Marine Research Program has been completed, with final reports for 23 integrated science projects and a program synthesis report available online. The program has provided new information on marine biodiversity, habitats, ecological processes and human use across the Kimberley and the findings are being shared with managers and stakeholders, including traditional owners, to facilitate this knowledge being integrated into management and to identify any further knowledge gaps.
- WABSI continued to facilitate the implementation of a research program for subterranean fauna; collaboratively completed a framework for developing site-based completion criteria; progressed a CRC bid for achieving sustainable mine closure; and contributed to an index of biological surveys undertaken for impact assessments. The Department is a foundation member of WABSI and provides a part-time program director.
- Discussions continued with the Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation (TMPAC) over the joint management of Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara (MKK) Indigenous Protected Area. The Department continued to liaise with the TMPAC and MKK management team over the research undertaken at Matuwa.

- The Department is a partner in three Bioplatforms Australia initiatives, Oz Mammals Genomics, Genomics of Australian Plants, and Australian Microbiome. These initiatives are providing genomics resources to support animal, plant and microbe conservation.
- The Department entered into a collaborative project agreement with CSIRO to coordinate the Land Monitor Project, which currently produces vegetation cover change datasets for the south-west and is progressing coverage to the remainder of the State.
- As a partner in the Minyma Uninypa – the Seed Women project funded through the State Government’s Aboriginal Ranger Program, the Department continued to provide seed biology and ecology training to a group of Spinifex Women Rangers.

Biological surveys

- Surveys of flora and fauna in two important wetland complexes in the Kimberley Region (Nimalarragan near Broome and Dragon Tree Soak in the Great Sandy Desert) were undertaken with traditional owners with joint funding from the Yawuru Park Council.
- An additional 1065 plant specimens were lodged with the Western Australian Herbarium from recent flora surveys including from the Fortescue Valley survey, Nimalarragan and isotope vouchers from South West Australian Transitional Transect.
- A survey of rare flora in the La Grange area, which is being investigated for agricultural development by DPIRD, was published. This work, funded by DPIRD and undertaken in collaboration with Karajarri Rangers and Kimberley Land Council, Nyangumarta Rangers and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, Yawuru Country Managers and Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd, resolved some taxonomic issues with the flora species in question (particularly the genus *Seringia*) and provided new information with which to reassess their conservation status.
- The vertebrate component of a biological survey of the Peterswald 1:100000 map sheet, funded by the Australian Government’s Black Spot survey program, was published, providing critical information for this poorly known part of the Great Victoria Desert.
- Structural vegetation mapping was completed for the new Walyarta Conservation Park to inform ongoing management of the reserve. This was undertaken with BHP Environmental Offsets funding and with assistance from the Karajarri and Nyangumarta traditional owners. A report presenting a hydrogeological conceptualisation of the Walyarta Springs (Eighty Mile Beach Ramsar site) was completed, contributing to management of water use in the West Canning Basin aquifers. A program to monitor surface water around the springs was commenced as a contribution to understanding water balance of the broader wetland system.
- Prioritisation of conservation actions for wetlands in the Pilbara’s Fortescue Valley is underway and supported by the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund.
- The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) continued a collaborative project with the Department to assess the feasibility of using BioSys software within their biodiversity data workflow.
- The Department reported on a survey undertaken in collaboration with Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa and Metals X with support from Nifty mining targeting threatened species in and around Karlamilyi National Park that identified new populations of quolls and black-flanked rock wallabies.
- Region-wide targeted survey for bilby in the La Grange Irrigated Agriculture Project Area was completed in collaboration with Karajarri and Nyangumarta Rangers, Yawuru Country Managers, the Kimberley Land Council and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation. Funds to support the surveys were provided by the Water for Food program via DPIRD.
- Marine biological surveys of corals, fish, seagrass, and algae both within and outside of marine reserves were undertaken with partners at CSIRO, the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and universities.
- A partnership with Gondwana Link and the University of Western Australia (UWA), with funding from an Australian Research Council Linkages grant, has shown effective genomic diversity and

mating systems function has been established in the Gondwana Link restoration sites.

Threatened and important animals

- The North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program, funded through the Gorgon Project, aims to increase conservation of the North West Shelf flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*) population. The Department continued turtle nesting monitoring at Thevenard and Delambre islands, 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 survey data from the Pilbara was analysed to identify the distribution of nesting flatback turtles. A highlight this year was the discovery of flatback turtles that are accessible to researchers in their foraging grounds, which is a first for this species.
- Vessel-based surveys of bottlenose (*Tursiops aduncus*), Indo-Pacific humpback (*Sousa sahalensis*) and potentially Australian snubfin (*Orcaella heinsohni*) dolphins in Pilbara coastal waters were conducted at Roebuck Bay and Prince Regent River. Vessel-based surveys focused on the Dampier Archipelago will continue as part of offset projects associated with the Wheatstone and Pluto developments, and further Kimberley surveys are scheduled for 2019-20. Findings from these surveys will inform the conservation status of these species, serve as a baseline for monitoring programs and inform future environmental impact assessments.
- An aerial survey of dugong in the Shark Bay Marine Park and World Heritage Area and Ningaloo Marine Park was conducted in June 2018 as part of the Wheatstone offset program. The final report and analysis looking at trends over time in comparison to seagrass loss was finalised in June 2019.
- A boat-based survey of protected saltwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) was conducted in the Drysdale River in August 2018. Genetic samples were collected to determine population connectivity across northern Australia, and abundance and distribution data was also collected.
- The Department commenced a four-year partnership with Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) to deliver Numbat Neighbourhood – Supporting people to Protect the Vulnerable Noombat wioo (Numbat, *Myrmecobius fasciatus*) in the wild around Dryandra Woodland. The project supports activities both on and off reserve to manage and protect numbat habitat and control feral predators. This project is supported by the PHCC through funding from the Australian Government National Landcare Program.
- The Farmers for Fauna project, a collaboration between the Department, PHCC and Project Numbat, continued to engage landholders around Dryandra in feral predator control.
- The final translocation of twenty-five black-flanked rock-wallabies to Kalbarri National Park was undertaken, bringing the total to 75 founders over the last three years. The Department, with support from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Australia, continued to monitor the establishing population of black-flanked rock wallabies released into the park.
- A partnership with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) continued to support the reintroduction of threatened species into the Mount Gibson Sanctuary. Six of the eight species that are now establishing secure populations at Mt Gibson were sourced from WA wild populations.
- An extensive survey and monitoring program across several Wheatbelt reserves for red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) was successfully completed by staff from AWC during April and May 2018. Enough individuals were trapped to support a translocation to the AWC's Mt Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary and to establish a captive breeding program involving both the Northern Territory and South Australia.
- In partnership with WWF-Australia and with financial support from San Diego Zoo Global, the Department continued to survey and monitor the recovery of the quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) population near Northcliffe. A collaborative research project between the Department and the University of Western Australia on quokka populations in the northern jarrah forest commenced.

- The Department's involvement in the Australian Research Council Linkage Project Buffering the Impacts of Cane Toads continued with further work underway in the Kimberley to address the impacts of cane toads on Western Australian reptiles and mammals.
- In partnership with the South West Catchments Council, the western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) population translocated into Perup Sanctuary continued to be monitored.
- Surveys and 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, further demonstrating that cat activity was reduced and that northern quolls were most likely not at risk of consuming Eradicat® feral cat baits.
- Surveys for northern quoll, bilby, black-flanked rock wallaby, Pilbara leaf-nosed bat and other threatened species continue to be undertaken across the Western Desert with support from the Martu Traditional Owners, Birriliburru rangers, Kirrikurra rangers and Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa.
- Surveys for bilby on the Dampier Peninsula by the Nyul Nyul, Yawuru, Goolarabooloo, Jabirr Jabirr and Nyikina Mangala rangers continued with offset funding support from Main Roads WA.
- Support continued for citizen science projects such as BirdLife Australia's Great Cocky Count and Shorebirds 2020 surveys, GeoCatch's Western Ringtail Possum Tally (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) and WWF Australia's Spring Quenda Count (*Isoodon fusciventer*) and Rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) Community survey.
- Research continued into habitat use and migratory patterns of Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and the forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) in partnership with Murdoch University and UWA. Research has identified many previously unknown roosting and feeding sites across multiple locations in the northern jarrah forest and Swan Coastal Plain.
- Monitoring of natural and artificial breeding hollows for Carnaby's cockatoo continued at important breeding sites, in partnership with BirdLife Australia and CSIRO. Monitoring indicates relatively high rates of uptake of artificial hollows at established breeding sites.
- A further trial translocation of Gilbert's potoroo (*Potorous gilbertii*) to Middle Island in the Recherche Archipelago was undertaken in partnership with the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group and with funding from the Australian Government, with more potoroos released onto Middle Island to determine the longer-term suitability of the site.
- A genetic assessment of ghost bats in the Pilbara was undertaken in partnership with Biologic and funded by BHP.
- With supported by South Coast NRM, a trial translocation of noisy scrub-birds (*Artichornis clamosus*) was carried out from Bald Island, to predator-free Mondrain Island.
- The relationship between prescribed fire and quokkas in the northern jarrah forest is being explored with support from the Forest Enhancement Funding program and Murdoch University. This research will inform burning strategies to effectively manage these fragmented quokka populations.
- Threatened fauna recovery was facilitated through the coordination of species-based recovery teams that include government, industry and community members.

Threatened and important plants

- The Western Australian Herbarium's Pilbara plant identification program, a partnership with Rio Tinto, continued to provide an authoritative identification service to industry.
- The Department's Western Australian Seed Centre continued to be involved in the Australian Seedbank Partnership and international seed conservation projects, such as the Global Trees Project and the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership. The Seed Centre worked with staff and

students at the Woodlupine Primary School to establish a seed production area for threatened and conservation significant species.

- As part of the Federal Government's Threatened Species Strategy, the Department completed recovery actions, including translocations, survey and protection of populations, for four critically endangered flora species.
- The Department continued the Rare Flora Search and Rescue Project and provided training to six volunteers taking the total to 61 Departmental volunteers trained in the use of Flora Collector, a smart phone app for surveying threatened and priority flora. The volunteers used the app to improve knowledge about the number of populations and plants for a further eight priority plant species. Results of the surveys contributed to the preparation of nominations of five priority flora species as Threatened and down-grading recommendations for a further five species. Vouchers for the 36 new populations of 20 Priority species were lodged with the Herbarium and spatial data submitted to NatureMap and the threatened priority flora species database.
- Threatened flora and vegetation-based threatened ecological community recovery was facilitated through the coordination of regional recovery teams that include government, industry and community members.
- Genetic analysis of *Leptospermum* species is being undertaken through the Cooperative Research Centre for Honey Bee Products.
- A partnership with Mineral Resources Limited (formerly with Cliffs Natural Resources) continues to investigate the conservation and translocation requirements of the threatened short-range endemic plant species *Tetratheca erubescens* that is associated with a banded ironstone formations.
- In its final year, the five-year Restoration Seedbank partnership, a Kings Park Science collaboration with BHP and UWA, has delivered seed and soil technologies to improve plant establishment of WA's arid zone flora for use in mine site restoration programs.
- The Global Innovation Linkage Project, a Kings Park Science collaboration with BHP, Rio Tinto, UWA, and Greening Australia has further developed the design and engineering of mechanised seeding equipment, linked to advances in seed technologies, to improve direct seeding of native species onto mine rehabilitation substrates including waste rock dumps.

Managing threats

- Continued the implementation of an Australian Research Council project *Circumnavigating demographic processes* that limit seagrass restoration in partnership with UWA. The objective is to develop large-scale collection, storage, culturing, and remote seafloor delivery process for restoration of seagrasses.
- With sponsorship from Alcoa of Australia, 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.
- In partnership with the Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation, monitoring and evaluation has demonstrated the benefits of fine-grain landscape-scale prescribed burning for threatened and iconic north Kimberley mammals including specialist native rodents (e.g. *Conilurus penicillatus*, *Zygomys woodwardi*) and marsupials (*Dasyurus hallucatus*, *Isoodon macrourus*, *Sminthopsis virginiae*).
- In partnership with the east Kimberley Balangarra rangers, Charles Darwin University, World Wild Fund for Nature and Save the Gouldian Foundation, a project has been initiated to develop optimal prescribed burning practises for threatened Gouldian finches. This includes new radio tracking technologies to elucidate habitat use by these small, mobile birds to identify fire management necessary to maintain key resources within tropical savannas.
- 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 free of goats in November 2017, and eradication of feral cats was officially completed in October 2018. The project has entered the second stage that focuses on the reconstruction of native fauna on the island. Monitoring surveys of source populations, vegetation change, threatened bird species, weed management and community engagement continued. A further translocation of two threatened species, the rufous hare-wallaby (*Lagorchestes hirsutus bernieri*) and banded hare-wallaby (*Lagostrophus fasciatus*), was undertaken with follow-up monitoring showing breeding is occurring.

- A project investigating the hydrological functioning of the largest remaining river flat in the Perth metropolitan area (Ashfield Flats) was commenced with support from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, to inform possible nutrient and contaminant mitigation interventions.
- The Department and Perth NRM are working collaboratively with local friends and landcare groups through Regional Land Partnerships grants to protect and recover threatened species and ecological communities at Greater Brixton Street, Paganoni Swamp at Rockingham Regional Park, Talbot Road Nature Reserve, Bullsbrook Nature Reserve and Lake Wannamal/Mogumber Nature Reserve. Threat assessment and mapping, vegetation mapping for threatened ecological communities, restoration planting and seed collection and weed and feral animal management have been undertaken at these sites. This has included undertaking trials of weed management techniques for the only known population of the critically endangered *Ptilotus pyramidatus*.
- In collaboration with the Shire of Mundaring and the Jane Brook Catchment Group, the Department carried out weed control to enhance threatened species habitat in Talbot Road Nature Reserve, John Forrest National Park, and Leschenaultia Conservation Park. The project also included fauna surveys, vegetation condition mapping, pest control and revegetation. The Department partnered with Perth NRM to protect habitat and populations of *Drakea elastica* at Rockingham Lakes Regional Park through the installation of limestone access tracks to prevent spread of dieback.
- The Department worked collaboratively with the PHCC to secure State NRM funding for Phase I of the Saving Lake McLarty project. This project sits within the PHCC National Landcare Program (NLP2): Science and Waterways Program and includes a hydrology feasibility study (including groundwater assessment), assessment of acid sulphate soil risks, migratory wader bird monitoring, as well as feral pest and weed control. This work complements the purchase of a property in the south-east corner of the nature reserve during 2018 to safeguard existing flows of water into the lake and provide opportunities to improve water quality through drainage improvement.
- Coordination of the Banksia Woodland Restoration Project continued and is in the process of transitioning to an operational management and long-term monitoring status. The project is funded through Jandakot Airport environmental offsets funds. The project has restored 50 hectares of banksia woodland established through topsoil transfer, planting and direct seeding to provide new feeding habitat for the endangered Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), controlled major environmental weeds across 23 reserves, and implemented a monitoring framework using ground-based and remote sensing data to assess the longer-term effects of weed control and bushfire on banksia woodland biodiversity and condition.
- The Department is working with Peel-Harvey Catchment Council on an NLP2 funded Banksia Woodlands (TEC) mapping project to conserve high quality bushland through access control, weed control rubbish removal and in conjunction with local governments seek to consolidate or reroute unmade road that bisects these areas of Banksia Woodland.
- A partnership with Greening Australia's Three Rivers project has continued restoration work on the Serpentine River at Lowlands Nature Reserve to improve habitat for the endangered freshwater mussel, chuditch and rakali as well as a range of native fish declining in other river systems on the Swan Coastal Plain.

- The Department continued its collaboration with CSIRO on the impacts of stinking passionflower on freshwater crocodile breeding habitat in Lake Kununurra.
- The Department is collaborating with CSIRO on a Gorgon Barrow Island Net Conservation Fund project to investigate the genetics and ecology of the major weed stinking passionflower, to inform development of a biological control agent.
- In collaboration with AIMS, CSIRO and universities, the Department continued to assess the impacts of heatwaves on major habitat forming corals, seagrass and seaweeds.
- The Department is collaborating with Murdoch University to investigate the historic condition of fish assemblages and how these have changed with increasing fishing pressure in metropolitan marine parks.
- The Healthy Wetland Habitats program, supported by offsets funding from Main Roads WA, is working with 14 landholders with voluntary management agreements to protect 455 hectares of wetland.
- A detailed flora and vegetation survey, weed and tree mapping, and recommendations for future work were completed for Ashfield Flats saltmarsh threatened ecological community with funding support from Perth Region NRM.
- Foxes were controlled along the coast of Mundabullangana Station, which hosts one of the three largest flatback turtle rookeries in Australia
- Access to the lake floor of Toolibin Lake was possible for the first time since the fill event in February 2017. Critically, this allowed repairs to a breach in the bund wall of the diversion channel and construction of a sacrificial 'plug' to prevent a future breach. This project was supported by the South West Catchment Council through funding from the Australian Government National Landcare Program.
- The Roadside Conservation Committee, with funding support from Main Roads WA, continued to develop education materials, and provide training to road and rail managers, to minimise potential impacts to adjacent vegetation.



Bombala Forest Block near Dwellingup. Photo – Nathan Ashburner/DBCA

Service 8: Implementation of the Forest Management Plan



Responsibilities

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.

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

The desired outcome of the service is management of the State's plants and animals and the lands and water under the Department's care for tourism, water and wood production, and other approved uses.

The overall priorities for 2018-19 related to implementing the requirements of the *Forest Management Plan 2014–23* (FMP), and ecologically sustainable management of the range of forest values and uses. This included providing a range of on-ground works, technical support and services to the Forest Products Commission (FPC) under annual works agreements. The priorities for this service in 2018-19 were:

- focusing resources on addressing the requirements of the FMP, with consideration to weed, pest animal and disease management (including *Phytophthora dieback*) issues
- refining monitoring, research and data collection and analysis to facilitate reporting on the FMP key performance indicators for the preparation of the FMP mid-term review of performance report
- leading and providing technical support for the process to extend the Regional Forest Agreement for the South West of WA
- providing targeted advice on proposed developments and planned operations, including plantation and native forest timber harvesting, mining companies and utilities
- contributing to biodiversity research and monitoring programs (including through FORESTCHECK)
- 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 to support the ongoing delivery of sustainable forest products industry in Western Australia

- 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
- providing coupe-level harvest planning, field survey, dieback interpretation and resource evaluation services to FPC.
- analysing timber resource availability for industry development options in the native forest products sector.



Strategies and key activities

The service outcome is delivered by several 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 the Department and 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
- providing specialist services, including aerial remote sensing, photogrammetric analysis, vegetation and Phytophthora dieback disease mapping surveys, and database design and development to other DBCA services, other government agencies, 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

- 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
- preparing three-year regional timber harvest plans, and reviewing annual regional timber harvest plans submitted by the FPC.
- Maintaining partnerships, including with:
 - the community and key stakeholder groups (including universities and volunteer projects)
 - other State Government agencies and authorities
 - Federal Government agencies.

Table 5: Service 8 performance summary

	2018-19 Target	2018-19 Actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$21,918,000	\$20,177,000	(\$1,741,000)
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare of managing forest	\$16.98	\$15.62	(\$1.36)
Key effectiveness indicators			
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	955,000m ³	695,767m ³	(259,233m ³)

Note: Removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs under the FMP is reconciled on a calendar-year basis.

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found in the *Disclosures and Legal Compliance* section under *Key performance indicators*



Performance highlights

Major plans

- The FMP continued to be implemented.
 - The draft FMP mid-term review of performance report was released for public comment from September to October 2018, and a final report was published in April 2019. Reporting on many of the key performance indicators involved comprehensive analysis of datasets collected during the last five years on forest condition, yield regulation and silviculture outcomes in the areas available for timber production. The final report made 17 recommendations to help guide the FMP's implementation for the next five years and to inform development of the next forest management plan. DBCA and the FPC proposed 79 management responses to help achieve management targets.
 - WA's Regional Forest Agreement was renewed for a further 20 years. A deed of variation was signed on 29 March 2019 and tabled in the Parliament of Australia on 5 April 2019. The renewal process was supported by stakeholder engagement sessions held in October 2018 and preparation of two key documents:
 - a further assessment of matters under the *Regional Forest Agreement Act 2002* (Commonwealth) reporting on the outcomes of forest management over the preceding 20 years through an overview of indicators for environment, Indigenous heritage, economic and social values and ecologically sustainable forest management, including carbon and climate change; and
 - an overview description of WA's forest management system.
 - *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018*, the fifth in the series of Australia's State of the Forests Reports, was released in February 2019. The Department provided the bulk of the data and information to support Western Australia's input to this reporting commitment under the *Regional Forest Agreement Act 2002* (Commonwealth).

Forest management

- The Department provided specialist advice on the implications for ecologically sustainable forest

management of proposed developments and planned operations, including, mining, utilities (e.g. water pipelines) and infrastructure work.

- Technical support, on-ground works and advice were provided to FPC for implementation of annual harvest and coupe plans, fire management and forest regeneration activities.
- 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 Request for Proposals processes by the FPC involving the sale of woody biomass from mine site clearing and thinning of mine site regeneration, and the sale of hardwood logs or billets from south-west native forests.
- The ongoing preparation or review of operational guidance documents (required by the FMP) included preparation of a draft guideline for thinning in mining rehabilitation and review of the jarrah treemarking field guide.
- A new computer system to streamline the management of assessments and approval of disturbance activities on all DBCA-managed lands was released in October 2018. The Disturbance Approvals System (DAS) was developed in-house, with training provided to all operational, planning and management personnel across the Department. The DAS contained 222 proposals at 30 June for disturbances ranging from timber harvesting to recreation site development, including operations submitted by external parties, including Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Main Roads WA and the FPC.
- The average time taken to approve a proposal was 14 days.

Forest planning and monitoring

- In collaboration with FPC, the Department prepared and published three-year timber harvest plans (2019-21) for the Swan, South-West and Warren regions.
- Operations within 17 forest blocks, covering 6650 hectares of State forest and timber reserves, were evaluated and monitored for compliance with the environmental outcomes sought in the FMP. This included 18 soil disturbance and erosion surveys across 17 active native forest coupes (covering 265 hectares and 106km of log extraction track), and 20 treemarking assessments in 16 forest coupes covering 100 hectares.
- In 2018, detection and mapping of *Phytophthora dieback* was undertaken over 37,507 hectares to plan and manage disturbance operations and the prioritisation of disease management treatments. All mapped old-growth forest is protected from timber harvesting and associated disturbance. The
- Department administers a process to assess areas either nominated by the public or identified during planning of operations for any unmapped old-growth forest. In 2018 these routine assessments resulted in a total of 301 hectares of previously unmapped old-growth forest being identified and set aside from future disturbance. This comprised 297 hectares of jarrah old-growth forest, and four hectares of karri old-growth forest.

An updated map showing the extent and changes to old-growth forest was published to the

- Department's website in April 2019.
- Fauna habitat zones in State forests are created to help maintain biodiversity values in areas subject to timber harvesting. Analysis of the potential location of 11 fauna habitat zones was carried out, four of which (comprising a gross area of 797 hectares) were finalised in accordance with the FMP. The cumulative number of fauna habitat zones finalised is 139, comprising a gross area of 36,374 hectares. An updated map of fauna habitat zone locations was published to the Department's website in March 2019.

High resolution, digital aerial imagery was acquired across 130,000 hectares of forest to monitor

- and measure areas for timber harvest operations, silvicultural outcomes, bushfire recovery and prescribed fire outcomes.
- Addressing trends reported in the mid-term performance review of the FMP, research commenced

to further investigate the causative factors leading to an observed decline in vegetation density in some forest ecosystems.



Prescribed burning in the Perth Hills.

Service 9: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management



Autumn prescribed burning in the Wheatbelt.

Responsibilities

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 that 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. Continual improvement in the planning and implementation of the prescribed burning and fire management programs will assist in meeting this outcome.



Strategies and key activities

For 2018-19, the overall priorities for this service and the strategies and key activities guiding their delivery across the State were:

- 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, and new technology and techniques to effectively deliver the desired levels of community protection as well as land, forest and wildlife management outcomes.
 - Applying sound policy, technology, information management systems and approaches to deliver identified planned fire management programs, while seeking to minimise risks to and impacts on the community.
 - Continuing quality assurance processes for the program at all levels.
 - Reviewing systems, processes and doctrine, and approaches to utilisation of available resources, to maximise the safe implementation of the prescribed burning program.
 - Ongoing implementation of new performance measures for the existing prescribed burning program and reporting on and revising where required existing performance measures to enable a better understanding of the Department's prescribed burning program achievements and their contribution to community protection and other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.
 - Achievement of improvements in staff development and succession planning for fire management, by:
 - Continuing 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 operational fire management program.

- Ongoing development of time-bound succession plans to ensure the Department retains the requisite fire research and senior fire leadership capacity.
- Continuation of training and development of existing staff from across various functional areas to have the skills and knowledge required to fulfil the Department's fire management goals.
- Enhancement of operational training delivery through the newly established Operational Training Unit within Fire Management Services Branch.

Table 6: Service 9 performance summary

	2018-19 target	2018-19 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$46,985,000	\$52,140,000	\$5,155,000
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare burnt	\$16.57	\$14.63	(\$1.94)
Key effectiveness indicators			
Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved	55%	48%	(7%)

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found in the *Disclosures and Legal Compliance* section under *Key performance indicators*

Other performance measures

New annual performance measures were introduced in 2015–16 for the Department's south-west forest regions, two of which relate most directly to prescribed burning. The third relates to bushfire suppression (see Service 10). The prescribed burning measures are:

1. 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 2018-19 prescribed burning targets for the three zones were 20,000 hectares, 70,000 hectares and 110,000 hectares respectively. The 2018-19 achievements for each LMZ target are shown in Table 7.

2. 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. To realise this target in the Department's three south-west forest regions, the Department aims to conduct prescribed burning over at least 200,000 hectares per annum. *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 2019, the figure was 48 per cent.

Figure 3: Land management zones

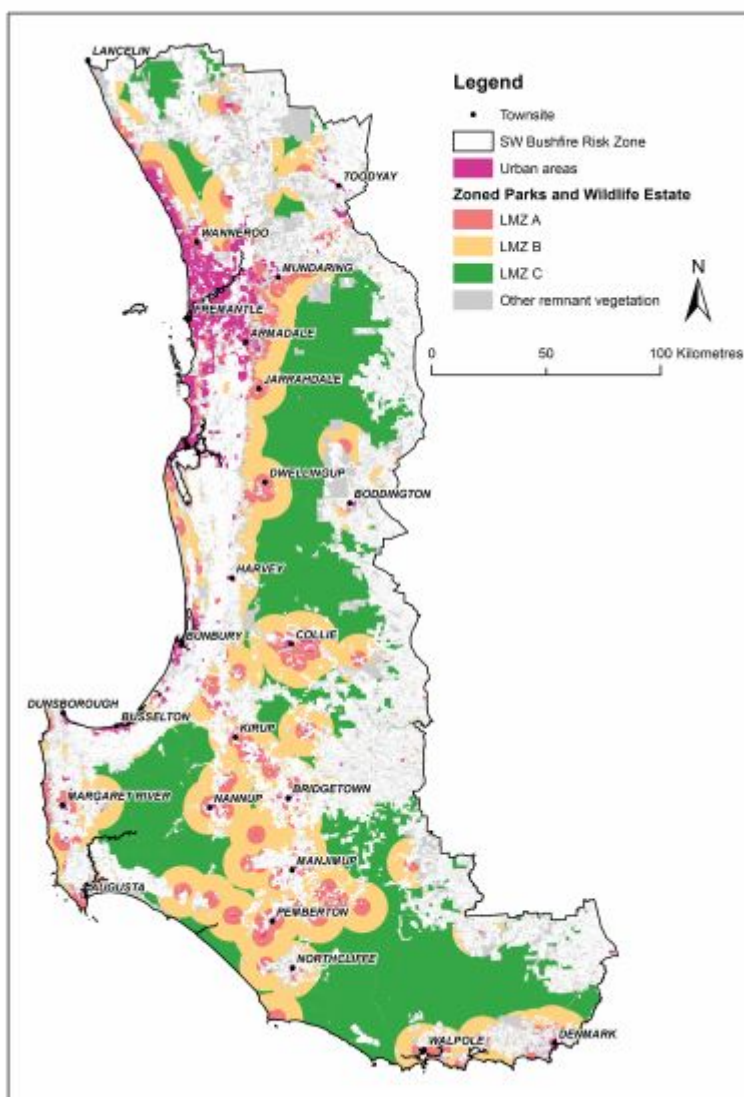


Table 7: 2018-19 LMZ prescribed burning achievements

LMZ	Distance from populated area	Nominal 2018-19 target (ha)	Achieved (ha)	Percentage of target
A	within 3.5km	20,000	15,750	79
B	3.5–11km	70,000	65,010	93
C	beyond 11km	110,000	81,457	74



Performance highlights

- The Department achieved 168,043 hectares of prescribed burning in the south-west forest regions in 2018-19. This year's program was again assisted by additional State Government funding of \$5.4 million via the Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program.
- A further 3,395,096 hectares 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.
- The Department has recognised that women make up 35 per cent of the roles in our fire management business and has set about to improve gender diversity through the *Women in Fire Management Action Plan 2019-22*. The plan is one tool to support progression towards achieving greater levels of diversity, which assists in developing a strong, more flexible and innovative workforce.

Prescribed fire planning and risk management

- The Department has developed and is commencing implementation of a Bushfire Risk Management Framework (BRMF) that is intended to provide guidance for the prioritisation of bushfire mitigation actions on Departmental lands across the State through the development of Regional Fuel Management Plans for each of the Department's nine regions. It is intended that reporting on prescribed burning outcomes will be aligned with the BRMF once this risk management approach is fully operational.
- The Department continues 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 DBCA's prescribed fire planning processes in Donnelly District and Midwest Region. These reviews confirmed that the Department's processes for prescribed burning align with ISO 31000:2009, the international standard for risk management.

Bushfire preparedness on unallocated Crown land

- The Department is responsible for the coordination and on-ground management of bushfire risk through targeted bushfire mitigation works on 96 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves outside the Perth metropolitan area and townsites.
- The Department continued to undertake high priority mitigation work that included constructing and maintaining fire access tracks, modifying vegetation in strategic buffers, 'open-edge' prescribed burning and large-scale aerial ignition.
- A significant increase in on-ground mitigation works was made possible through the continued strategic investment of funding from the State Government's Mitigation Activity Fund to protect regional towns. Modified vegetation buffers over 351km and fire access track 562km were completed. These works were complementary to activities undertaken by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).
- The Department continued to engage and build partnerships with other 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 (FMDP)

- The FMDP program currently has 12 full-time participants working across a number of regions and districts.
- The FMDP Expansion Program continues to provide development opportunities for employees looking to increase fire knowledge, development and career opportunities. Eight new participants joined the program from several of the Department's regions, replacing those who have successfully completed the two-year program
- The FMDP Undergraduate Conservation Employee Program targeting university students is now into its fourth year and is providing opportunities for participants considering career opportunities with DBCA to gain pre-employment experience in fire management. Six students have achieved ongoing employment through their participation in the program.
- The FMDP management team coordinated the 2019 Incident Leadership and Fire Line Leadership Training courses that ran in May and June. Sixty-one Parks and Wildlife Service personnel were joined by 11 DFES personnel in a collaborative multi-agency approach to Fireline and Incident Leadership.

Fire ecology education programs

- Fire Management Services Branch continued to work with Public Information and Corporate Affairs branch to provide a range of fire education programs. School students engaged in the branch's *Nearer to Nature's* fire topic education specifically examined how prevention, mitigation and preparedness minimise the effects of bushfires. Forest management, fire behaviour, ecological consequences of fire on the environment and protection of habitat all feature in *Nearer to Nature's* suite of programs.
- The completed Fire Ecology presentations were added to the Fire Management Services Branch Fire Hub in December 2018. In addition to this, a general fire ecology information session was undertaken for local staff in the Warren region.



Mungilup fire tower, Wellington National Park.

Service 10: Bushfire Suppression



Responsibilities

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.



Strategies and key activities

In 2018-19, 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 appropriate personal protective equipment and sound training and development opportunities 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.
- Continuing to develop and maintain capability and capacity to contribute to pre-formed incident management teams for deployment to major fires around the State, particularly during the southern bushfire season.
- 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.
- Continuing the fire tower maintenance program for fire surveillance towers.

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.

- Continuing interagency initiatives to improve collaboration, information exchange and bushfire suppression effectiveness, including the adoption of common operating procedures, and doctrine as appropriate.
- Continue to revise internal doctrine, processes and systems to facilitate alignment with agreed interagency arrangements.

Table 7: Service 10 performance summary

	2018-19 target	2018-19 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$31,860,000	\$36,891,000	\$5,031,000
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare burnt	\$17.10	\$8.90	(\$8.20)
Key effectiveness indicators			
Proportion of south-west bushfires contained to less than two hectares.	75%	81%	6%

Note that the bushfire effectiveness indicator considers only those fires where the Department was the initial attack agency. More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found in the *Disclosures and Legal Compliance* section under *Key performance indicators*

Other performance measures

Three new annual performance measures for fire management were introduced in 2015–16, two of which are outlined in Service 9. 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 where the Department was the initial attack agency to the area of prescribed burning completed for 2018-19 is 1,118,447 hectares: 3,297,291 hectares (ratio of 1:2.95).

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.



Performance highlights

Bushfire management

Departmental personnel fought and/or monitored 765 bushfires which burnt approximately 4,144,215 hectares in 2018-19, including:

- 530,691 hectares in the Pilbara Region
- 1,096,671 hectares in the Goldfields Region
- 2,148,425 hectares in the Kimberley Region
- 332,497 hectares in the South Coast Region
- 27,962 hectares in the Midwest Region
- 411 hectares in the Wheatbelt Region
- 7,551 hectares in the three south-west forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren).

The causes of these fires were:

- lightning – 30 per cent (above the 10-year average of 24.55 per cent)
 - deliberately lit or arson-caused fires – 36 per cent (below the 10-year average of about 39.89 per cent)
 - accidental fires – 13 per cent
 - escapes from private burns – 4 per cent
 - escapes from Departmental burns – 1 per cent
 - other causes – 7 per cent
 - unknown – 9 per cent.
-
- In conjunction with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), and local governments through the Western Australian Local Government Association, the Department further developed and implemented an operational framework that saw five interagency State bushfire pre-formed incident management teams rostered for deployment to large bushfires

around the State throughout the southern bushfire season, as recommended by the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire.

- A reduced number of significant bushfires across the State was observed and the Department 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 two deployments of the State Bushfire Pre-formed Teams involving DFES staff and volunteers and local government authorities. These teams were deployed to the Lewana Bushfire in the Blackwood Valley and the Esperance Bushfires Complex.

Bushfire detection

- The Department provided an effective fire-detection system in the high bushfire risk zones of the south-west forest regions using single-engine aircraft and 10 fixed lookout towers. The Department's fleet of six 'spotter' aircraft flew 3639 hours of aerial surveillance in pre-determined circuits. Flight schedules varied according to bushfire danger levels and fire activity.
- The detection aircraft also flew 469 hours in support of bushfire suppression operations. The detection aircraft were flown by 15 pilots.

Aerial bushfire suppression operations

- The Department contracted eight fixed-wing 802 air tractor water bombers in the south-west forest regions from November to April 2019. 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 995 operational hours in attending 174 bushfires and dropped 1662 loads, delivering 4,986,000 million litres of suppressant.

Bushfire training and development

- Fire Management Services Branch training and development staff conducted 83 formal fire training sessions involving 403 participants. The courses included Basic Wildfire Awareness, Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System Awareness, Fire Fighting Crew Member, Fire Fighting Crew Leader, Fire Operations 1, Fireline Construction with Machines, Fireline Construction – Pushing Trees and Search and Rescue Flight Following. Training staff also co-presented with DFES the Level 2 Operations Management and Level 2 Incident Controller courses. The Department presented new workshops on the Fire Mapping Tool and Resource Management.
- Course participants were predominantly from the Department, but also included campground host volunteers and personnel from the Forest Products Commission (FPC), DFES and local governments. These courses were also presented to a range of Aboriginal ranger groups from across the State.
- Annual mandatory pre-season training in preparation for the 2018–19 bushfire season was conducted for more than 1,200 departmental 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 turnover drills.
- The Department continued to implement a recognition of prior learning process for firefighters to be awarded Fire Fighting Crew Member national units of competency including the Fire Fighting Crew Leader.

- The prescribed burning training program was developed jointly with DFES. In the last 12 months, 15 staff have been undertaking a recognition of prior learning based on their long involvement in developing and implementing complex prescribed burns with the Department. In addition to this, two intakes of students have commenced the prescribed burn training program.
- Fire aviation personnel provided training for 124 departmental and other fire and land management agency personnel, including staff from DFES. These courses included Air Attack Supervisor; Air Attack Supervisor Currency; Air Observer; Incendiary Operations Supervisor; Incendiary Operations Supervisor currency; Aerial Incendiary Bombardier; Aerial Incendiary Bombardier currency; Helitorch Ground Crew; Helitorch Ground Crew currency and Work Safely Around Aircraft.
- Water bomber reloading training was provided to 438 participants across 38 operational bases, with most 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 role of Aerial Incendiary Bombardier was also provided to staff from DFES, Aboriginal ranger groups across WA and emergency services staff from Northern Territory, South Australia and Queensland.
- The Department 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 was represented at the public safety training package national industry review for nationally-recognised training products.

Fire management fleet and infrastructure

- The Department completed its heat shield installation program across the Landcruiser component of its light fleet fast-attack firefighting units as vehicles were replaced. In addition, trials were conducted on other light fleet vehicle makes to determine suitability.
- Major reconstruction and repairs to the Pinjar and Walyunga fire towers were completed.

Interagency bushfire management

- Departmental fire management staff were involved in improving interagency bushfire management arrangements through the State Bushfire Coordinating Committee (SBCC) and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) and its associated sub-committees.
- Outside the SBCC and SEMC, the Department also participated in interagency liaison with DFES and local government (through the West Australian Local Government Association), particularly through the Interagency Bushfire Operations Committee and associated groups. Extensive liaison also occurred with other State, interstate and international agencies and the Department provided multiple deployments of staff to assist the United States of America, Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria in battling large scale bushfires.
- Two departmental staff travelled to Portugal to provide advice on developing wildland firefighter capacity.
- The Department continues to work collaboratively with DFES' Rural Fire Division to focus on fuel reduction and bushfire mitigation activities on lands outside of the conservation estate managed by the Department. These works will be complementary to the Department's longstanding prescribed burning program and will enable closer collaboration with the Rural Fire Division to maximise on-ground bushfire mitigation across the broader public and private landscape to better protect local communities.



Honey possum in Cape Arid National Park.

Supporting our Department

Corporate and Business Services

Corporate and Business Services Division provides corporate services to the Department including its Statutory Authorities as well as the Forest Products Commission.

Financial Services Branch

Financial Services Branch has statutory reporting responsibilities and provides strategic advice and support to staff across the State. The branch achieves this through its five sections encompassing Financial Systems, Procurement, Accounting Operations, Fleet Works Facilities and Reporting Budgeting.

The branch continued to deliver essential services for the Department through provision of accounts payables, accounts receivable, cash management, financial accounting, management accounting, asset management, government regional officer housing, taxation, heavy and light fleet management, procurement for goods, services and works, financial system solutions and eCommerce.

Key achievements for 2018-19 include:

- Preparation for introduction of new accounting standards which have an effective date 1 July 2019
- Refinement of consolidated reporting for the group which encompasses, the Department, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority
- Incorporating Government Procurement Reform
- Exceeding Aboriginal Procurement Policy Target
- Fleet rationalisation
- Business processes to accommodate initial project bank account for construction contract
- Integrating Public Sector Reform

People Services Branch

People Services Branch continued to provide a broad range of human resource services to managers and employees; primarily relating to recruitment and establishment, workforce services, employee relations, equity and diversity, corporate training, health, safety and wellbeing, and injury management.

On 1 July 2018, the branch commenced a centralised service delivery model and the provision of consistent human resource services across all employing authorities within the DBCA portfolio.

The branch reviewed the employment arrangements of all Department and Statutory Authorities employees in accordance with Commissioner's Instruction No. 23 - Conversion and appointment of fixed term contract and casual employees to permanency to facilitate the Government's commitment to permanent employment as the preferred form of engagement for public sector employees.

Following on from the 2017-18 Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme, the Personnel Services Section progressed a further 27 agency funded severances.

The branch developed an action plan with short- and long-term initiatives to address findings contained within the Public Sector Commission's Employee Perception Survey.

As part of improving human resource risk management practices the branch has redesigned its risk report. The report identifies human risk, current control measures and performance assessment. The report also highlighted areas requiring further improvement, which will be addressed.

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.

OIM continued to support and enable business services to achieve strategic, tactical and operational goals through good governance and robust IT controls; better use of IT to provide value-producing opportunities; and ensuring spatial and non-spatial information and technology services run and change effectually to support the Department's statewide operations.

Key achievements for 2018-19 include:

- advancing the Department's digital transformation through automation of manual processes
- improving IT system interoperability and re-use through the development of bespoke applications built on Department architectural and security standards
- improving licences and permits management through the creation, modernisation and integration of IT systems and business processes
- enabling the Machinery of Government IT reform outcomes through good IT governance and IT security policies and practices
- delivering and supporting required IT capabilities during bushfire incidents
- improving employee awareness of recordkeeping in accordance with the *State Records Act 2000*.

OIM and the Conservation and Ecosystem Management Division developed a Disturbance Approval System (DAS) online system. Launched in October 2018, the online DAS has improved the process to seek permission to carry out work that can potentially affect conservation values, as well as providing a consistent approach when assessing these activities and setting meaningful conditions to a proposal.

Developed using open source software to minimise costs to the Department, DAS will also enhance the future capabilities of other Department online systems.

Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch

The branch delivers public safety information in support of incidents, fire awareness, environmental education and behaviour change programs, media relations, websites, photography and video production, customer service, publications and graphic design, public participation planning, events, advertising and social media coordination.

Selected highlights for 2018-19 include:

- Memoranda of Understanding were signed with the cities of Canning and Melville to deliver *Nearer to Nature* (N2N) environmental education programs.
- Almost 25,000 people engaged with N2N in national and marine parks, and at purpose-built education facilities such as the Perth Hills Discovery Centre (PHDC). N2N programs focused on *Western Shield*, forest ecology, fire ecology (with the support of Regional and Fire Management Services Division), wetland ecosystems, sustainability and Aboriginal culture. A number of these activities were also supported by Alcoa of Australia. The branch's management responsibilities at the PHDC included hosting around 2000 campers throughout the year.
- Coordination and support for almost 3400 Bush Ranger cadets in 62 high schools across WA, and around 750 River Ranger cadets in 16 primary schools. *Bush Rangers* continues to achieve the highest rates of Aboriginal and female participation across all Cadets WA programs.
- Strategic communications support to the Environment Minister's office, including for major

Government initiatives such as Plan for Our Parks and the Aboriginal Ranger Program. The branch also delivered public information for incidents, issuing hundreds of bushfire alerts for bushfires, including emergencies in the following localities: Blackwood, Jurien Bay, Southampton and Esperance. Branch staff were also deployed to the DFES State Operations Centre on multiple occasions for bushfire and cyclone incidents, providing critical public information and media support during multi-agency incidents.

- Citizen science training events in Mandurah and Broome attracted 270 new Dolphin Watch volunteers. Overall, Dolphin Watch volunteers contributed 1339 hours and submitted over 1600 monitoring reports, while Junior Dolphin Watch engaged with 150 students from five schools.
- The Reel It In behaviour change project now has 66 dedicated fishing line bins throughout the Swan Canning Riverpark, helping to remove more than 28km of fishing line from the Riverpark during the year. New bins were installed at popular coastal and estuarine fishing locations including: Hillarys, Cottesloe, Fremantle, Rottnest Island, Cockburn Sound, Peel-Harvey Estuary and Walpole.
- The branch undertook eight regional outreach visits and key service area consultations during March and April 2019 to implement changes to publishing, design and corporate communications services, driven by a need to address outcomes from internal reviews and improve service delivery.
- Twelve communication plans are currently live, focused on delivering tailored and targeted communications to support Parks and Wildlife Service strategic projects.
- Branch graphic designers completed hundreds of publication and signage jobs covering the full scope of the Department's work, including commercial activities like WA Naturally.
- More than 100 new audio visual products were delivered across a variety of platforms including social and traditional media, and for communication and training within the Department, Statutory Authorities, and for external stakeholders.
- Contributed content, advice and logistical support on the ground-breaking TV series Bushfire Wars, which was broadcast nationally and internationally.
- The Department's 11 Facebook pages, three Twitter accounts and three Instagram accounts all take their lead from corporate social media accounts managed by the branch, which this year experienced strong audience growth (e.g. 97 per cent for Instagram) and increased user engagement.
- Online video versions of feature stories, species and park profiles continued to add value to the Department's flagship publication, *LANDSCOPE* magazine.
- The North West Shelf Flatback Turtle program website was built and successfully launched.
- Customer service officers at the Keiran McNamara Conservation Science Centre responded almost 30,000 phone calls and emails and welcomed 5000 visitors.
- The branch helped develop and release new digital products including national park passes and firewood permits that now enable customers to purchase, download and print these products online, significantly improving service delivery as well as delivering efficiencies for the Department.

Department–managed land and waters

Total estate

At 30 June 2019, the total area under the Department’s care was some 31,590,339 hectares.

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. The statistical data on Legislated lands and waters was extracted from Landgate’s information systems in March 2019.

Tables 9 and 10 provide a summary of all tenure classifications.

Table 9: 2018-19 Legislated lands and waters (in hectares)

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total
National Park	154,342	1,416,316	570,094	2,436,643	856,771	144,294	118,142	561,370	1,257	6,259,228
Conservation Park	184,420	559,575	15,643	281,779	677	13,650	24,449	706	5,383	1,086,283
Nature Reserve	6,292,610	174,733	740,097	259,633	1,584,392	13,211	54,197	87,228	1,070,543	10,276,644
State Forest	781				4,052	534,915	474,088	265,343	28,372	1,307,551
Timber Reserve	28,397		26,295		5,150	26,288	28,728	8,315	?	123,174
Section 5(1)(g) & 5(1)(h) Reserves	81,552	864,983	66,036	10,263	4,415	31,477	34,704	1,857	1,611	1,096,898
Marine Park		3,070,778	869,492	343,505		123,000	16,391	1,446		4,424,612
Marine Nature Reserve			132,000							132,000
Marine Management Area									143,385	
Section 34A Freehold		0.3	1,549		91	19,889	50	4,663	0.8	26,242
UCL - Section 33(2)	28,560		89,832							118,392
Crown Freehold - Dept Managed							8,711			8,711
SCRM Act - River Reserve							3,597			3,597
Totals	6,770,664	6,086,386	2,511,037	3,475,208	2,455,548	906,725	763,056	930,927	1,107,166	25,006,717

Table 10: 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		5,877	4,186	12,433	1,661	4,954	41,872
Crown reserve - Department interest						2		141		143
Unallocated Crown land - Department interest	1,921,141	137,502	3,277,629	1,145,168	16,885	5	0.1	134	43,143	6,541,607
Totals	1,921,141	137,502	3,290,390	1,145,168	22,762	4,192	12,433	1,936	48,098	6,583,622

* Freehold land managed as National Park under Section 8A CALM Act

Notes:

1. Areas are from Landgate cadastral/tenure information systems dated 31 March 2019.
2. Marine areas are approximate only as quality of mapping of marine reserve boundaries is variable. Improved mapping of watermark and historical boundaries may result in revised area figures in the future.

Table 11: Provisional area of national parks vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2019

Name	Area (hectares)
Alexander Morrison	8,499
Avon Valley	4,456
Badgingarra	13,105
Beelu	4,617
Blackwood River	20,482
Boorabbin	28,188
Boorara-Gardner	11,017
Boyndaminup	5,439
Brockman	51
Cape Arid	277,462
Cape Le Grand	31,189
Cape Range	49,984
Collier Range	235,305
D'Entrecasteaux	118,948
Dalgarup	2,377
Dirk Hartog Island	62,664
Dordagup	6,406
Drovers Cave	2,565
Drysdale River	447,675

Name	Area (hectares)
Easter	2,975
Eucla	3,815
Fitzgerald River	295,715
Forest Grove	1,379
Francois Peron	53,145
Frank Hann	68,709
Geikie Gorge	2,748
Gloucester	874
Goldfields Woodlands	66,146
Goongarrie	60,008
Gooseberry Hill	33
GreaterBeedelup	19,277
Greenmount	202
Gull Rock	2,107
Hassell	1,138
Hawke	14,003
Helena	12,261
Hilliger	16,979
Jane	6,864
John Forrest	2,698
Kalamunda	397
Kalbarri	183,249
Karijini	624,335
Karlamilyi	1,283,810

Name	Area (hectares)
Kennedy Range	142,298
Kingston	21,100
Korung	6,350
Lake Muir	9,629
Lawley River	17,347
Leeuwin-Naturaliste	21,596
Lesmurdie Falls	57
Lesueur	27,232
Midgegooroo	2,493
Millstream Chichester	238,295
Milyeannup	18,690
Mirima	2,065
Mitchell River	115,185
Moore River	17,229
Mount Augustus	9,163
Mount Frankland	37,102
Mount Frankland North	22,052
Mount Frankland South	42,266
Mount Lindesay	39,540
Mount Roe	127,713
Murujuga*	4,913
Nambung	19,388
Neerabup	973
Peak Charles	39,953

Name	Area (hectares)
Porongurup	2,686
Preston	12,666
Prince Regent	585,291
Purnululu	243,833
Scott	3,322
Serpentine	4,283
Shannon	52,585
Sir James Mitchell	173
Stirling Range	113,541
Stokes	10,027
Tathra	4,322
Torndirrup	4,021
Tuart Forest	2,044
Tunnel Creek	91
Un-named	1,571
Un-named	81
Walpole-Nornalup	18,540
Walyunga	1,813
Wandoo	46,335
Warren	3,122
Watheroo	44,464
Waychinicup	3,974
Wellington	17,426
West Cape Howe	3,669

Name	Area (hectares)
Whicher	6,352
William Bay	1,745
Wiltshire-Butler	11,645
WindjanaGorge	2,081
Wolfe CreekMeteorite Crater	1,455
Wooditjup	3,891
Yalgorup	14,119
Yanchep	2,859
Yelverton	728

* Freehold land managed as National Park under Section 8A CALM Act

Notes:

1. Areas are from Landgate cadastral/tenure information systems dated 31 March 2019.
2. Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater is managed as a national park.

Marine reserves

The total area of marine reserves vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2019 was approximately 4.7 million hectares. There were no changes to this area during the financial year.

The area of marine parks at 30 June 2019 was approximately 4.4 million hectares.

The area of marine nature reserves at 30 June 2019 was approximately 132,000 hectares.

The area of marine management areas at 30 June 2019 was approximately 143,000 hectares.

Note:

Marine areas are approximate only as quality of mapping of marine reserve boundaries is variable. Improved mapping of watermark and historical boundaries may result in revised area figures in the future.

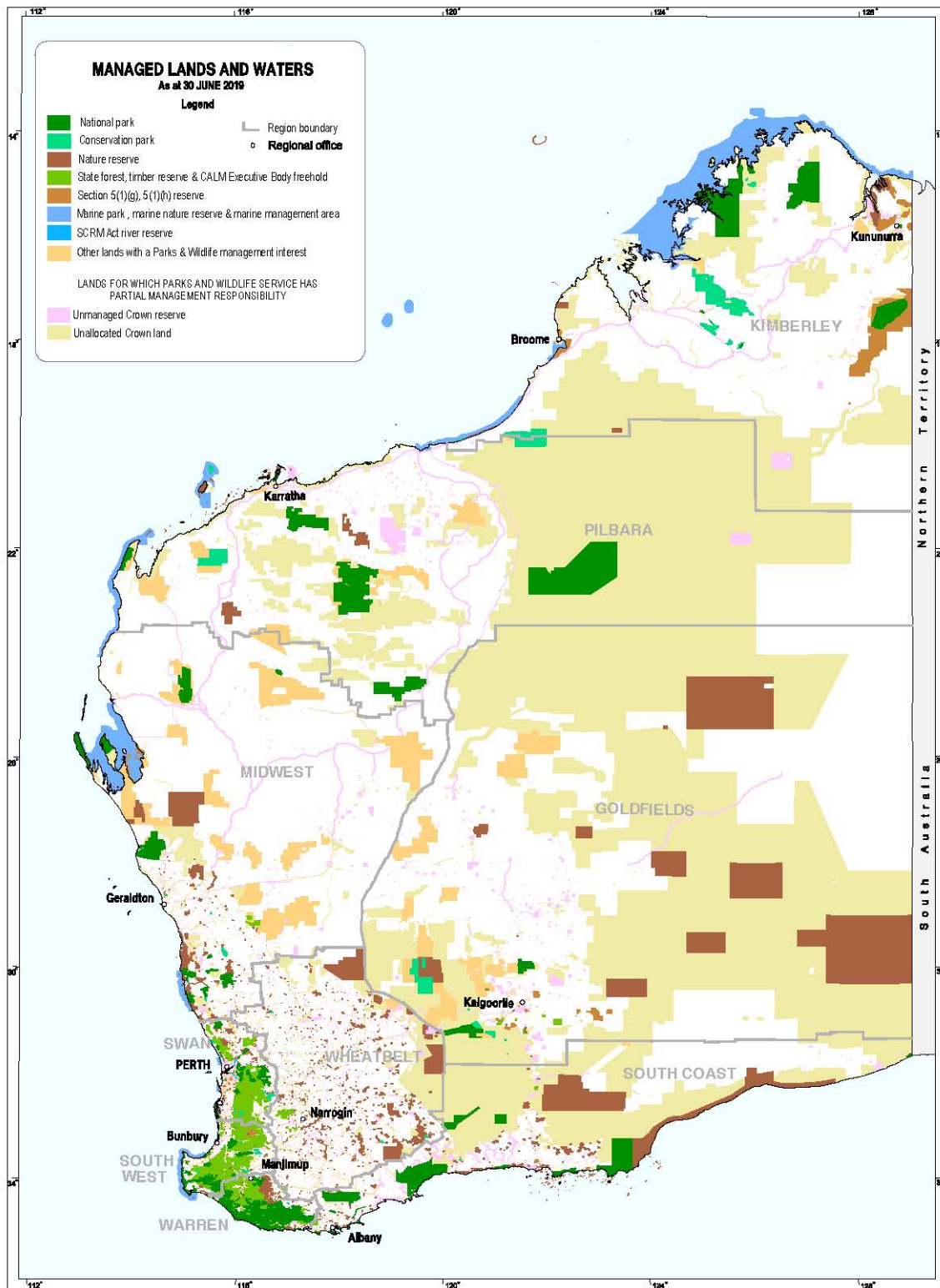
Table 12: Marine reserves vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2019

Name	Area (hectares) approx.
Barrow Island Marine Management Area	116,616
Barrow Island Marine Park	4169
Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park	200,000
Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve	132,000
Jurien Bay Marine Park	82,376
Lalang-garram/ Camden Sound Marine Park	676,000
Lalang-garram/ Horizontal Falls Marine Park	342,000
Marmion Marine Park	9500
Montebello Islands Marine Park	58,375
MuironIslands Marine Management Area	26,769
NgariCapes Marine Park	123,000
Ningaloo Marine Park	263,313
North Kimberley Marine Park	1,670,000
North Lalang-garram Marine Park	110,000
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
YawuruNagulagun/ Roebuck Bay Marine Park	41,000
Total	4,699,997

Conservation land acquisitions

DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service purchased 11 parcels of land of high conservation value covering a combined total area of about 1885 hectares for future addition to the formal conservation reserve system. The Department's priorities for purchases are areas containing ecosystems not adequately represented in existing conservation reserves, areas containing threatened species and ecological communities, or additions to existing reserves that will greatly improve their diversity or facilitate their management. The purchases were funded from the Department's land acquisition budget and environmental offset funds received. The total expenditure was \$3,677,000.

Figure 5: Parks and Wildlife Service-managed lands and waters at 30 June 2019



Legal matters

Freedom of Information

The Office of the Director General managed processes for the Department under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (FOI Act). The Department's Information Statement 2019 (available on the website) describes nature of the information held by the Department and its related agencies, and the type of information that is made available to the public.

The Department received 46 valid applications for access to information, with two applicants requesting an internal review of the Department's decisions. No applications proceeded to external review.

While the Machinery of Government changes have brought together the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority, Zoological Parks Authority and the former Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Statutory Authorities are yet to be recognised as 'related agencies' of the Department under the Freedom of Information Regulations 1993. As such, the Statutory Authorities continue to fulfil their Freedom of Information functions and report separately.

Litigation

Information regarding litigation in progress is available in Note 8 of the *Notes to the Financial Statements* in the *Disclosures and Legal Compliance* section of this report.

Prosecutions

The Department initiated three prosecutions during 2018-19, involving a total of nine fauna related charges including the illegal taking or possession of protected and rare fauna and cruelty to fauna.

Finalised prosecutions for 2018-19

Of the three prosecutions commenced, all were subject to final court determination, including cases relating to the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Animal Welfare Act 2002*.

These matters resulted in the imposition of fines totalling \$8400 and costs to the value of \$1069.15.

In addition to the three prosecutions commenced during this period a further eight were carried forward and finalised from years 2016–18. These matters resulted in the imposition of fines totalling \$13,450.00 and to costs to the value of \$12507.55.

Prosecutions currently before the courts

As at 30 June 2019, eight prosecutions remain before the courts. A further two cases are pending court proceedings and one case is at State Solicitor's Office for advice.

Total reported offences

A total of 624 offences were reported, of which three were dealt with by way of prosecution, 377 were dealt with by infringement notice, four resulted in letters of warning, 234 were dealt with by caution notices and six were withdrawn.

Marine operations

The marine operations function within the 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.

Large whale entanglements

The Department represented Australian agencies (Federal and State) responsible for the management of large whale disentanglement response around Australia, at the International Whaling Commission's Global Whale Emergency Response Network conference in Massachusetts USA.

There were 20 confirmed entanglement reports in WA during the reporting period. Five were attended to by Departmental staff and three were successfully disentangled.

Carcass management

Whale carcass management across the State has been a focus in response to shark risk and general public health. The Department has developed guidelines for the safe removal of carcasses for use by all tenure managers.

Commonwealth marine parks

The Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Australian Government for DBCA to deliver agreed management services in Commonwealth Marine Parks around WA.

Marine reporting

Marine teams around the State continue to develop detailed annual reports on the management of marine parks for the Conservation and Parks Commission. Marine park coordinators with staff from the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development, provided detailed presentations on key management achievements at the annual Marine Park Management Conference held in October 2018.

Vessels

The Department continues to optimise management of its vessels to ensure a balance between the requirements for effective management of marine conservation estate and cost efficiencies. A new 10.5m vessel named in honour of the late Doug Coughran AM (the DK Coughran) replaces three other vessels in the Swan Region.

Two new vessels were also delivered to the Pilbara Region to assist in the management of islands and waters around Barrow Island and the Ningaloo Marine Park.

Visitor risk management

The Department has a responsibility to consider the personal safety and welfare of visitors to Department-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.

Unfortunately, nine visitors died in the extensive areas managed by the Department in the reporting period. Three of these deaths were associated with pre-existing medical conditions that contributed to two drownings and one vehicle accident. Three further deaths occurred as a result of drownings, one fatality occurred as a result of dehydration, one fatality as a result of a motorbike accident and one as a result of a fall.

During 2018–19:

- The Department continued to work on a range of issues regarding visitor safety including heat stress management, remote camping, walk trail classifications and redevelopments, and improvements to recreational sites and facilities.
- Seventy-three staff completed a nationally-accredited visitor risk management course provided by the Department.
- Twenty staff completed refresher training relating to visitor risk management.
- The Department supported the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) with the introduction of a trial of mandatory wearing of life jackets when on the rocks at the Salmon Holes in Torndirrup National Park. The Department introduced a new CALM Act regulation to enable the trial, developed signage and joint education and enforcement activities with DPIRD.
- The Department continued to support DPIRD with the Beach Emergency Number sign system and a total of 114 beach emergency number signs have been installed on department managed lands.
- The Department provided advice on visitor risk management to Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment and Water in South Australia.
- The Department engaged a consultant to undertake an independent risk assessment of the Canal Rocks Boat Ramp, which remains open to the public and will be upgraded.



Mornington Wilderness Camp at the proposed Fitzroy River National Park.

Significant issues and trends

Government initiatives

The Government has announced the Plan for Our Parks initiative as part of *Our Priorities: Sharing Prosperity*, a new program of targets to address important issues facing WA. Plan for Our Parks seeks to secure five million hectares of new national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves over the next five years. This will see the conservation estate increase by more than 20 per cent. The initiative will establish new and expanded parks from the Kimberley in the north, across Western Australia's rangelands, through population centres in Perth and Bunbury, to south-west forests and a potential new marine park along WA's southern coastline. The initiative will deliver on existing election commitments and priorities, and identifies new, visionary opportunities to work with traditional owners to create, jointly manage and expand our parks and reserves. Initial consultations with traditional owners and other stakeholders on the opportunities for new reserves under Plan for Our Parks were undertaken in 2019.

The Government has provided an additional \$22 million over four years to support the continuation of the Department's Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program. This program reduces bushfire risks, improves community protection and increases firefighter safety when managing dangerous bushfires. This funding is in addition to and complements the Department's existing annual prescribed burning budget. This additional funding will support the Department's ability to achieve the target of 200,000 hectares of prescribed burning, which is the State's principal risk mitigation strategy for protecting the community from the devastating impacts of large bushfires across highly populated areas. This funding will allow for multiple burns to be undertaken when conditions are suitable and safe to do so, and facilitate the necessary movement of staff between regions to provide additional resources for burning opportunities.

The Government has provided \$10.5 million over four years for the creation of the Preston River to Ocean and Leschenault Regional Parks in the Bunbury region. The new regional park will protect the area's biodiversity and cultural values while improving recreational opportunities for the residents of Bunbury and surrounds. It will create a continuous reserve of almost 900 hectares from the south of Bunbury west of the Preston River to the coast. The funding will also allow the Government to create the 2,297 hectare Leschenault Regional Park, which will extend along the Collie and Brunswick rivers westwards across the Swan Coastal Plain. A community advisory committee has been established and the management planning process for regional parks has commenced. In addition, three Aboriginal rangers have been employed to implement on-ground management actions.

A five-year \$20 million Aboriginal Ranger Program was established in 2017 to capitalise on the economic and social benefits that employment provides in remote and regional communities and to protect the environment. In the first round of the program, 11 projects shared more than \$8 million in funding. This provided 45 full and part-time jobs for Aboriginal people (24 of which were female) and 53 casual Aboriginal employees were appointed to carry out work such as biodiversity monitoring and research, management of tourism and cultural sites, weeds and feral animals, prescribed burning, bushfire suppression and environmental protection works. Second round funding is being distributed in 2019 and a further round is planned for 2020. Grants are awarded on a multi-year basis.

Joint management and visitor services

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. The park is proposed to extend to the existing Geikie Gorge National Park along the Fitzroy River to the north and along the Margaret River to the east. Discussions with traditional owners to develop Indigenous Land Use Agreements to enable the creation of the park are underway. Consultation with pastoral lessees and other affected interest holders has also commenced.

A marine park will be established to include the fringing reefs of the Buccaneer Archipelago. The

Department will continue the preparation of a management plan for the marine park with traditional owners and stakeholders which will facilitate employment of Aboriginal rangers for park management and opportunities for Aboriginal people to create sustainable economic enterprises.

Round two of the *Community Rivercare Program* provided funding to nine community volunteer groups, following on from the 17 community volunteer groups in the first round of the program. Recipient groups have local knowledge, experience and volunteer resources to complete restoration projects throughout the Swan Canning river system. Later in 2019-20 there will be an opportunity for other groups to apply for funding in round three of the program.

The Department will continue planning for expansion of the Wellington National Park, near Collie with a view to enhancing the potential tourism and recreation opportunities in the area. A public consultation process seeking views on this proposal resulted in a total of 46 submissions being received.

The Department's investment to improve access to and provide new visitor facilities in parks in the Collie-Preston region continues with the development of Lake Kepwari as a water-based tourism precinct, the establishment of more walk and cycle trails and the upgrade of tourist drive routes. These works will provide the foundations for future tourism investment and a significant economic driver to the regional community.

The Department will continue to assist with the addition of the Roe 8 road corridor into Beeliar Regional Park.

As part of joint management arrangements with Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) at Murujuga National Park on the Burrup Peninsula, the Department will assist in the development of a Living Knowledge Centre and park infrastructure in collaboration with Woodside and Rio Tinto. A Tentative World Heritage listing nomination is being prepared with the MAC as the first step in the nomination of the Burrup Peninsula for World Heritage listing.

The Department will continue to jointly manage marine and terrestrial parks throughout the State and continue to negotiate Indigenous Land Use Agreements to facilitate expansion of the conservation estate under the Plan for Our Parks initiative.

Visitation to Department-managed lands and waters is remaining steady, with an estimated 20.35 million visits in 2018-19.

The Department will implement the *Two Year Action Plan for Nature Based Tourism 2019-2020*.

The Dwellingup Adventure Trails project will commence including the provision of new cycle, canoe and drive trails in Lane Poole Reserve and connecting with the new Dwellingup Trails Centre.

The Swan Canning River Protection Strategy continues to improve coordination across Government to protect and enhance the ecology and community benefits of the Swan Canning Riverpark. The Department will, with other partners, finalise the Perth Water Precinct Plan for the section of the Swan River and its foreshore between the Narrows and Windan bridges to provide strategic oversight for future improvement of the precinct, including tourism opportunities.

Biodiversity and conservation science

WA has a highly significant biodiversity that faces threats and complex challenges, requiring integrated multi-disciplinary approaches to conservation and management that are underpinned by high quality science. The Department will continue to implement its *Science Strategic Plan 2018-2021* to deliver

scientific excellence across the agency to build and share the State's biodiversity knowledge and support effective conservation and management.

The remainder of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 commenced on 1 January 2019. The Department continues to focus on providing supporting information to implement the regulations, and education and awareness for those in the community affected by changes.

The Department will continue to apply adaptive management strategies to assist in meeting the challenges of climate change, particularly in response to the reduced rainfall and hotter conditions predicted for the south west.

Ecosystem management including south-west forests

A range of threatening processes continue to impact the integrity and functioning of our natural ecosystems and biodiversity. The Department will, with support of industry sponsors and community groups, continue to protect fauna from invasive pests such as the European fox and feral cats through the delivery of the *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program. Invasive weeds and diseases will continue to be monitored, and management and control will focus on regional priorities and neighbouring land managers.

An expected upturn in proposed mining activities, especially lithium exploration, as well as Government economic diversification initiatives such as the agricultural development programs, will require the Department to continue to provide suitable and timely advice as part of environmental impact assessment to mitigate and manage impacts on biodiversity.

Forest management

The State's forests will continue to be managed to conserve plants and animals, provide for a sustainable timber industry, protect water catchments, enable recreation and tourism activities and allow mining and other public uses under the direction of the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* (FMP). The Department will, within existing resources, focus on implementing management responses detailed in the Conservation and Parks Commission mid-term performance review of the FMP

The Department is working on a strategic approach for managing WA's wild native sandalwood. Priority areas include licensing the take of the resource across private and public lands, including access by traditional owners and a sustained focus on control of illegal harvesting.

The Department will continue to work with other agencies to facilitate protection or development of State forest. The Department will continue to negotiate the implementation of a range of existing reserve recommendations, including those outlined in the FMP.

Significant issues and trends for Services 1, 2 and 3

Hotel Rottnest is expected to commence construction of a significant extension in the 2019 calendar year that will add 80 new rooms and a conference centre.

New private developments on Rottnest Island, including Discovery - Rottnest Island and Hotel Rottnest resorts, will increase competitive pressure on Rottnest Island Authority-operated visitor accommodation.

Maintenance and renewal of marine infrastructure, especially Rottnest Island's jetties, to improve visitor safety and operational efficiency is a priority. Works proposed include the relocation of barging

operations away from the Main Jetty to the site of the former Army Jetty.

The reliability and capability of the Rottnest Island Authority's online booking system for accommodation and other visitor services is of paramount importance in ensuring the Island's ongoing competitiveness.

Construction of new café, function and catering facilities at the Perth Zoo, planned for commencement in late 2019, will significantly improve visitor facilities and amenity.

A new master plan will be developed for the Perth Zoo site. This will guide long-term development, infrastructure investment and inform priorities for staging.

Redevelopment of the main lake at Perth Zoo will improve sustainable water use on the site and provide opportunities for visitors to learn about the importance of wetlands to our environment.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden is the State's single most visited attraction so particular attention is paid to operations to maintain the landscape and the infrastructure of the park. Consistent maintenance and regular upgrades ensure the levels of demand are met and the status of the Park and Botanic Garden as world class attractions for tourists, and places of significance and civic pride for the Western Australian community is maintained.

The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority has provided a location for a long-term lease by volunteer groups operating in Kings Park and Botanic Garden that has enabled them, through the Friends of Kings Park, to secure \$2.4 million in Lotterywest funding to build a volunteer hub to support hands-on activities in the parkland areas, the Western Australian Botanic Garden and in the bushland areas. The facility is under construction and is expected to be completed by August 2019.



Swarbrick Art Loop, Walpole Wilderness. Photo – Michael Hemmings

Disclosures and legal compliance

Certification of financial statements

For the reporting period ended 30 June 2019

The accompanying financial statements of the Department of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 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 2019 and the financial position as at 30 June 2019.

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.



Amanda Klenke
Chief Finance Officer

11 September 2019



Mark Webb PSM
Accountable Authority

11 September 2019



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Parliament of Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2019, 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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the year ended 30 June 2019 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.

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'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.

Report on Controls

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. 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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 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 2019.

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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the year ended 30 June 2019. 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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Department's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2019.

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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the year ended 30 June 2019 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.



CAROLINE SPENCER
AUDITOR GENERAL
FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Perth, Western Australia
// September 2019



Financial statements

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	3.1(a)	164,067	162,448
Supplies and services	3.3	74,677	77,511
Depreciation expense	5.1.1	27,053	25,105
Accommodation expenses	3.3	4,016	4,160
Grants and subsidies	3.2	35,347	28,956
Other expenses	3.3	24,082	21,412
Total cost of services		329,242	319,592
Loss on revaluation of assets			
Loss on revaluation of land	5.1	106,416	0
Total loss on revaluation of assets		106,416	0
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	4.2	45,920	32,418
Commonwealth grants and contributions	4.4	1,260	2,182
Other grants and contributions	4.5	19,235	28,187
Interest revenue		1,946	2,080
Other revenue	4.3	11,569	13,878
Total Revenue		79,930	78,745
<i>Gains</i>			
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	766	595
Total Gains		766	595
Total income other than income from State Government		80,696	79,340
NET COST OF SERVICES		354,962	240,252
Income from State Government			
	4.1		
Service appropriation		233,712	240,651
Services received free of charge		2,060	1,370
Royalties for Regions Fund		11,759	21,545
Total income from State Government		247,531	263,566
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(107,431)	23,314
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit and loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(147,118)	(87,532)
Total other comprehensive income		(147,118)	(87,532)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(254,549)	(64,218)

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

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

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7.1	13,425	15,046
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.1	60,169	74,662
Inventories	6.1	857	1,236
Receivables	6.2	12,161	8,695
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	8,717	8,859
Other current assets	6.4	3,029	6,869
Non current assets held for sale		101	0
Total Current Assets		98,459	115,367
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.1	1,805	1,199
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	184,266	163,809
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1	2,837,901	3,085,101
Total Non-Current Assets		3,023,972	3,250,109
TOTAL ASSETS		3,122,431	3,365,476
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	6.5	3,120	2,382
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	32,410	32,252
Other current liabilities	6.6	4,781	4,169
Total Current Liabilities		40,311	38,803
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	6,753	6,467
Total Non-Current Liabilities		6,753	6,467
TOTAL LIABILITIES		47,064	45,270
NET ASSETS		3,075,367	3,320,206
EQUITY			
	9.7		
Contributed Equity		3,062,619	3,052,885
Reserves		60,817	207,935
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		(48,069)	59,386
TOTAL EQUITY		3,075,367	3,320,206

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

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

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note 9.7	Contributed Equity \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2017		3,045,631	295,467	36,072	3,377,170
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	23,314	23,314
Other comprehensive income		0	(87,532)	0	(87,532)
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	(87,532)	23,314	(64,218)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		2,426	0	0	2,426
Other contributions by owners		4,757	0	0	4,757
Transfer of net assets from other agencies		805	0	0	805
Distributions to owners		(734)	0	0	(734)
Total		7,254	0	0	7,254
Balance at 30 June 2018		3,052,885	207,935	59,386	3,320,206
Balance at 1 July 2018		3,052,885	207,935	59,386	3,320,206
Changes in accounting policy		0	0	(24)	(24)
Restated balance as at 1 July 2019		3,052,885	207,935	59,362	3,320,182
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	(107,431)	(107,431)
Other comprehensive income		0	(147,118)	0	(147,118)
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	(147,118)	(107,431)	(254,549)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		3,762	0	0	3,762
Other contributions by owners		6,434	0	0	6,434
Transfer of net assets from other agencies		399	0	0	399
Distributions to owners		(861)	0	0	(861)
Total		9,734	0	0	9,734
Balance at 30 June 2019		3,062,619	60,817	(48,069)	3,075,367

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

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		204,538	212,977
Capital appropriations		3,762	2,427
Holding account drawdowns		8,859	9,098
Non-retained revenue distributed to owner		(735)	(735)
Royalties for Regions Fund		18,193	26,301
Net cash provided by State Government		234,617	250,068
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(163,583)	(163,598)
Supplies and services		(72,214)	(81,062)
Accommodation		(4,016)	(4,142)
Grants and subsidies		(35,347)	(29,122)
GST payments on purchases		(12,389)	(11,467)
GST payments to taxation authority		(60)	(172)
Other payments		(19,881)	(20,577)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		42,294	32,195
Commonwealth grants and contributions		1,260	1,787
Interest received		2,109	2,007
GST receipts on sales		5,498	4,893
GST receipts from taxation authority		7,040	7,079
Other receipts		31,147	48,001
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	7.1.2	(218,142)	(214,178)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(32,971)	(28,512)
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		988	966
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(31,983)	(27,546)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(15,508)	8,344
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		90,907	82,563
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	7.1	75,399	90,907

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

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates
As at 30 June 2019

	2019 Estimate \$'000	2019 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2019 Actual \$'000	2018 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 80 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	210,037	233,087	23,050	233,087	240,276	(7,189)
Royalties for Regions Fund	16,513	11,759	(4,754)	11,759	21,545	(9,786)
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes - <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	375	625	250	625	375	250
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	226,925	245,471	18,546	245,471	262,196	(16,725)
Capital						
Item 125 Capital appropriations	3,027	3,762	735	3,762	2,426	1,336
Royalties for Regions Fund	13,741	6,434	(7,307)	6,434	4,757	1,677
Total capital	16,768	10,196	(6,572)	10,196	7,183	3,013
GRAND TOTAL	243,693	255,667	11,974	255,667	269,379	(13,712)
Details of Expenses by Service						
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park	0	11,641	11,641	11,641	7,983	3,658
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island	0	4,729	4,729	4,729	6,043	(1,314)
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo	0	7,738	7,738	7,738	6,542	1,196
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	13,888	15,768	1,880	15,768	15,799	(31)
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	91,810	93,990	2,180	93,990	100,910	(6,920)
Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	65,828	64,439	(1,389)	64,439	60,086	4,353
Research and Conservation Partnerships	32,302	21,729	(10,573)	21,729	21,705	24
Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	21,918	20,177	(1,741)	20,177	16,673	3,504
Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	46,985	52,140	5,155	52,140	53,459	(1,319)
Bushfire Suppression	31,860	36,891	5,031	36,891	30,392	6,499
Total Cost of Services	304,591	329,242	24,651	329,242	319,592	9,650
Add Loss on Revaluation of Assets	0	106,416	106,416	106,416	0	106,416
Less Total Income	(79,185)	(80,696)	(1,511)	(80,696)	(79,340)	(1,356)
Net Cost of Services	225,406	354,962	129,556	354,962	240,252	114,710
Adjustments	1,519	(109,491)	(111,010)	(109,491)	21,944	(131,435)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	226,925	245,471	18,546	245,471	262,196	(16,725)
Capital Expenditure						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	30,170	32,971	2,801	32,971	28,512	4,459
Adjustment for other funding sources	(13,402)	(22,775)	(9,373)	(22,775)	(21,329)	(1,446)
Capital appropriations	16,768	10,196	(6,572)	10,196	7,183	3,013
Details of Income Estimates						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	90	102	12	102	51	51
	90	102	12	102	51	51

"2019 Estimate" refers to the Department's (excluding Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority) budget estimates approved under section 40 of the Financial Management Act 2006.

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

Note 10.1 'Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service' and Note 10.2 'Explanatory statement for Administered Items' provide details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2019 and between the actual results for 2019 and 2018.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of preparation

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is a WA Government entity and is controlled by the State of Western Australia, which is the ultimate parent. The Department is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective).

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities have been included in the 'Overview' which does not form part of these financial statements.

(a)

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Accountable Authority of the Department on 11 September 2019.

Statement of compliance

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

1. The *Financial Management Act 2006 (FMA)*
2. The Treasurer's Instructions (**the Instructions or TI**)
3. Australian Accounting Standards (**AAS**) including applicable interpretations
4. Where appropriate, those **AAS** paragraphs applicable for not-for-profit entities have been applied.

The *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions (the Instructions) take precedence over AAS. Several AAS are modified by the Instructions to vary application, disclosure format and wording. 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.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars applying the accrual basis of accounting and using the historical cost convention. Certain balances will apply a different measurement basis (such as the fair value basis). Where this is the case the different measurement basis is disclosed in the associated note. All values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

Judgements and estimates

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements and estimates made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements and/or estimates are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

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.

The transfers 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.

2. Department output

How the Department operates

This section includes information regarding the nature of funding the Department receives and how this funding is utilised to achieve the Department's objectives. This note also provides the distinction between controlled funding and administered funding:

	Note
Department objectives	2.1
Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service	2.2
Schedule of Assets and Liability by Service	2.3

2.1 Department objectives

Mission

The Department works with the community to ensure that Western Australia's environment is valued, protected and conserved, for its intrinsic value, and for the appreciation and benefit of present and future generations.

Funding is predominantly provided 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: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park

The Department provides an annual grant to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority to provide visitor services and public programs to the community for this service.

Service 2: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island

The Department provides an annual grant to the Rottnest Island Authority to provide visitor services and public programs to the community for this service.

Service 3: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo

The Department provides an annual grant to the Zoological Parks Authority to provide visitor services and public programs to the community for this service.

Service 4: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

Provide facilities, experiences and programs to visitors to the Swan and Canning Riverpark for their enjoyment and appreciation of natural, cultural and heritage values and to strengthen community understanding and support for conservation of plants, animals and habitats.

Service 5: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters

Provide facilities, experiences and programs to visitors to national parks and other lands and waters for their enjoyment and appreciation of natural, cultural and heritage values and to strengthen community understanding and support for conservation of plants and animals.

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

Develop and implement programs for the conservation of biodiversity.

Service 7: Research and Conservation Partnerships

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

Service 8: Implementation of the Forest Management Plan

Manage State forests in accordance with the approved Forest Management Plan and provide services that support forest production activities.

Service 9: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management

Deliver prescribed burning and fire management to protect the community and enhance natural values.

Service 10: Bushfire Suppression

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

Consolidation:

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority are separate legal entities governed by their respective boards appointed under *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority Act 1998*, *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987* and *Zoological Parks Authority Act 2001* respectively and consequently, its financial results are presented separately and not consolidated into these financial statements.

The financial statements of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will include Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority only to the extent it has provided direct funding to each of the statutory authorities.

To facilitate interpretation of the financial reports of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, funding provided to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority are disclosed as Service 1 – “Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park” and Bold Park, Service 2 – “Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island” and Service 3 – “Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo”. These disclosures do not represent the full and comprehensive financial results and financial position of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority. For full disclosure of the financial results and financial position of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority, refer to the annual report and financial statements of the individual statutory authority.

2.2 Schedule of income and expenses by service

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters		Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities		Research and Conservation Partnerships		Implementation of the Forest Management Plan		Prescribed Burning and Fire Management		Bushfire Suppression		Total	
	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'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	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,472	5,882	45,815	48,325	44,478	43,014	9,798	8,657	12,632	10,822	34,365	35,631	11,507	10,117	164,067	162,448
Supplies and services	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,797	3,210	25,919	32,235	12,995	10,299	8,727	10,407	4,518	3,721	10,151	10,050	10,570	7,589	74,677	77,511
Depreciation expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	338	193	13,843	12,671	2,674	2,151	754	854	1,469	1,098	4,878	4,996	3,097	3,142	27,053	25,105
Accommodation expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	85	1,918	2,054	882	1,071	240	27	184	74	458	551	278	298	4,016	4,160
Grants & subsidies	11,641	7,983	4,729	6,043	7,738	6,542	7,903	6,169	1,754	1,280	152	38	1,353	842	33	2	27	35	17	22	35,347	28,956
Other expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	202	260	4,741	4,345	3,258	3,513	857	918	1,341	956	2,261	2,196	11,422	9,224	24,082	21,412
Total cost of services	11,641	7,983	4,729	6,043	7,738	6,542	15,768	15,799	93,990	100,910	64,439	60,086	21,729	21,705	20,177	16,673	52,140	53,459	36,891	30,392	329,242	319,592
Loss on revaluation of assets																						
Loss on revaluation of land	0	0	0	0	0	0	724	0	30,648	0	26,934	0	0	0	0	48,110	0	0	0	0	106,416	0
Total loss on revaluation of assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	724	0	30,648	0	26,934	0	0	0	0	48,110	0	0	0	0	106,416	0
Income																						
User charges and fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	156	207	26,361	23,644	4,911	1,397	2,583	1,330	5,968	3,085	1,911	1,417	4,030	1,338	45,920	32,418
Commonwealth grants and contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	9	0	1,252	2,120	0	0	(1)	44	0	0	1,260	2,182
Other grants and contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,640	4,324	2,605	3,191	761	921	11,486	18,650	259	117	484	984	0	0	19,235	28,187
Interest revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	315	231	351	231	1,078	1,484	184	122	18	6	0	0	1,946	2,080
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	299	35	5,024	7,013	3,387	3,406	107	158	2,226	2,647	319	332	207	287	11,569	13,878
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	8	131	103	(7)	43	(15)	4	57	60	298	212	288	165	766	595
Total income other than income from State Government	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,109	4,598	34,436	34,182	9,412	5,998	16,491	23,746	8,694	6,031	3,029	2,995	4,525	1,790	80,696	79,340
NET COST OF SERVICES	11,641	7,983	4,729	6,043	7,738	6,542	12,383	11,201	90,202	66,728	81,961	54,088	5,238	(2,041)	59,593	10,642	49,111	50,464	32,366	28,602	354,962	240,252
Income from State Government																						
Service appropriation	11,641	7,983	4,729	6,043	7,738	6,542	9,988	11,000	57,972	67,575	53,662	56,881	0	0	11,224	13,928	47,555	43,489	29,203	27,210	233,712	240,651
Services received free of charge	0	0	0	0	0	0	201	20	242	598	156	442	53	38	81	39	125	190	1,202	43	2,060	1,370
Royalties for Regions Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,944	15,403	425	862	0	0	0	0	5,390	5,280	0	0	11,759	21,545
Total income from State Government	11,641	7,983	4,729	6,043	7,738	6,542	10,189	11,020	64,158	83,576	54,243	58,185	53	38	11,305	13,967	53,070	48,959	30,405	27,253	247,531	263,566
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the period	0	0	0	0	0	0	(2,194)	(181)	(26,044)	16,848	(27,718)	4,097	(5,185)	2,079	(48,288)	3,325	3,959	(1,505)	(1,961)	(1,349)	(107,431)	23,314

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

(a) Note: The service includes transactions only to the extent that the Department has provided direct funding to the statutory authority. These disclosures do not represent the financial result and financial position of the Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority. For a full disclosure of the financial results and financial position of each statutory authority, refer to the annual report and financial statements of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority respectively.

2.3 Schedule of assets and liabilities by service

As at 30 June 2019

	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo (a)		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark		Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters		Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities		Research and Conservation Partnerships		Implementation of the Forest Management Plan		Prescribed Burning and Fire Management		Bushfire Suppression		Total	
	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
ASSETS																						
Current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	626	4,236	19,053	27,477	3,284	6,313	62,712	67,274	6,267	3,952	3,839	3,756	2,678	2,359	98,459	115,367
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,310	19,927	1,002,836	1,089,339	689,702	724,065	15,911	14,717	1,168,379	1,263,633	71,074	84,550	52,760	53,878	3,023,972	3,250,109
Total assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,936	24,163	1,021,889	1,116,816	692,986	730,378	78,623	81,991	1,174,646	1,267,585	74,913	88,306	55,438	56,237	3,122,431	3,365,476
LIABILITIES																						
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,220	757	12,988	13,120	12,524	12,360	2,212	2,428	4,021	2,997	6,515	6,344	831	797	40,311	38,803
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	247	79	2,096	2,181	2,120	2,098	426	454	542	342	1,194	1,185	128	128	6,753	6,467
Total liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,467	836	15,084	15,301	14,644	14,458	2,638	2,882	4,563	3,339	7,709	7,529	959	925	47,064	45,270
NET ASSETS	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,469	23,327	1,006,805	1,101,515	678,342	715,920	75,985	79,109	1,170,083	1,264,246	67,204	80,777	54,479	55,312	3,075,367	3,320,206

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

(a) Note: The service includes transactions only to the extent that the Department has provided direct funding to the statutory authority. These disclosures do not represent the financial result and financial position of the Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority. For a full disclosure of the financial results and financial position of each statutory authority, refer to the annual report and financial statements of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority respectively.

3. Use of our funding

Expenses incurred in the delivery of services

This section provides additional information about how the Department's funding is applied and the accounting policies that are relevant for an understanding of the items recognised in the financial statements. The primary expenses incurred by the Department in achieving its objectives and the relevant notes are:

	Notes	2019 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)
Employee benefits expense	3.1(a)	164,067	162,448
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	39,163	38,719
Grants and subsidies	3.2	35,347	28,956
Other expenses	3.3	102,775	103,083

3.1a) Employee benefits expense

Wages and salaries	147,169	142,360
Termination benefits	3,206	6,853
Superannuation – defined contribution plans ^(a)	13,692	13,235
	164,067	162,448

(a) 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 \$11.61 million (2018: \$11.59 million).

Wages and salaries: Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements and termination payments.

Termination benefits: Payable when employment is terminated before normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the Department is demonstrably committed to terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Benefits falling due more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period are discounted to present value.

Superannuation: The amount recognised in profit or loss of the Statement of Comprehensive Income comprises employer contributions paid to the Gold State Super (GSS) (concurrent contributions), the West State Super (WSS), the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB), 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.

GSS (concurrent contributions) is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole of government reporting. It is however a defined contribution plan, for department purposes because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by the Department to GESB extinguishes the Department's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

The Department does not recognise any defined benefit liabilities because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. 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 the GESB.

The 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 vary according to commencement and implementation dates.

3.1b) Employee related provisions

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave for services rendered up to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2019 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)
Current		
<u>Employee benefits provisions</u>		
Annual leave ^(a)	13,664	12,358
Long service leave ^(b)	18,375	19,524
	32,039	31,882
<u>Other provisions</u>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	371	370
Total current employee related provisions	32,410	32,252
Non-current		
<u>Employee benefits provisions</u>		
Long service leave ^(b)	6,674	6,391
<u>Other provisions</u>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	79	76
Total non-current employee related provisions	6,753	6,467
Total employee related provisions	39,163	38,719

(a) Annual leave liabilities: 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:

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	9,336	8,503
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	4,328	3,855
	13,664	12,358

The provision for annual leave is calculated at the present value of expected payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date

(b) Long service leave liabilities: 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.

Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	7,244	7,924
More than 12 months after the reporting period	17,805	17,991
	25,049	25,915

The provision for long service leave is calculated at present value as the Department does not expect to wholly settle the amounts within 12 months. The present value is measured taking into account the present value of expected future payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date. These payments are estimated using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement and 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.

- (c) **Employment on-costs:** 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.

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', Note 3.3 (apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost)) and are not included as part of the Department's 'employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
<u>Employment on-costs provision</u>		
Carrying amount at start of period	446	453
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	180	355
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefits	(185)	(374)
Unwinding of the discount	9	12
Carrying amount at end of period	450	446

Key sources of estimation uncertainty – long service leave

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.

Several estimates and assumptions are used in calculating the Department's long service leave provision. These 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.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of long service leave liabilities is recognised as employee benefits expense.

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
3.2 Grants and subsidies		
<u>Recurrent</u>		
State Government ^(a)	26,289	24,150
Private organisations	4,664	2,735
Local Government	3,642	2,054
Federal Government	752	17
Total grants and subsidies	35,347	28,956

(a) State Government entities with significant total grants provided by the Department:

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	11,641	8,680
Zoological Parks Authority	7,747	7,800
Rottnest Island Authority	4,729	6,040
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	1,387	1,620
Western Australian Museum	494	710
Department of Finance	0	50

Transactions in which the Department provides goods, services, assets (or extinguishes a liability) or labour to another party without receiving approximately equal value in return are categorised as 'Grant expenses'. Grants can either be operating or capital in nature.

Grants can be paid as general purpose grants which refer to grants that are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be paid as specific purpose grants which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

Grants and other transfers to third parties (other than contribution to owners) are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable. They include transactions such as: grants, subsidies, personal benefit payments made in cash to individuals and other transfer payments made to public sector agencies, local government, non-government schools, and community groups.

3.3 Other expenditure

Supplies and services

Communications	3,349	3,614
Consultants and contractors	4,172	4,065
Services and contracts	34,508	40,378
Materials	16,144	13,947
Repairs and maintenance	5,769	5,028
Travel	4,449	4,058
Regional employee housing	2,080	2,328
Staff Costs (including uniforms & protective clothing)	4,149	4,072
Other	57	21
Total supplies and services expenses	74,677	77,511

Accommodation expenses

Lease rentals	2,012	2,079
Electricity, power and water	2,004	2,081
Total accommodation expenses	4,016	4,160

	2019 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)
Other expenses		
Employment on-costs	1,226	1,457
Operating lease – motor vehicle	7,236	7,731
Other lease, rental and hire expenses	15,620	12,224
Total other expenses	24,082	21,412
Total other expenditure	102,775	103,083

Supplies and services: Supplies and services are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

During the year the Department's transactions with government related entities on supplies and services amount to \$9.44 million (2018: \$9.09 million).

Doubtful debts expense was recognised as the movement in the allowance for doubtful debts. From 2018-19, expected credit losses expense is recognised as the movement in the allowance for expected credit losses. The allowance for expected credit losses of trade receivables is measured at the lifetime expected credit losses at each reporting date. The Department has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment. Refer to note 6.2.1 Movement of the allowance for impairment of receivables.

Accommodation expenses: Operating lease payments are recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term, except where another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern of the benefits derived from the use of the leased asset.

Transactions with the Department of Finance was \$1.02 million in 2019 (2018: \$1.14 million), and transactions with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development was \$0.79 million in 2019 (2018: \$0.09 million).

Other expenses: Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in the normal operations.

Employee on-cost includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liabilities is included at Note 3.1(b) Employee related provision. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

Operating and other leases: The Department holds motor vehicle, aircraft and office equipment leases. Operating lease payments are recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term, except where another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern of the benefits derived from the use of the leased asset.

During the financial year transactions with State Fleet amounted to \$3.63 million (2018: \$3.77 million) and transactions with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services amounted to \$0.81 million (2018: \$0.64 million).

4. Our funding sources

How we obtain our funding

This section provides additional information about how the Department obtains its funding and the relevant accounting policy notes that govern the recognition and measurement of this funding. The primary income received by the Department and the relevant notes are:

		2019	2018
		(\$000)	(\$000)
Income from State Government	4.1	247,531	263,566
User charges and fees	4.2	45,920	32,418
Other revenue	4.3	11,569	13,878
Commonwealth grants and contributions	4.4	1,260	2,182
Other grants and contributions	4.5	19,235	28,187
Gains	4.6	766	595

4.1 Income from State Government

Appropriation received during the period:

Service appropriation ^(a)	233,712	240,651
	233,712	240,651
Assets transferred from/(to) other State government agencies during the period: ^(b)	0	0
Inventories	0	0
Total assets transferred	0	0

Services received free of charge from other State government agencies during the period:

- Department of Fire and Emergency Services – shared aerial firefighting service	1,123	0
- Department of Justice – legal services	28	933
- Landgate – imagery services and land information data	531	267
- Department of Finance – government accommodation	73	86
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – supplies and services	53	55
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage – analysis of data	0	17
- Department of Transport – management plan assessment	0	10
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation – LiDar data	156	2
- Main Roads Western Australia – technical advice	10	0
- State Solicitors Office – legal services	70	0
- Department of Health – strategy advisory committee	16	0
Total services received	2,060	1,370

Royalties for Regions Fund:

Regional Community Services Account ^(c)	11,759	21,545
Total income from State Government	247,531	263,566

(a) **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 in the bank account or credited to the 'Amounts receivable for services' (holding account) held at Treasury.

Service appropriations fund the net cost of services delivered (as set out in note 2.2). Appropriation revenue comprises the following:

- Cash component; and
- A receivable (asset).

The receivable (holding account – note 6.3) comprises the following:

- The budgeted depreciation expense for the year; and
- Any agreed increase in leave liabilities during the year.

(b) Transfer of assets: Discretionary transfers of assets (including grants) and liabilities between State government agencies are reported under Income from State Government. Transfers of assets and liabilities in relation to a restructure of administrative arrangements are recognised as distribution to owners by the transferor and contribution by owners by the transferee under AASB 1004. Other non-discretionary non-reciprocal transfers of assets and liabilities designated as contributions by owners under TI 955 are also recognised directly to equity.

(c) The Regional Community Services Accounts 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 and are recognised as revenue when the Department gains control on receipt of the funds.

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
4.2 User charges and fees		
User charges	23,657	21,202
Fees	22,263	11,216
	45,920	32,418

During the financial year the Department's transactions with other government related entities on user charges and fees amounts to \$15.70 million (2018: \$6.18 million).

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.

Under a Net Appropriation Determination, the Department retains revenue from sale of goods, provision of services, interest earned, and other departmental revenue.

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
4.3 Other revenue		
Mining compensation	6,818	7,236
Insurance refunds ^(a)	263	607
Forest and beach shack leases	677	1,093
Other	1,280	901
Plant fund expenditure recoup	183	469
Communication sites	372	543
Workers compensation payroll recoup ^(a)	386	487
Publications	299	357
Apiary sites	233	324
Diesel fuel rebate	434	323
Sale of minor assets	158	79
Assets found during the period:		
-Buildings	466	1,072
-Property, plant and equipment	0	387
	11,569	13,878

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

4.4 Commonwealth grants and contributions

Recurrent	1,260	2,182
	1,260	2,182

The Department received revenue from the Commonwealth Government during the period in relation to 18 separate conservation projects.

4.5 Other grants and contributions

Capital	1,218	5,609
Recurrent	18,017	22,578
	19,235	28,187

The Department received revenue from a range of private and state granting entities in 2019 in relation to 147 separate conservation projects. The state grants revenue amounted to \$8.00 million (2018: \$12.82 million). Any unspent funds remaining at the conclusion of individual projects are returned to the relevant granting entity.

For **non-reciprocal grants**, the Department recognises revenue when the grant is receivable at its fair value as and when its fair value can be reliably measured.

Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if not donated.

4.6 Gains

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
<u>Net proceeds from disposal of non-current assets</u>		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	1,088	965
Buildings	0	0
Trade-in	126	0
<u>Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed</u>		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	(274)	(248)
Buildings	(174)	(122)
Net gain/(loss)	766	595

Realised and 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.

Gains and losses on the disposal of non-current assets are presented by deducting from the proceeds on disposal the carrying amount of the asset and related selling expenses. Gains and losses are recognised as profit or loss in the statement of comprehensive income (from the proceeds of sale).

5. Key assets

Assets the Department utilises for economic benefit or service potential

This section includes information regarding the key assets the Department utilises to gain economic benefits or provide service potential. The section sets out both the key accounting policies and financial information about the performance of these assets:

	Notes		
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1	2,837,901	3,085,101
Depreciation and impairment	5.1.1	27,053	25,105

5.1 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Year ended 30 June 2018	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)	Assets under construction (\$000)	Plant, equipment (\$000)	Vehicles (\$000)	Infrastructure (\$000)	Works of art (\$000)	Total (\$000)
1 July 2017								
Gross carrying amount	2,898,338	113,965	37,857	143,140	39,859	76,208	555	3,309,922
Accumulated depreciation	0	0	0	(77,235)	(21,534)	(43,822)	0	(142,591)
Accumulated impairment loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrying amount at start of period	2,898,338	113,965	37,857	65,905	18,325	32,386	555	3,167,331
Additions	2,911	606	20,115	3,549	1,333	0	0	28,514
Transfers(a)	0	3,281	(12,175)	8,904	590	205	0	805
Assets not previously identified	0	1,072	0	387	0	0	0	1,459
Other disposals	0	(122)	0	(118)	(131)	0	0	(371)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	(91,395)	3,863	0	0	0	0	0	(87,532)
Impairment losses(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	(10,183)	0	(9,241)	(2,820)	(2,861)	0	(25,105)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2018	2,809,854	112,482	45,797	69,386	17,297	29,730	555	3,085,101

(a) The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is the only Department with the power to sell Crown land. The land is transferred to DPLH for sale and the Department accounts for the transfer as a distribution to owner.

(b) Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Where an asset measured at cost is written-down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised as 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. Information on fair value measurements is provided in Note 8.3.

5.1 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (cont.)

Year ended 30 June 2019	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)	Assets under construction (\$000)	Plant, equipment (\$000)	Vehicles (\$000)	Infrastructure (\$000)	Works of art (\$000)	Total (\$000)
1 July 2018								
Gross carrying amount	2,809,854	112,482	45,797	154,570	39,531	76,414	555	3,239,203
Accumulated depreciation	0	0	0	(85,184)	(22,234)	(46,684)	0	(154,102)
Accumulated impairment loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrying amount at start of period	2,809,854	112,482	45,797	69,386	17,297	29,730	555	3,085,101
Additions	3,742	1,523	20,144	3,750	2,761	1,629	14	33,563
Transfers(a)	35	4,308	(22,089)	5,874	1,444	10,234	0	(194)
Assets not previously identified	0	466	0	0	0	0	0	466
Other disposals	0	(174)	0	(186)	(88)	0	0	(448)
Revaluation increments/(decrements) (c)	(258,317)	4,783	0	0	0	0	0	(253,534)
Impairment losses(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	(10,912)	0	(9,236)	(2,980)	(3,925)	0	(27,053)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2019	2,555,314	112,476	43,852	69,588	18,434	37,668	569	2,837,901
Gross carrying amount	2,555,314	112,476	43,852	160,910	41,001	89,318	569	3,003,440
Accumulated depreciation	0	0	0	(91,322)	(22,567)	(51,650)	0	(165,539)
Accumulated Impairment loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(a) The Department received \$ 0.40 million of assets in 2018-19 and \$0.81 million of assets in 2017-18 from other agencies which has been accounted as contributed equity. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is the only Department with the power to sell Crown land. The Land is transferred to DPLH for sale and the Department accounts for the transfer as a distribution to owner.

(b) Recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Where an asset measured at cost is written-down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit and loss. Where a previously revalued asset is written down to recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement in other comprehensive income.

Information on fair value measurement is provided in Note 8.3.

(c) See following notes on Loss on revaluation of assets.

Initial recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment, costing \$5,000 or more are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is valued at its fair value at the date of acquisition. Items of property, plant and equipment and infrastructure costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Asset transferred as part of a machinery of government change are transferred at their fair value.

Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition of an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of:

- land, and
- buildings

Land is carried at fair value.

Buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

All other property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Land and buildings are independently valued annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuations and Property Analytics) 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.

Land and buildings were revalued as at 1 July 2018 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuations and Property Analytics). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2019 and recognised at 30 June 2019. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$194,512,100 (2018: \$195,148,600) and buildings: \$2,308,500 (2018: \$2,126,800). For the remaining balance, fair value of buildings was determined on the basis of current replacement cost and fair value of land was determined on the basis of comparison with market evidence for land with low level utility (high restricted use land).

Loss on revaluation of assets: A revaluation decrement of \$106.42 million was recognised at 30 June 2019. The value of Land, assessed by Landgate, decreased by \$258.32 million between the 2017-18 and the 2018-19 financial periods clearing the \$151.90 million opening balance in the land revaluation reserve. The Department holds a significant amount of land parcels that are spread across the state. Market conditions vary depending on the region but, notably, a combination of poor economic conditions and restrictions on uncleared lands in the South West region have produced decrements in the Department's land portfolio. In future financial periods increases in the value of Land resulting from the revaluation process will be reported as a gain in profit and loss to the extent it reverses previously recognised decrements.

Revaluation model:

1. Fair Value 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. When buildings are revalued by reference to recent market transactions the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

2. Fair value in the absence of market-based evidence:

Buildings are specialised or, where land is restricted: Fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of existing use.

Existing use buildings: Fair value is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the current replacement cost. Where the fair value of buildings is determined on the current replacement cost basis, the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

Restricted use land: Fair value 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).

The most significant assumptions and adjustments in estimating fair value are made in assessing whether to apply the existing use basis to asset 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.

Non-current assets 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 Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) is the only Department with the power to sell Crown land. The Conservation and Parks Commission transfers Crown land and any attaching buildings to DPLH when the land becomes available for sale.

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
5.1.1 Depreciation and impairment		
Depreciation		
Plant, equipment	9,236	9,241
Vehicles	2,980	2,820
Buildings	10,912	10,183
Infrastructure	3,925	2,861
Total depreciation for the period	27,053	25,105

As at 30 June 2019 there were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment or infrastructure.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2019 have either been classified as assets held for sale or have been written-off.

Finite useful lives

All infrastructure, property, plant and equipment 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. The exceptions to this rule include items under operating leases, assets held for sale, land and investment properties.

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful life: years
Buildings	18-20
Plant and equipment, office equipment, furniture, communication, fire protection equipment, aircraft, vessels and computer equipment	4-20
Vehicles	5-14
Infrastructure and recreation and tourism facilities	10-33

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Land and works of art, which are considered to have an indefinite life, are not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of property, plant and equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. 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 its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised through profit or loss.

Where a previously revalued asset is written down to its recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement through 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 of regularly revalued specialised assets is anticipated to be materially the same as fair value.

If there is an indication that there has been a reversal in impairment, the carrying amount shall be increased to its recoverable amount. However, this reversal shall not increase the asset's carrying amount above what would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised in prior years.

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/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of the asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from declining replacement costs.

6. Other assets and liabilities

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Department's controlled operations and includes other assets utilised for economic benefits and liabilities incurred during normal operations:

	Notes	2019 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)
Inventories	6.1	857	1,236
Receivables	6.2	12,161	8,695
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	192,983	172,668
Other assets	6.4	3,029	6,869
Payables	6.5	(3,120)	(2,382)
Other liabilities	6.6	(4,781)	(4,169)

6.1 Inventories

Inventories held for resale:

Souvenirs	346	739
-----------	-----	-----

Inventories held for distribution:

Publications	511	497
--------------	-----	-----

Total Inventories	857	1,236
--------------------------	------------	--------------

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.

6.2 Receivables

Trade Receivables	9,548	5,854
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(74)	(6)
GST receivable	1,668	1,756
Accrued revenue	1,019	1,091
Total receivables	12,161	8,695

As at 30 June 2019 receivables from other government related entities amounted to \$5.93 million (2018: \$3.57 million).

Trade receivables are recognised at original invoice amount less any allowances for uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days.

	2019 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)
6.2.1 Movement in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables		
Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables:		
Balance at start of period	6	1
Remeasurement under AASB 9	24	0
Restated balance at start of period	30	1
Amounts recovered during the period	0	(1)
Doubtful debts expense	0	23
Expected credit losses expense	56	0
Amounts written off during the period	(12)	(17)
Balance at end of period	74	6

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period for trade receivables is the carrying amount of the asset inclusive of any allowance for impairment as shown in the table at Note 8.1(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures'.

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

6.3 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

Current	8,717	8,859
Non-current	184,266	163,809
Balance at end of period	192,983	172,668

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

Amounts receivable for services are considered not impaired (i.e. there is no expected credit loss of the holding accounts).

6.4 Other assets

<u>Current</u>		
Prepayments	3,029	6,869
Total current	3,029	6,869

6.5 Payables

<u>Current</u>		
Trade payables	183	160
Accrued expenses	2,241	1,580
Accrued salaries	544	504
Accrued superannuation	50	50
Parental payment	102	88
Total current	3,120	2,382

Other non-financial assets include prepayments which represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

Payables are recognised at the amounts 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.

Accrued salaries represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the reporting period end. The Department considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its fair value.

The accrued salaries suspense account (See Note 7.1.1 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually, from Department appropriations for salaries expense, into a Treasury suspense account to meet the additional cash outflow for employee salary payments in reporting periods with 27 pay days instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
6.6 Other liabilities		
<u>Current</u>		
Unearned revenue	4,781	4,169
Total current	4,781	4,169

As at 30 June 2019 unearned revenue from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage amounted to NIL (2018: \$0.2 million).

7. Financing

This section sets out the material balances and disclosures associated with the financing and cashflows of the Department.

	Notes
Cash and cash equivalents	7.1
Reconciliation of cash	7.1.1
Reconciliation of operating activities	7.1.2
Commitments	7.2
Non-cancellable operating lease commitments	7.2.1
Capital commitments	7.2.2
Other expenditure commitments	7.2.3

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
7.1 Cash and cash equivalents		
7.1.1 Reconciliation of cash		
<i>Current</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	13,425	15,046
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
– Cash amounts in Special Purpose account ^(a)	60,169	74,662
	73,594	89,708
<i>Non-Current</i>		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
– Accrued salaries suspense account ^(b)	1,805	1,199
	1,805	1,199
Balance at end of period	75,399	90,907

(a) Cash held in the account is to fund the three special purpose accounts disclosed at note 9.5 '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 reporting period that occurs every 11th year. This account is classified as non-current for 10 out of 11 years.

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalent (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.

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

	Notes		
Net cost of services		(354,962)	(240,252)
Non-cash items			
Loss on revaluation of land	5.1	106,416	0
Depreciation expense	5.1.1	27,053	25,105
Services received free of charge	4.1	2,060	1,370
Adjustments for other non cash items		(490)	(1,459)
(Gain)/Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	4.6	(766)	(595)
(Increase)/decrease in assets			
Current receivables ^(a)		(3,694)	6,418
Inventories		379	(322)
Other current assets		3,979	1,429
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities			
Current payables and other current liabilities ^(a)		1,350	(5,621)
Provisions		444	(585)
Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(b)		89	334
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(218,142)	(214,178)

- (a) Note that the 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.

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
7.2 Commitments		
7.2.1 Non-cancellable operating lease commitments		
Commitments for minimum lease payments are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	4,917	4,816
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	8,784	8,278
Later than 5 years	2,299	1,762
Balance at end of period	16,000	14,856

The Department's fleet leases with the Department of Finance accounts for \$9.16 million of the non-cancellable operating lease commitments for 2019 (\$8.0 million in 2018). The lease term varies depending on the vehicle. The Department's accommodation leases with the Department of Finance accounts for \$2.03 million (\$2.0 million in 2018). The lease payments are fixed for the term of the lease and are payable monthly.

Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies – operating lease commitments

The Department has entered into a number of leases for buildings for 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.

7.2.2 Capital commitments

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

Within 1 year	1,305	2,209
	1,305	2,209

The totals presented for capital commitments are GST inclusive.

7.2.3 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	7,988	9,988
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	1,904	8,066
	9,892	18,054

The totals presented for other expenditure commitments are GST inclusive.

8. Risks and contingencies

This note sets out the key risk management policies and measurement techniques of the Department.

	Notes
Financial risk management	8.1
Contingent assets and liabilities	8.2
Contingent liabilities	8.2.1
Fair value measurements	8.3

8.1 Financial risk management

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.

(a) Summary of risks and risk management

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.

Credit risk associated with the Department's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amounts receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than Government, the Department trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The Department has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Department's exposure to bad debts is minimal. Debt will be written-off against the allowance account when it is improbable or uneconomical to recover the debt. 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 drawdown 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 (for example, equity securities or commodity prices changes). The Department's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relate primarily to the short-term deposits and cash and cash equivalents.

Other than as detailed in the interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 8.1(e), the Department is not exposed to interest rate risk as it 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:

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	13,425	15,046
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	61,974	75,861
Loans and receivables ^(a)	0	179,607
Financial assets at amortised cost ^(a)	203,476	0
Total financial assets	278,875	270,514
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	3,120	2,382
Total financial liability	3,120	2,382

(a) The amount of loans and receivables/financial assets at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(c) Credit risk exposure

The following table details the credit risk exposure on the Department's trade receivables using a provision matrix.

		Days past due				
	Total	Current	<30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	>91 days
	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
30 June 2019						
Expected credit loss rate		0.01%	0.54%	2.29%	4.00%	4.50%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	9,548	6,705	1,014	647	36	1,146
Expected credit losses	74	1	5	15	1	52
1 July 2018 (Remeasurement)						
Expected credit loss rate		0.01%	0.47%	2.36%	4.26%	4.42%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	5,854	4,557	422	508	141	226
Expected credit losses	30	0	2	12	6	10

(d) Liquidity risk and interest rate exposure

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

Interest rate exposure and maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities											
	Weighted average effective interest rate %	Interest rate exposure				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)
2019											
<u>Financial assets</u>											
Cash and cash equivalents	2.08	13,425	0	13,425	0	13,425	13,425	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	2.08	61,974	0	61,974	0	61,974	61,974	0	0	0	0
Receivables ^(a)		10,493	0	0	10,493	10,493	10,493	0	0	0	0
Amounts receivable for services		192,983	0	0	192,983	192,983	0	0	8,717	42,842	141,424
		278,875	0	75,399	203,476	278,875	85,892	0	8,717	42,842	141,424
<u>Financial liabilities</u>											
Payables		3,120	0	0	3,120	3,120	3,120	0	0	0	0
		3,120	0	0	3,120	3,120	3,120	0	0	0	0

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

(d) Liquidity Risk and interest rate exposure (cont.)

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)
2018											
<u>Financial assets</u>											
Cash and cash equivalents	1.97	15,046	0	15,046	0	15,046	15,046	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	1.97	75,861	0	75,861	0	75,861	75,861	0	0	0	0
Receivables ^(a)		6,939	0	0	6,939	6,939	6,939	0	0	0	0
Amounts receivable for services		172,668	0	0	172,668	172,668	0	0	8,859	40,379	123,430
		270,514	0	90,907	179,607	270,514	97,846	0	8,859	40,379	123,430
<u>Financial liabilities</u>											
Payables		2,382	0	0	2,382	2,382	2,382	0	0	0	0
		2,382	0	0	2,382	2,382	2,382	0	0	0	0

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

(e) 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)
2019					
<u>Financial assets</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents	13,425	(134)	(134)	134	134
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	61,974	(619)	(619)	619	619
Total increase/(decrease)		(753)	(753)	753	753
	Carrying amount (\$000)	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)	Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)
2018					
<u>Financial assets</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents	15,046	(150)	(150)	150	150
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	75,861	(758)	(758)	758	758
Total increase/(decrease)		(908)	(908)	908	908

8.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at the best estimate.

Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

The Department has nil contingent assets (2018: nil contingent assets).

8.2.1 Contingent liabilities

The following contingent liabilities are excluded from the liabilities included in the financial statements:

Litigation and arbitration in progress

The Department has 6 litigation claims against it amounting to \$4,097,448 covered by the Department's general liability insurance policy. If all claims are successful, it may only affect the Department's financial position to the value of \$371,313 representing the excess payable under the Department's general liability insurance policy. The Department has denied liability and any legal claim will be defended.

Native title determinations

The Department's land is subject to a number of native title determinations. The financial effect of these native title determinations and any contingent compensation liability has not been determined and 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 to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). In accordance with the Act DWER classifies these sites based on the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as *contaminated – remediation required* or *possibly contaminated – investigation required*, the Department may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

The Department has 7 sites classified as *contaminated – remediation required*, 5 sites classified as *contaminated – restricted use* and 77 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.

8.3 Fair value measurements

Assets measured at fair value:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair value at end of period
2019	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
Land (Note 5.1)	0	194,512	2,360,802	2,555,314
Buildings (Note 5.1)	0	2,309	110,167	112,476
	0	196,821	2,470,969	2,667,790

Assets measured at fair value:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value At end of period
2018	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
Land (Note 5.1)	0	195,149	2,614,705	2,809,854
Buildings (Note 5.1)	0	2,126	110,356	112,482
	0	197,275	2,725,061	2,922,336

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

Valuation techniques to derive Level 2 fair values

Level 2 fair values of land and buildings (office accommodation) are derived using the market approach. Market evidence of sales prices of comparable land and buildings (office accommodation) in close proximity is used to determine price per square metre.

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

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)

	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)
2019		
Fair Value at start of period	2,614,705	110,356
Additions	3,777	6,297
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Profit or Loss	(106,416)	0
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(151,264)	4,365
Transfers from/(to) Level 2	0	0
Disposals	0	(174)
Depreciation Expense	0	(10,677)
Fair Value at end of period	2,360,802	110,167

Total gains or losses for the period included in profit or loss, under 'Other Gains'

	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)
2018		
Fair Value at start of period	2,709,302	111,784
Additions	2,911	4,959
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(97,508)	3,725
Transfers from/(to) Level 2	0	0
Disposals	0	(122)
Depreciation Expense	0	(9,990)
Fair Value at end of period	2,614,705	110,356

Total gains or losses for the period included in profit or loss, under 'Other Gains'

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 and buildings 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 (Valuations and Property Analytics) 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 current replacement cost. 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, adjusted for obsolescence. Obsolescence encompasses physical deterioration, functional (technological) obsolescence and economic (external) obsolescence.

Valuation using current replacement cost utilises the significant Level 3 input, consumed economic benefit/obsolescence of asset which is estimated by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuations and Property Analytics). 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.

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.

9. Other disclosures

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or other pronouncements, for the understanding of this financial report.

	Notes
Impact of Australian standards	9.1
Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards	9.1.1
Future impact of Australian standards issued not yet operative	9.1.2
Key management personnel	9.2
Related party transactions	9.3
Affiliated bodies	9.4
Special purpose accounts	9.5
Remuneration of auditors	9.6
Equity	9.7
Supplementary financial information	9.8
Explanatory statement (Controlled Operations)	9.9
Statement of comprehensive income variances	9.9.1
Statement of financial position variances	9.9.2
Statement of cash flows variances	9.9.3

9.1 Impact of Australian standards

9.1.1 Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards

AASB 9 Financial instruments

AASB 9 Financial instruments replaces AASB 139 Financial instruments: Recognition and Measurements for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018, bringing together all three aspects of the accounting for financial instruments: classification and measurement; impairment; and hedge accounting.

The Department applied AASB 9 prospectively, with an initial application date of 1 July 2018. The adoption of AASB 9 has resulted in changes in accounting policies and adjustments to the amounts recognised in the financial statements. In accordance with AASB 9.7.2.15, the Department has not restated the comparative information which continues to be reported under AASB 139. Differences arising from adoption have been recognised directly in Accumulated surplus/(deficit).

The effect of adopting AASB 9 as at 1 July 2018 was, as follows:

	Adjustments (\$000)	1 July 2018 (\$000)
Assets		
Trade receivables	(a),(b)	(24)
Total Assets		(24)
Total adjustments on Equity		
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	(a),(b)	(24)
		(24)

The nature of these adjustments are described below:

(a) *Classification and measurement*

Under AASB 9, financial assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (fair value through OCI) or fair value through profit or loss (fair value through P/L). The classification is based on two criteria: the Department's business model for managing the assets; and whether the assets' contractual cash flows represent 'solely payments of principal and interest' on the principal amount outstanding.

The assessment of the Department's business model was made as of the date of initial application, 1 July 2018. The assessment of whether contractual cash flows on financial assets are solely comprised of principal and interest was made based on the facts and circumstances at the time of initial recognition of the assets.

The classification and measurement requirements of AASB 9 did not have a significant impact on the Department. The following are the changes in the classification of the Department's financial assets:

- Trade receivables as at 30 June 2018 are held to collect contractual cash flows. These are classified and measured as Financial assets at amortised cost beginning 1 July 2018.
- The Department did not designate any financial assets as at fair value through P/L.

In summary, upon the adoption of AASB 9, the Department had the following reclassifications as at 1 July 2018:

AASB 139 category	(\$000)	AASB 9 category		
		Amortised cost (\$000)	Fair value through OCI (\$000)	Fair value through P/L (\$000)
Loans and receivables				
Trade receivables*	5,848	5,824	0	0
Amounts receivable for services	172,668	172,668	0	0
Accrued revenue	1,091	1,091	0	0
		179,583	0	0

*The change in carrying amount is a result of additional impairment allowance. See the discussion on impairment below.

(b) Impairment

The adoption of AASB 9 has fundamentally changed the Department's accounting for impairment losses for financial assets by replacing AASB 139's incurred loss approach with a forward-looking expected credit loss (ECL) approach. AASB 9 requires the Department to recognise an allowance for ECLs for all financial assets not held at fair value through P/L.

Upon adoption of AASB 9, the Department recognised an additional impairment on the Department's Trade receivables of \$24k which resulted in a decrease in Accumulated surplus/(deficit) of \$24k as at 1 July 2018.

Set out below is the reconciliation of the ending impairment allowances in accordance with AASB 139 to the opening loss allowances determined in accordance with AASB 9:

	Impairment under AASB 139 as at 30 June 2018 (\$000)	Remeasurement (\$000)	ECL under AASB 9 as at 1 July 2018 (\$000)
Loans and receivables under AASB 139 / Financial assets at amortised cost under AASB 9	6	24	30
	6	24	30

9.1.2 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. Where applicable, the Department plans to apply the following Australian Accounting Standards from their application date.

		Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 15	<p><i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i></p> <p>This Standard establishes the principles that the Department shall apply to report useful information to users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from a contract with a customer. The mandatory application date of this Standard is currently 1 January 2019 after being amended by AASB 2016-7.</p> <p>The Department's income is principally derived from appropriations which will be measured under AASB 1058 and thus will not be materially affected by this change. Although the recognition of 'user charges and fees' and 'sales' revenues will be deferred until the Department has discharged its performance obligations, these revenues are expected to be fully recognised at year-end and no material contract liability will exist.</p> <p>The Department will adopt the modified retrospective approach on transition to AASB 15. No comparative information will be restated under this approach, and the Department will recognise the cumulative effect of initially applying the Standard as an adjustment to the opening balance of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at the date of initial application.</p>	1 Jan 2019
AASB 16	<p><i>Leases</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The recognition of additional assets and liabilities, mainly from operating leases, will increase the Department's total assets by \$14.44 million and total liabilities by \$14.43 million. This will have an equity impact of \$0.01 million on 1 July 2019. In addition, interest and depreciation expenses will increase, offset by a decrease in rental expense for the year ending 30 June 2020 and beyond.</p> <p>The above assessment is based on the following accounting policy positions :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Option 2 of the modified retrospective approach on transition;•the 'low value asset' threshold set at AUD \$5,000 (unless GROH, GOA or State Fleet);•For leases classified as 'short term' (12 months or less), these are not recognised under AASB 16 (unless GROH, GOA or State Fleet);•Land, buildings and investment property ROU assets are measured under the fair value model, subsequent to initial recognition; and•Discount rates are sourced from WA Treasury Corporation (WATC).	1 Jan 2019

	<p>The Department will adopt the modified retrospective approach on transition to AASB 16. No comparative information will be restated under this approach, and the Department will recognise the cumulative effect of initially applying the Standard as an adjustment to the opening balance of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at the date of initial application.</p>	
AASB 1058	<p><i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i></p> <p>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 or other performance obligation (a promise to transfer a good or service), or a contribution by owners, related to an asset (such as cash or another asset) received by an entity.</p> <p><i>AASB 1058 will have no impact on appropriations and recurrent grants received by the Department – they will continue to be recognised as income when funds are deposited in the bank account or credited to the holding account. The Department has determined that capital grants will not be materially impacted by the standard.</i></p> <p>The Department will adopt the modified retrospective approach on transition to AASB 1058. No comparative information will be restated under this approach, and the Department will recognise the cumulative effect of initially applying the Standard as an adjustment to the opening balance of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at the date of initial application.</p>	1 Jan 2019
AASB 1059	<p><i>Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors</i></p> <p>This Standard addresses the accounting for a service concession arrangement (a type of public private partnership) by a grantor that is a public sector entity by prescribing the accounting for the arrangement from the grantor's perspective. Timing and measurement for the recognition of a specific asset class occurs on commencement of the arrangement and the accounting for associated liabilities is determined by whether the grantee is paid by the grantor or users of the public service provided.</p> <p>The mandatory effective date of this Standard is currently 1 January 2020 after being amended by AASB 2018-5.</p> <p>The Department has not identified any public private partnerships within scope of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2020
AASB 2016-8	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities</i></p> <p>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.</p>	1 Jan 2019
AASB 2018-4	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Public Sector Licensors</i></p> <p><i>This Standard amends AASB 15 to add requirements and authoritative implementation guidance for application by not-for-profit public sector licensors to transactions involving the issue of licences. There is no material financial impact on the Department and its accounting for licences issued.</i></p>	1 Jan 2019

<i>AASB 2018-5</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferral of AASB 1059</i> <i>This Standard amends the mandatory effective date of AASB 1059 so that AASB 1059 is required to be applied for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020 instead of 1 January 2019. There is no financial impact.</i>	1 Jan 2019
<i>AASB 2018-7</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of Material</i> This Standard clarifies the definition of material and its application by improving the wording and aligning the definition across AASB Standards and other publications. There is no financial impact.	1 Jan 2020
<i>AASB 2018-8</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Right-of-Use Assets of Not-for-Profit Entities</i> This Standard provides a temporary option for not-for-profit entities to not apply the fair value initial measurement requirements for right-of-use assets arising under leases with significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The Department will elect to apply the option to measure right-of-use assets under peppercorn leases at cost (which is generally about \$1). As a result, the financial impact of this Standard is not material.	1 Jan 2019

9.2 Key management personnel

The Department has determined key management personnel to include cabinet ministers and senior officers of the Department. The Department does not incur expenditures to compensate Ministers and those disclosures may be found in the *Annual Report on State Finances*.

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for senior officers of the Department for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation band (\$)	2019	2018
390,001 – 400,000	1	1
380,001 – 390,000	0	1
270,001 – 280,000	1	0
260,001 – 270,000	0	1
220,001 – 230,000	1	2
210,001 – 220,000	2	0
200,001 – 210,000	2	0
190,001 – 200,000	0	1
170,001 – 180,000	0	1
70,001 – 80,000	0	1
50,001 – 60,000	0	1

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Short term employee benefits	1,368	1,286
Post employment benefits	193	185
Other long term benefits	163	147
Termination benefits	0	372
Total compensation of senior officers	1,724	1,990

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

9.3 Related party transactions

The Department is a wholly owned public sector entity that is controlled by the State of Western Australia.

Related parties of the Department include:

- all cabinet 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 statutory authorities, including related bodies that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements (i.e. wholly-owned public sector entities);
- associates and joint ventures, of a wholly-owned public sector entity; and
- the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

Significant transactions with Government-related entities

In conducting its activities, the Department is required to transact with the State and entities related to the State. These transactions are generally based on the standard terms and conditions that apply to all departments. Such transactions include:

- income from State Government (Note 4.1);
- equity contribution (Note 9.7);
- superannuation payments to GESB (Note 3.1(a));
- services received free of charge from other State government agencies (Note 4.1);
- Royalties for Regions Fund (Note 4.1) and equity injections from Royalties for Regions Funds (Note 9.7);
- operating leases on motor vehicles, other lease, rental and hire expense transactions with State Fleet and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (Note 3.3);
- supplies and services transactions with government related entities (Note 3.3);
- other grants and contributions received from other state government agencies (Note 4.5);
- services rendered and user fees charged by the Department to other government agencies (Note 4.2);
- accommodation expense transactions with the Department of Finance and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Note 3.3);
- insurance payments from the Insurance Commission and Riskcover fund (Note 4.3);

- grants and subsidies to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Zoological Park Authority, Rottnest Island Authority, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australian Museum and Department of Finance (Note 3.2) ; and
- remuneration for services provided by the Auditor General (Note 9.6).

Significant outstanding balances with government related entities

Significant balances include:

- receivables from government related entities (Note 6.2);
- unearned revenue from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (Note 6.6).

Significant outstanding commitments with government related entities

Significant commitments include lease rental payments in fleet and accommodation leasing to the Department of Finance (Note 7.2.1).

Material transactions with other related parties

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Department, there were no other related party transactions that involved key management personnel and/or their close family members and/or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities.

9.4 Affiliated bodies

The following government affiliated bodies received more than half of their funding and resources from the Department but are not subject to operational control by the Department.

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Conservation and Parks Commission	683	805
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority ^(a)		
Recurrent	11,641	7,983
Capital	1,000	500
	12,641	8,483
Balance at end of period	13,324	9,288

^(a)As explained at Note 2.1 the Department provides funding, via a grant payment, to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, the Rottnest Island Authority and the Zoological Parks Authority to fund services and programs. In the case of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority this amounted to more than 50% of its funding in the 2018-19 financial year.

9.5 Special purpose accounts

Biodiversity Conservation Account ^(a)

The purpose of the account is to fund scientific research relating to biodiversity and biodiversity components in the State.

Balance at start of period	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Balance at start of period	358	274
Receipts	102	84
Payments	(38)	0
Balance at end of period	422	358

Barrow Island Net Conservation Benefit Account ^(b)

The purpose of the account is to fund 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	2,564	3,847
Receipts	2,456	2,448
Payments	(3,147)	(3,731)
Balance at end of period	1,873	2,564

National Parks Essential Works Account ^(c)

The purpose of this account is 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.

(a) Established under section 16(1)(b) of Financial Management Act 2006 and section 68 of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

(b) Established under section 16(1)(d) of Financial Management Act 2006 and Schedule 1 of the Barrow Island Act 2003.

(c) Established under section 16(1)(b) of Financial Management Act 2006 and section 69(2) of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

9.6 Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

Auditing the accounts, financial statements, controls, and key performance indicators	225	218
---	-----	-----

9.7 Equity

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
<u>Contributed equity</u>		
Balance at start of period	3,052,885	3,045,631
<i>Contributions by owners</i>		
Capital appropriation	3,762	2,426
<i>Other contributions by owners</i>		
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	4,412	2,069
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Community Services Account	2,022	2,688
<i>Transfer of net assets from other agencies</i>		
Western Australia Police	0	805
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	399	0
Total contributions by owners	3,063,480	3,053,619
<i>Distributions to owners</i>		
<i>Transfer of net assets to other agencies:</i>		
Zoological Parks Authority	(735)	(734)
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	(126)	0
Total distributions to owners	(861)	(734)
Balance at end of period	3,062,619	3,052,885
<u>Asset revaluation surplus</u>		
Balance at start of period	207,935	295,467
<i>Net revaluation increments/(decrements):</i>		
Land	(151,901)	(91,395)
Buildings	4,783	3,863
Balance at end of period	60,817	207,935
<u>Accumulated surplus/(deficit)</u>		
Balance at start of period	59,386	36,072
Adjustments to opening balance ^(a)	(24)	0
Result for the period	(107,431)	23,314
Balance at end of period	(48,069)	59,386

(a) As explained at Note 9.1.1 the Department applied AASB 9 prospectively with an initial application date of 1 July 2018. An adjustment was recorded against the opening balance of trade receivables.

9.8 Supplementary financial information

(a) Write-offs

During the financial year \$12,009 (2018: \$16,639) was written off as bad debts and \$44,803 (2018: \$105,054) of the Department's asset and public property register under the authority of:

	2019	2018
	(\$000)	(\$000)
The Accountable Authority	57	122
The Minister	0	0
Executive Council	0	0
Balance at end of period	57	122

The amount approved for write off during the year of \$45,670 (2018: \$105,366) relates to losses through theft, defaults and other causes disclosed at note 9.8 (b) below.

(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

Losses of public money and other property through theft or default	46	105
Amounts recovered	0	0
Balance at end of period	46	105

9.9 Explanatory statement (Controlled Operations)

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2019, and between the actual results for 2019 and 2018 are shown below. "2019 Estimate" refers to the Department's (excluding Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority) budget estimates. Narratives are provided for key major variances, which are generally greater than:

- 5% and \$6 million for the Statements of Comprehensive Income and Cash Flows, and
- 5% and \$25.0 million for the Statement of Financial Position.

9.9.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income Variances

	Variance note	Estimate 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2019 and 2018 (\$000)
<u>Expenses</u>						
Employee benefits expense		163,778	164,067	162,448	289	1,619
Supplies and services		76,455	74,677	77,511	(1,778)	(2,834)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		29,174	27,053	25,105	(2,121)	1,948
Accommodation expenses		5,361	4,016	4,160	(1,345)	(144)
Grants and subsidies	1,A	4,250	35,347	28,956	31,097	6,391
Other expenses		25,573	24,082	21,412	(1,491)	2,670
Total cost of services		304,591	329,242	319,592	24,651	9,650
<u>Loss on revaluation of assets</u>						
Loss on revaluation of land	2,B	0	106,416	0	106,416	106,416
Total loss on revaluation of assets		0	106,416	0	106,416	106,416
<u>Income</u>						
<u>Revenue</u>						
User charges and fees	C	40,265	45,920	32,418	5,655	13,502
Commonwealth grants and contributions		1,169	1,260	2,182	91	(922)
Other grants and contributions	3,D	25,666	19,235	28,187	(6,431)	(8,952)
Interest revenue		1,988	1,946	2,080	(42)	(134)
Other revenue		10,097	11,569	13,878	1,472	(2,309)
Total Revenue		79,185	79,930	78,745	745	1,185

	Variance note	Estimate 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2019 and 2018 (\$000)
<i>Gains</i>						
Gain on disposal of non-current assets		0	766	595	766	171
Total Gains		0	766	595	766	171
Total income other than income from State Government		79,185	80,696	79,340	1,511	1,356
NET COST OF SERVICES		225,406	354,962	240,252	129,556	114,710
Income from State Government						
Service appropriation	4	210,412	233,712	240,651	23,300	(6,939)
Services received free of charge		1,493	2,060	1,370	567	690
Royalties for Regions Fund	E	16,513	11,759	21,545	(4,754)	(9,786)
Total income from State Government		228,418	247,531	263,566	19,113	(16,035)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		3,012	(107,431)	23,314	(110,443)	(130,745)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss						
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	5,F	0	(147,118)	(87,532)	(147,118)	(59,586)
Total other comprehensive income		0	(147,118)	(87,532)	(147,118)	(59,586)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		3,012	(254,549)	(64,218)	(257,561)	(190,331)

**9.9.2 Statement of Financial Position
Variances**

	Variance note	Estimate 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2019 and 2018 (\$000)
ASSETS						
<u>Current Assets</u>						
Cash and cash equivalents		9,278	13,425	15,046	4,147	(1,621)
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		60,027	60,169	74,662	142	(14,493)
Inventories		0	857	1,236	857	(379)
Receivables		14,492	12,161	8,695	(2,331)	3,466
Amounts receivable for services		8,717	8,717	8,859	0	(142)
Other current assets		10,167	3,029	6,869	(7,138)	(3,840)
Non current assets held for sale		0	101	0	101	101
Total Current Assets		102,681	98,459	115,367	(4,222)	(16,908)
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		2,398	1,805	1,199	(593)	606
Amounts receivable for services		184,266	184,266	163,809	0	20,457
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	6,G	3,172,221	2,837,901	3,085,101	(334,320)	(247,200)
Total Non-Current Assets		3,358,885	3,023,972	3,250,109	(334,913)	(226,137)
TOTAL ASSETS		3,461,566	3,122,431	3,365,476	(339,135)	(243,045)
LIABILITIES						
<u>Current Liabilities</u>						
Payables		5,063	3,120	2,382	(1,943)	738
Employee related provisions		31,600	32,410	32,252	810	158
Other current liabilities		7,545	4,781	4,169	(2,764)	612
Total Current Liabilities		44,208	40,311	38,803	(3,897)	1,508

	Variance note	Estimate 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2019 and 2018 (\$000)
<u>Non-Current Liabilities</u>						
Employee related provisions		6,605	6,753	6,467	148	286
Total Non-Current Liabilities		6,605	6,753	6,467	148	286
TOTAL LIABILITIES		50,813	47,064	45,270	(3,749)	1,794
NET ASSETS		3,410,753	3,075,367	3,320,206	(335,386)	(244,839)
<u>EQUITY</u>						
Contributed equity		3,052,888	3,062,619	3,052,885	9,731	9,734
Reserves	7,H	295,467	60,817	207,935	(234,650)	(147,118)
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	8,I	62,398	(48,069)	59,386	(110,467)	(107,455)
TOTAL EQUITY		3,410,753	3,075,367	3,320,206	(335,386)	(244,839)

9.9.3 Statement of Cash Flows Variances

	Variance note	Estimate 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2019 and 2018 (\$000)
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</u>						
Service appropriation	9	181,238	204,538	212,977	23,300	(8,439)
Capital appropriations		3,027	3,762	2,427	735	1,335
Holding account drawdown		8,859	8,859	9,098	0	(239)
Cash and cash equivalents transferred from / (to) owner		0	(735)	(735)	(735)	0
Royalties for Regions Fund	10,J	30,254	18,193	26,301	(12,061)	(8,108)
Net cash provided by State Government		223,378	234,617	250,068	11,239	(15,451)
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u>						
<u>Payments</u>						
Employee benefits		(163,506)	(163,583)	(163,598)	(77)	15
Supplies and services	K	(76,037)	(72,214)	(81,062)	3,823	8,848
Accommodation		(5,359)	(4,016)	(4,142)	1,343	126
Grants and subsidies	11,L	(4,250)	(35,347)	(29,122)	(31,097)	(6,225)
GST payments on purchases		(11,322)	(12,389)	(11,467)	(1,067)	(922)
GST payments to taxation authority		0	(60)	(172)	(60)	112
Other payments		(24,505)	(19,881)	(20,577)	4,624	696
<u>Receipts</u>						
User charges and fees	M	40,180	42,294	32,195	2,114	10,099
Commonwealth grants and contributions		1,169	1,260	1,787	91	(527)

	Variance Note	Estimate 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2019 and 2018 (\$000)
Interest received		1,988	2,109	2,007	121	102
GST receipts on sales		5,500	5,498	4,893	(2)	605
GST receipts from taxation authority		5,827	7,040	7,079	1,213	(39)
Other receipts	N	35,848	31,147	48,001	(4,701)	(16,854)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(194,467)	(218,142)	(214,178)	(23,675)	(3,964)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
<u>Payments</u>						
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(30,170)	(32,971)	(28,512)	(2,801)	(4,459)
<u>Receipts</u>						
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		500	988	966	488	22
Net cash provided by /(used in) investing activities		(29,670)	(31,983)	(27,546)	(2,313)	(4,437)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(759)	(15,508)	8,344	(14,749)	(23,852)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		72,462	90,907	82,563	18,445	8,344
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD		71,703	75,399	90,907	3,696	(15,508)

Major Estimate and Actual (2019) Variance Narratives

1. Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by \$31.10 million (731.69%) mainly due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority which is not anticipated in the budget. More grants were also expensed to private and local government entities to further conservation objectives.
2. Loss on revaluation of assets exceeded estimates by \$106.42 million due to the decline in the value of land assessed by the Valuer General. The value of land decreased by \$258.32 million and cleared the opening asset reserve balance of \$151.90 million. A combination of poor economic conditions and restrictions on uncleared lands in the South-West region produced notable decrements in the Department's land portfolio.
3. Other grants and contributions under estimates by \$6.43 million (25.06%) mainly due to a lower level of grant funding received from state entities in particular less capital grants received for environmental offset land purchases.
4. Service appropriation exceeded estimates by \$23.3 million (11.07%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
5. Changes in asset revaluation surplus under estimates by \$147.12 million mainly due to the movement of land values assessed by the Valuer General.
6. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment is under estimates by \$334.32 million (10.54%) mainly due to the movement of land values assessed by the Valuer General.
7. Reserves under estimates by \$234.65 million (79.42%) mainly due to the movement of land values assessed by Valuer General.
8. Accumulated surplus/(deficit) under estimates by \$110.47 million (177.04%) mainly due to the \$106.42 million loss on revaluation explained at Variance Note 2.
9. Service appropriation exceeded estimates by \$23.3 million (12.86%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
10. Royalties for Regions Fund under estimates by \$12.06 million (39.87%) mainly due to lower drawdown on funds for projects and reallocation of funding during the 2018-19 mid-year budget review.
11. Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by \$31.10 million (731.69%) due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority. More grants were also expensed to private and local government entities to further conservation objectives.

Major Actual (2019) and Comparative (2018) Variance Narratives

- A. Grants and subsidies increased by \$6.39 million (22.07%) due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority for a full financial period rather than half. More grants were also expensed to private and local government entities to further conservation objectives.
- B. Loss on revaluation of assets increased by \$106.42 million due to the decline in the value of land assessed by the Valuer General. The value of land decreased by \$258.32 million and cleared the opening asset reserve balance of \$151.90 million. A combination of poor economic conditions and restrictions on uncleared lands in the South-West region produced notable decrements in the Department's land portfolio.
- C. User charges and fees increased by \$13.50 million (41.65%) due to payment for corporate services (payroll and IT) from Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority and higher bushfire suppression recoups from state government and state trading enterprise entities.

- D. Other grants and contributions decreased by \$8.95 million (31.76%) due to less capital grant funding received for environmental offset land purchases.
- E. Royalties for Regions Fund decreased by \$9.79 million (45.42%) mainly due to receipt of funding of \$0.8 million for Murujuga Joint Management project in the current year compared to \$9 million received in the prior year.
- F. Changes in asset revaluation surplus decreased by \$59.59 million (68.07%) mainly due to changes in the Department's land values assessed by the Valuer General.
- G. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment decreased by \$247.20 million (8.01%) due to changes in the Department's land values assessed by the Valuer General.
- H. Reserves decreased by \$147.12 million (70.75%) mainly due to changes in the Department's land values assessed by the Valuer General.
- I. Accumulated surplus/(deficit) decreased by \$107.46 million (180.94%) mainly due to the \$106.42 million loss on revaluation explained at Variance Note B.
- J. Royalties for Regions fund decreased by \$8.11 million (30.83%) mainly due to a one-off payment of \$9 million to Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation being received in the prior year and not the current year.
- K. Supplies and services decreased by \$8.85 million (10.92%) due to a one-off payment of \$9 million to the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation in the prior year.
- L. Grants and subsidies increased by \$6.23 million (21.38%) due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority for a full financial period rather than half. More grants were also expensed to private and local government entities to further conservation objectives.
- M. User charges and fees increased by \$10.10 million (31.37%) mainly due to provision of bureau services to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority and higher bushfire suppression recoups.
- N. Other receipts decreased by \$16.85 million (35.11%) mainly due to less grant funding received from government entities in particular there was less capital grants received for the purchase of land for environmental offset purposes.

10. Administered disclosures

This section sets out all the statutory disclosures regarding the financial performance of the Department.

	Notes
Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service	10.1
Explanatory statement for administered income and expenses	10.2

10.1. Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service

	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings and Bold Park	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at the Swan and Canning Riverpark	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	Research and Conservation Partnerships	Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	Bushfire Suppression	Total
	2019 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS											
<u>Income</u>											
For transfer:											
Regulatory fees and other charges	0	0	0	0	0	49	0	0	0	0	49
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	53
Total administered income	0	0	0	0	0	102	0	0	0	0	102
<u>Expenses</u>											
Transfer payments ^(a)	0	0	0	0	0	102	0	0	0	0	102
Total administered expenses	0	0	0	0	0	102	0	0	0	0	102
Net income from Administered Items	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

10.1. Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service (cont.)

	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings and Bold Park	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at the Swan and Canning Riverpark	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	Research and Conservation Partnerships	Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	Bushfire Suppression	Total
	2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS											
<u>Income</u>											
For transfer:											
Regulatory fees and other charges	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	31
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	20
Total administered income	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	51
<u>Expenses</u>											
Transfer payments ^(a)	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	51
Total administered expenses	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	0	0	0	51
Net income from Administered Items	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

10.2. Explanatory statement for administered income and expenses

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2019, and between the actual results for 2019 and 2018 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key major variances, which are generally greater than 5% and \$1,260.

	Variance note	Estimate 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2019 and 2018 (\$000)
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS						
<u>Income</u>						
For transfer:						
Regulatory fees and other charges	1,A	60	49	31	(11)	18
Other revenue	2,B	30	53	20	23	33
Total administered income		90	102	51	12	51
<u>Expenses</u>						
Transfer payments ^(a)	3,C	90	102	51	12	51
Total administered expenses		90	102	51	12	51
Net income from Administered Items		0	0	0	0	0

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

Major estimate and actual (2019) variance narratives

- 1) Regulatory fees and other charges was under estimated by \$0.011 million (18%) due to less enforcement activity than predicted.
- 2) Other revenue was over estimates by \$0.023 million (77%). Proceeds from non-retainable revenue were higher than predicted.
- 3) Transfer payments were over estimates by \$0.012 million (13%) and mainly reflect payments to the Consolidated Account of income items mentioned in Variance Notes 1 and 2.

Major actual (2019) and comparative (2018) variance narratives

- A. Regulatory fees and other charges increased by \$0.018 million (58%) compared to the prior year due to increased enforcement activity.
- B. Other revenue in 2018-19 was \$0.033 million (165%) higher than the prior year due to an increase in kangaroo shooter tags being issued and higher proceeds from non-retainable revenue than in previous years.
- C. Transfer payments in 2018-19 were \$0.051 million (100%) more than the prior year due to items mentioned in the Comparative Notes A and B.



Chatham Island from the Bibbulmun Track.

Key performance indicators

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 Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.



Mark Webb PSM
Accountable Authority

11 September 2019

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Outcome-Based Management Structure

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services and performance indicators*
A quality environment with liveable and affordable communities and vibrant regions.	1. Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care.	<p>4. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark</p> <p>Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 4.1 Average Cost per Hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark</p> <p>5. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters</p> <p>Key effectiveness indicator: 2. Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 5.1 Average Cost per Hectare in national parks and other lands and waters</p>
	2. Plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation utilises evidenced-based science.	<p>6. 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 2. Area of land baited for introduced predators</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 6.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>7. Research and Conservation Partnerships</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 7.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat</p>
	3. Sustainable use of forest resources.	<p>8. Implementation of the Forest Management Plan</p> <p>Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Cumulative removal of jarrah and Karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan</p> <p>Key efficiency indicators KPI 8.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Forest</p>

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services and performance indicators
	<p>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>	<p>9. 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 9.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt</p> <p>10. 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 10.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt</p>

*The Key Performance Indicators for 1. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park, 2. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island and 3. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo, as listed in the Department's OBM structure in budget papers, are reported in the annual reports of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority respectively.

Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators

Outcome 1: Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care:

1. Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

	2017–18	2018–19
Target	95.00%	90.00%
Actual	86.80%	83.10%

Note to indicator: Visitor satisfaction is surveyed annually for the Swan Canning Riverpark and adjoining foreshore parks and involves a survey of park visitors recording expectations, satisfaction, visitor perception and behaviour.

The surveys are conducted at 23 different river foreshore parks with a total of 230 intercept surveys (10 surveys per foreshore park). All the surveys are conducted on site using a questionnaire, through a face to face structured interview at selected sites along the whole of the Swan Canning Riverpark. The survey again applied the Yardstick User Survey platform as it's basis. This allows direct comparison with other organisations in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, and the survey can be repeated regularly to allow trend analysis. Interviews are voluntary and contact details are collected where possible. All respondents receive the same set of questions, asked in the same order.

The survey was based on a quantitative scoring system measuring satisfaction/dissatisfaction. The overall satisfaction of respondents was measured by asking them to rate their overall satisfaction with the park on a scale of very dissatisfied to very satisfied. From these, it was possible to determine mean (or average) satisfaction by adding the total of all scores (from 1 – very dissatisfied to 5 – very satisfied) and dividing by the total number of respondents to determine a score. This score is converted to a percentage to enable comparison with the target of 90. The confidence level was 95% with a margin of error of 6.4%

This KPI was introduced in 2017–18, thus few comparative figures were available. The target was benchmarked against an existing indicator of visitor satisfaction: 'Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters'. This explains the variance between target and actual for 2018-19.

The Department reports a separate visitor satisfaction survey for Swan and Canning Riverpark as the Department manages Swan and Canning Riverpark under *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, as disclosed further in KPI 4.1. This is a separate legislation to other land managed by DBCA.

2. Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters

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.

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
Target	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%	95.00%	90.00%
Actual	87.90%	91.40%	92.50%	92.50%	94.80%

Note to indicator: A benchmark visitor satisfaction index has been adopted to compare visitor satisfaction levels each year. The index is averaged from visitor responses (1059 in 2018–19; confidence level 95%; margin of error 0.6%) to the state-wide 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 weekday, weekends, public holidays and school holidays.

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

In 2018-19 satisfaction experienced a significant increase to 94.8%. The level of visitor satisfaction this year is the highest on record for national parks and other lands and waters since regular visitor satisfaction monitoring began in 2001-02.

Outcome 2: Plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation utilises evidenced-based science:

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
Target	68.00%	69.00%	71.00%	73.00%	72.00%
Actual	68.90%	69.40%	72.90%	72.36%	73.20%

Note to indicator: The number of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities varies each year due to the addition of new species and ecological communities to the lists, the removal of species and ecological communities from the lists, and movements of species and ecological communities between categories on the lists. During the year there has been a net increase of seven to the number of critically endangered and endangered species as a result of new additions and a review of the conservation status of flora and fauna species. The preparation of recovery plans takes a finite amount of time as data needs to be collated about the species or ecological community, its threats and management requirements. This time lapse required to prepare a recovery plan can result in variability in the performance outcome, with the outcome being dependent on the number of plans completed compared to the change in the number of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities. There were an additional nine species covered by recovery plans for the financial year, resulting in an increase in the actual relative to the target indicator.

2. Area of land baited for introduced predators

	2017–18	2018–19
Target	4,404,138 ha	4,347,107 ha
Actual	4,404,138 ha	4,110,063 ha

Note to indicator: Introduced predators have been implicated in the extinction and decline of dozens of native animal species across Australia. Broad-scale baiting is conducted by DBCA on a routine basis to reduce the threat of introduced predators to native wildlife of Western Australia. The area baited relates to the footprint of fox and feral cat baiting by DBCA as part of Western Shield and Western Shield-related projects. Western Shield-related projects are delivered by DBCA but are funded by external means e.g. environmental offsets. The annual program area is based on baiting which occurs during the period 1 September – 31 August of a given year (i.e. spring baiting round through to the end of winter baiting round). Area baited is calculated to the boundary of a parcel of land noting that non-baiting buffers are in place for all cells to comply with State legislative requirements for use of 1080. The key reason for the difference between target and actual area of land baited for introduced predator in 2018–19 was the discontinuation of the Mount Jackson baiting cell due to non-renewal of mining offset commitment for Koolyanobbing iron mine held with Cliffs Asia Pacific Iron Ore Pty Ltd (Cliffs). The Mount Jackson baiting cell was set up as part of a broad-scale predator baiting program that was funded by Cliffs. It was part of an agreement with the Department to offset environmental impacts from mining in the Yilgarn area. Funding discontinued when Cliffs mining activities in the area ceased.

Outcome 3: Sustainable use of forest resources:

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
Target	191,000 m3	382,000 m3	573,000 m3	764,000 m3	955,000 m3
Actual	111,775 m3	253,850 m3	381,941 m3	497,503 m3	695,767 m3

Note to indicator: From 2014-15 and successive years, the Target figure is a cumulative annual figure of 10 per cent (that is 10 through to 50 per cent for years one through to five) of the total first and second grade jarrah and karri sawlog resource available for removal for the 10-year life of the 2014-2023 Forest Management Plan. The 2014-2023 Forest Management Plan commenced on 1 January 2014. The annual and cumulative removals are lower than the pro-rata limits for both jarrah and karri sawlogs, reflecting market conditions for both sawlog and non-sawlog grades of timber. Adjustments to the raw data on log removals to reflect variations in log specifications accepted by customers and off-cuts retained in the forest during the period 2014 to 2017 were reported in the Mid-term review of performance of the Forest Management Plan 2014-2023 (Published April 2019) and have been incorporated into the overall cumulative removals figure for 2018-19.

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	2017–18	2018–19
Target	45%	50%	55%	55%	55%
Actual	42%	64%	49%	67%	48%

Note to indicator: Priority 1 prescribed burns cannot constitute more than one third of planned prescribed burns, and providing enhanced criteria for prioritization decisions, resulted in less Priority 1 prescribed burns as a proportion of the total program. In addition, conditions in both spring and autumn were less favourable for burn implementation than in the preceding year.

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
Target	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
Actual	75%	75%	83%	82%	81%

Note to indicator: Similar to previous financial years the fire season was relatively mild, and conditions were generally conducive to the success of rapid initial attack.

Key Efficiency Indicators

Service 4: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

4.1 Average Cost per Hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

Managing the Swan Canning Riverpark including assessing development proposals and delivering environmental management programs. The Swan Canning Riverpark consist of the area (hectares) for which the Department is responsible under the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006, comprising the Swan Canning waterway (vested with DBCA) and the adjoining public lands (vested with State and Local Authorities) included in the Parks and Recreation Reserve created under the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Target	\$2,350	\$2,310	\$2,052	\$1,897
Actual	\$2,250	\$2,158	\$2,158	\$2,154

Note to indicator:

Actual average cost per hectare was higher than the target in 2018-19 Budget Statements mainly due to the actual expenditure on grants and subsidies for projects such as the Riverbank Program, Healthy Catchments - Sub Regional Support & Phosphorous Awareness Program and River Health Swan and Canning Oxygenation being higher in 2018-19 than predicted in the budget. It should be noted that other state and local government authorities listed in Schedule 5 of the SCRM also carry out management functions in the Riverpark.

Service 5: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters

5.1 Average Cost per Hectare in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters

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	2017-18	2018-19
Target	\$2.85	\$2.99	\$3.40	\$2.92
Actual	\$2.73	\$2.73	\$3.18	\$2.97

Note to indicator:

The actual average cost per hectare to manage national parks and other lands and waters is consistent with the 2018-19 target budget with a marginal increase of 1.68%. The actual average cost per hectare for 2017-18 was higher compared to 2018-19 mainly due to a one-off payment of \$8 million for Murujuga Joint Management project.

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

6.1 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	2017–18	2018–19
Target	\$2.55	\$2.55	\$2.21	\$2.08
Actual	\$2.24	\$2.14	\$1.90	\$2.04

Note to indicator:

The actual average cost per hectare of conserving wildlife habitat, species and ecological communities is consistent with the 2018-19 target budgets and marginally decreased by 0.49%.

Service 7: Research and Conservation Partnerships

7.1 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	2017–18	2018–19
Target	\$1.15	\$1.04	\$0.91	\$1.02
Actual	\$0.91	\$0.78	\$0.69	\$0.69

Note to indicator:

The efficiency measure for externally funded management has remained constant from the previous year with only a slight increase in area managed. This measure has been expected to increase with higher grants revenue anticipated from external sources, however, this did not eventuate.

Service 8: Implementation of the Forest Management Plan

8.1 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. State forest and timber reserves mostly fall within the area covered by the Forest Management Plan 2014-2023. A small portion of State Forest and timber reserves, 6.5 per cent, fall outside the area of the Forest Management Plan 2014-2023. 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.

	2017-18	2018-19
Target	\$18.65	\$16.98
Actual	\$12.91	\$15.62

Note to indicator: The 2018-19 target cost per hectare included a budget component for external works program. The actual level of expenditure on the external works program was \$0.4 million less than the budget, therefore the 2018-19 actual cost per hectare was lower than budget. The actual cost per hectare for 2018-19 is higher compared to 2017-18 mainly due to higher bushfire suppression expenditure.

Service 9: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management

9.1 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	2017-18	2018-19
Target	\$10.86	\$15.69	\$15.70	\$16.57
Actual	\$18.61	\$15.70	\$10.89	\$14.63

Note to indicator: Variable suitability of weather conditions and lower prescribed burning achievements in the non-forest regions (3,563,139 hectares, compared to 4,692,079 hectares in 2017-18), particularly the Kimberley, Pilbara and Midwest, contributed to an increased unit cost compared to 2017-18.

Service 10: Bushfire Suppression

10.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Target	\$14.39	\$15.88	\$32.00	\$17.10
Actual	\$31.68	\$33.04	\$10.93	\$8.90

Note to indicator: The total area burnt by bushfire to which the department contributed a suppression response was 4,144,215 hectares. The number and area of bushfires threatening or occurring on lands managed by the department may vary significantly between reporting cycles.

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 \$32.97 million for 2018–19 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	2019-20	2,259	11,404
Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure	2019-20	5,002	24,049
Public Recreation and Joint Management Arrangements for the Ningaloo Coast	2019-20	1,412	3,255
Roebuck Bay Marine Park	2019-20	295	590
Lake Kepwari	2019-20	2,583	3,000
Collie Preston Region- Upgrades to Local Roads	2019-21	3,218	3,300
Preston River to Ocean and Leschenault Regional Parks	2021-22	5,345	5,496
Recurring capital programs	Expected year of completion	2018-19 expenditure \$'000	
Conservation Land Acquisition	ongoing	3,745	
Fire Related Bridge Maintenance and Replacement	ongoing	1,481	
Firefighting Fleet Replacement	ongoing	4,536	
Park Improvement Program	ongoing	4,518	

Recurring capital programs	Expected year of completion	2018-19 expenditure \$'000
Plant and Equipment purchases and replacement	ongoing	5,158
Tourism Road Improvement Program	ongoing	1,569

Employment and industrial relations

Table 14: Staff profile (DBCA excluding three Statutory Authorities)

	2018-19	2017-18
Full-time permanent	983.3	988.8
Full-time contract	237.3	221.3
Part-time measured on an FTE basis	232.5	228.2
On secondment	3.0	2.5
Total	1456.0	1440.7

*Calculated as 4 quarter averages

Industrial Relations

People Services Branch provides strategic industrial relations advice, manages employee relations issues and represents the department in industrial relations tribunals. During 2018–19, the Australian Workers Union (Western Australian) General Agreement was negotiated. The negotiating parties are currently finalising drafting and signing is expected to take place in the coming weeks.

Staff development

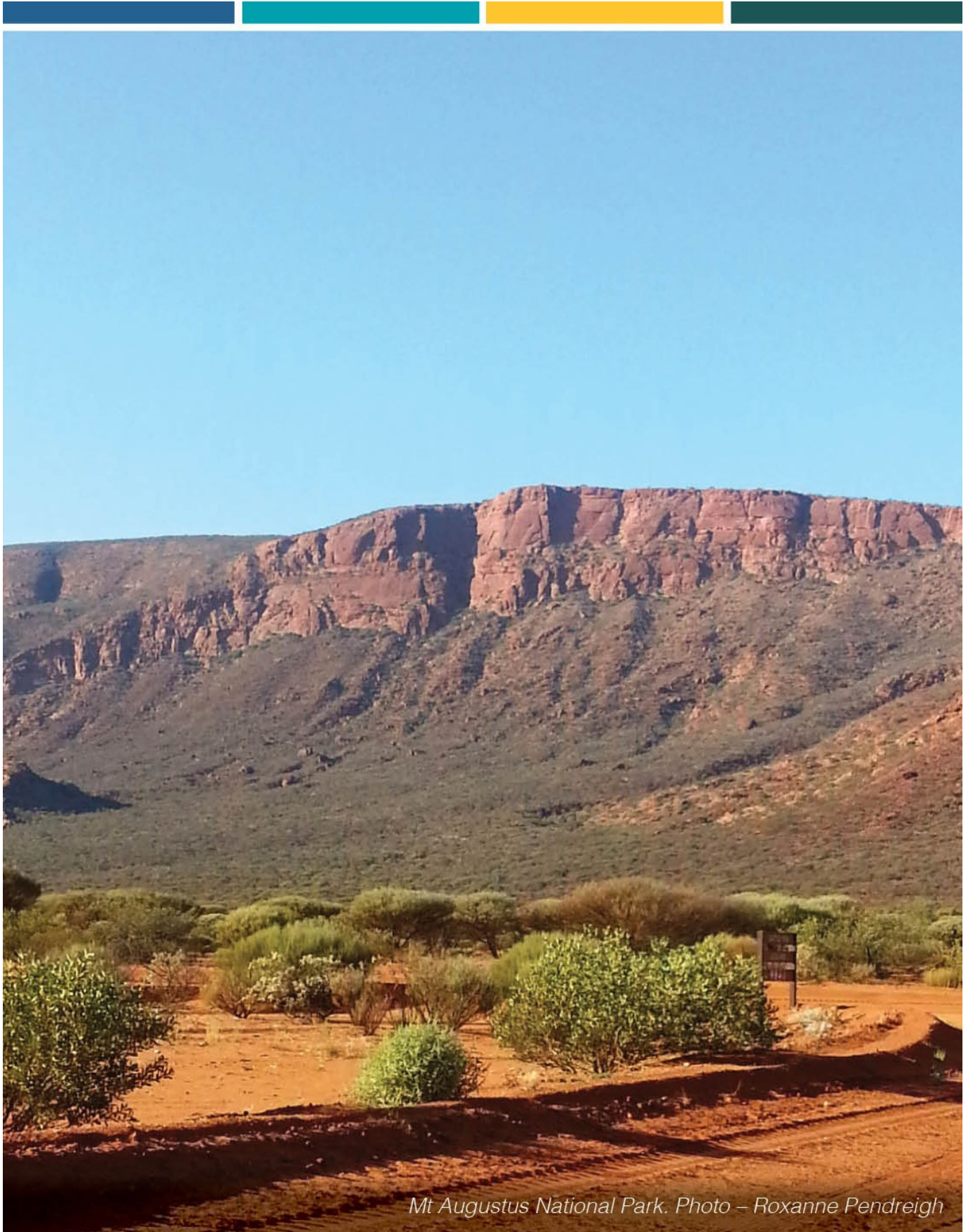
The Department delivered a number of training programs for staff, including:

Corporate training

The Department received 2221 enrolments for corporate training programs delivered in 2018–19, with 802 being for face-to-face or webinar training and 1419 for training delivered by e-learning.

Leadership training

To meet the needs of Australian Workers Union (AWU) staff the Department's Management and Leadership Development Framework was extended to include AWU supervisory skills training, which was developed in 2018-19 in consultation with local work centres. The training will provide support and guidance to new and current supervisors with regards to personnel management with anticipated delivery in 2019-20.



Mt Augustus National Park. Photo – Roxanne Pendreigh

Governance disclosures

Unauthorised use of purchasing cards

Officers of the Department hold corporate credit cards where their functions warrant usage of this facility including to meet travel costs. To 30 June 2019, there were 57 personal transactions charged to credit cards by 50 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, the Chief Finance Officer and notifiable authority of the personal use of a Government Credit Card in consistent with the requirements of Treasurer's Instruction 321-2.

Table 15: Unauthorised use of credit cards

Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure for the reporting period	\$3940.88
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by the due date (within five working days)	\$852.71
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after the period (after five working days)	\$3088.17
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.

Board and committee remuneration

The following boards and committees form part of DBCA responsibility and where remuneration is paid this is highlighted.

North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program Advisory Committee and Scientific Panel

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Simon Woodley	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	4150.00
Member	Keith Morris	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Fiona Bartlett	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Member	Katie Gwyne	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Milani Chaloupka	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	981.82
Member	Kellie Pendoley	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1620.00
Member	Col Limpus	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1620.00
Total				8371.82

Roadside Conservation Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Ken Atkins	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Jeff Anderton	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	510
Member	Glenice Batchelor*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Matthew Bowdler*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Christine Jung*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	John Morrell*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Michael Norman	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Nicole Matthews*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Rachael Parkes*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Member	Rodney Safstrom	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Martine Scheltema*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Anne Mathews*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Adrian Wiley*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Brett Loney*	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	510
Total				1020

*Memberships currently subject to endorsement by the Minister for Environment

Animal Ethics Committee (Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions)

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Juanita Renwick	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Category A	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2100
Member	Category A	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1750
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Category C	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2100
Member	Category C	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1750
Member	Category D	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2100
Member	Category D	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2100
Member	Category E	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1400
Total (Members not identified by name due to privacy reasons)				13,650
Categories:				
A Veterinarian				
B Scientist				
C Animal Welfare				
D Independent Community representative				
E Other				

Conservation and Parks Commission

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Marion Fulker	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	40,570
Deputy Chair	Christopher Doepel	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	25,538
Member	Kim Colero	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 6/5/2019	16,438
Member	Ingrid Cumming	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	19,427
Member	Ross Dowling	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	19,427
Member	Regina Flugge	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 6/5/2019	16,438
Member	Jo-anne Lanagan	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2914
Member	Brian Middleton	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 6/5/2019	16,438
Member	Fiona Valesini	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2914
Member	Alan Walker	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2914
Total				163,018

Swan River Trust Board

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Hamish Beck	Fortnightly	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	15865
Member	Vanessa Davies	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2421
Member	Susan Harwood	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1759

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Member	Joanna Pearce	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2297
Member	Victoria Rasmussen	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	538
Member	Darryl Trease	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	952
Total				23,832

Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Simon Woodley	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1741
Member	Hazel Walgar	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	778.50
Member	Anthony Evans	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1404
Member	Anthony Dowling	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1207.50
Member	Frazer McGregor	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1207.50
Member	Dorothy Ann Preest	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Jacqueline Hine	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	William Humphreys	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	66.50
Member	Leonie McLeod	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Total				5197.50

Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Thomas Day	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1312
Member	Phillip Scott	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	858
Member	Diana Walker	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	858

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Member	Libby Mattiske	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	858
Member	Grant Donald	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	858
Member	Elisabeth McLellan	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	858
Member	Julianne Bush	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Brendon Bellottie	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Laura Gray	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	858
Member	Carrissa Bellottie	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	858
Member	Geoffrey Wardle	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Total				7318

Purnululu World Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Christopher Done	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Dwayne Butters	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1925
Member	Paul Butters	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Glen Chidlow	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	0
Member	Dennis Williamson	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/06/2019	0
Member	Dwayne Butters	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/06/2019	0
Member	Tanba Banks	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/06/2019	0

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Member	Virginia O'Neil	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/06/2019	0
Member	Vincent Edwards	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2018 to 30/06/2019	0
Total				0

Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional (Miriuwung Gajerrong) Park Council

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Margaret Moore	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	4035
Member	Kenneth Bidwee	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1210
Member	Stephanie Boombi	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1430
Member	Alfred Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2640
Member	Franklin Scott Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1320
Member	Ralph Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1540
Member	Tanya Hill	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	770
Member	Janelle Ningamarra	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1210
Member	Loretta Ningamarra	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1430
Member	Jimmy Paddy	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1210
Member	Joan Simon	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2310
Member	Pamela Simon	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1210
Member	Jessica Webster	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2090
Member	Jennifer Wilson	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	550

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Member	Juju Wilson	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	440
Member	Ashley Reid	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	330
Member	Douglas Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	3960
Member	Rita Boombi	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	660
Member	Rebecca Bray	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	330
Member	Caleb Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1400
Member	Christopher Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	990
Member	Damian Smith	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	800
Member	Warren Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	2640
Member	Joseph Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	1400
Member	Joshua Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	990
Member	William Chunnary	Sessional	1/7/2018 to 30/6/2019	990
Total				37,885



Murray River Bridge, Munda Biddi Trail, Lane Poole Reserve. Photo – Judy Dunlop

Other legal requirements

2019-20 annual estimates

In accordance with *Treasurer's Instruction 953*, the 2019-20 annual estimates for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions must be published in the 2018-19 Annual Report. Actual results will be reported against these estimates in the 2019-20 Annual Report.

INCOME STATEMENT 2019-20

	DEPARTMENT ITSELF \$'000
COST OF SERVICES	
Expenses	
Employee benefits	174,863
Grants and subsidies	4,250
Supplies and services	71,304
Accommodation	2,594
Depreciation and amortisation	35,252
Finance costs	1,753
Other expenses	17,883
TOTAL COST OF SERVICES	307,899
Income	
Sale of goods and services	17,582
Regulatory fees and fines	190
Grants and subsidies	27,029
Other revenue	32,379
Total Income	77,180
NET COST OF SERVICES	230,719
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	
Service appropriations	210,167
Resources received free of charge	1,493
Royalties for Regions Fund:	
Revenue from Regional Community Services Fund (RfR) - Recurrent	22,097
TOTAL INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	233,757
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY) FOR THE PERIOD	3,038

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2019-20

	DEPARTMENT ITSELF \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash assets	18,159
Restricted cash	64,288
Holding account receivables	9,782
Receivables	8,152
Other	8,647
Total current assets	109,028
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
Holding account receivables	209,736
Property, plant and equipment	3,133,703
Restricted cash	2,999
Total non-current assets	3,346,438
TOTAL ASSETS	3,455,466
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Current employee provisions	33,331
Payables	248
Borrowings and leases	3,971
Other current liabilities	5,750
Total current liabilities	43,300
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Non current employee provisions	6,466
Borrowings and leases	29,604
Other non-current liabilities	94
Total non-current liabilities	36,164
TOTAL LIABILITIES	79,464
EQUITY	
Contributed equity	3,103,229
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	64,838
Reserves	207,935
Total equity	3,376,002
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	3,455,466

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS 2019-20

	DEPARTMENT ITSELF \$'000
CASHFLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	
Service appropriations	174,915
Capital appropriation	11,190
Holding account drawdowns	8,717
Royalties for Regions Fund:	
Receipt from Regional Community Services Fund (RfR)	26,563
Receipt from Regional Infrastructure & Headworks (RfR)	19,528
Net cash provided by State Government	240,913
CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Payments	
Employee benefits	(174,591)
Grants and subsidies	(4,250)
Supplies and services	(54,094)
Accommodation	(2,592)
GST payments	(11,322)
Finance costs	(1,753)
Other payments	(33,607)
Receipts	
Regulatory fees and fines	190
Grants and subsidies	27,029
Sale of goods and services	18,094
GST receipts	11,327
Other receipts	31,867
Net cash from operating activities	(193,702)
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Purchase of non-current assets	(41,901)
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	500
Net cash from investing activities	(41,401)
CASHFLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	
Other Payments	(5,800)
Net cash from financing activities	(5,800)
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	10
Cash assets at the beginning of the reporting period	85,436
Cash assets at the end of the reporting period	85,446

Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators 2019-20	DEPARTMENT ITSELF
Outcome: Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care:	
Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	85.00%
Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters	90.00%
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	73.50%
Area of Land baited for introduced predators	4,082,563 ha
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	1,146,000 m3
Outcome: Lands under the Department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives:	
Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved	55.00%
Proportion of South West bushfires contained to less than two hectares	75.00%

Services and Key Efficiency Indicators 2019-20	DEPARTMENT ITSELF
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	
Average Cost per Hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	\$1,938.81
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	\$3.24
Conserving habitats, species and ecological communities	
Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat	\$2.00
Research and conservation partnerships	
Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat	\$0.88
Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	
Average Cost per Hectare of Forest	\$14.92
Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	
Average Cost per Hectare Burnt	\$16.01
Bushfire Suppression	
Average Cost per Hectare Burnt	\$20.11

Advertising

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

Total expenditure for 2018-19 was: \$108,115.26

Expenditure was incurred in the following areas:

- Direct Mail Organisations NIL
- Market Research Organisations NIL
- Polling Organisations NIL
- Advertising Agencies (Adcorp Australia Limited) \$15,491.79
- Media Advertising Organisations:

Albany & Great Southern Weekender	\$2,487.50
Albany Visitors Centre	\$3,125.00
Australia's South West Inc.	\$2,740.00
Aviation Trader	\$302.50
Buggy Buddies	\$984.82
Carat Australia Media Services Pty Ltd	\$9,210.96
Denmark Bulletin	\$1,690.91
Denmark Chamber of Commerce	\$1,665.00
Executive Media Pty Ltd	\$2,000.00
Fairfax Media	\$413.30
Gnomedia Pty Ltd	\$460.00
Google ADWS	\$1,093.30
Holiday Guide Pty Ltd	\$990.00
Initiative Media Australia Pty Ltd	\$33,830.25
Jurian Bay Community Resource Centre	\$40.00
Kimberley Echo	\$364.87
Premium Publishers	\$1,923.90

Roro Graphic Design	\$935.00
Southerly Magazine	\$3,300.00
State Law Publisher	\$7,450.54
Telstra - Sensis White Pages	\$13,081.00
The West Australian Newspapers	\$2,337.12
Walpole Community Resource Centre	\$1,567.50
Walsh Media	\$660.00
Total	\$92,623.47

Disability access and inclusion plan outcomes

The Department 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 2015–2020* (DAIP), work continued to improve access to facilities and services with participatory inclusion being the primary and ongoing aim. The DAIP is monitored by the Department's Diversity and Access Committee, which includes representatives from seven divisions and authorities, including three Corporate Executive representatives.

As a major provider of outdoor recreation locations and facilities in natural areas, the Department ensures that all site plans consider access requirements and are developed in accordance with the *Corporate Policy Statement No 18 Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services*.

Accessible (including assisted access) infrastructure projects were completed. Planning, design and construction of recreation facilities and buildings to provide universal access is considered on each occasion and achieved where budgets and site conditions allow. In all circumstances universal access is investigated and where it is unachievable, alternative opportunities that enable some interaction with the location, experience or environment are planned for.

Examples include the development of an accessible boardwalk for Deep Gorge in Murujuga, which when complete will allow close access to the rock art that the site is known for, and the development of the accessible Kalbarri Skywalks which will provide visitors with great views of the Murchison River Gorge.

The Department continues to run 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 Western 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
- building reception areas that are accessible to people with disability
- ACROD parking provisions that meet the needs of people with disability in terms of quantity and location
- ensuring the Department's website continues to meet contemporary best 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, 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
- Diversity and Access Committee members attend disability forums and workshops to seek a broad range of views on disability and access issues.

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

Table 16: Under section 31 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, the Department is required to report on its compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes.

Compliance issue	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
<p>Public Sector Standards</p> <p>Three breach claims were lodged in 2018-19. All breach claims were against the Employment Standard. Two of the claims were referred to the Public Sector Commission (PSC); however, no breach of standard was found by the PSC. The third was resolved internally and was subsequently withdrawn.</p> <p>Department's Code of Conduct and Public Sector Code of Ethics</p>	<p>The Department's People Services Branch intranet site has information on the Public Sector Standards including a hyperlink to the PSC 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 and Ethical Decision Making course and the Department's Selection Panel Training course also provide information about the Public Sector Standards.</p>

Compliance issue	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
<p>There were 14 allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct across the Department (excluding the three Statutory Authorities), with 12 of these including an allegation of non-compliance with the Public Sector Code of Ethics, as prescribed by Commissioner's Instruction No. 7 Code of Ethics. All allegations carried over from 2017-18 were finalised. Nine allegations raised in 2018-19 were finalised, while five remain under investigation.</p>	<p>The Department is updating its Code of Conduct to enable application across all entities of the Department. The Code has been drafted in line with the Public Sector's Commissions conduct guide and with consideration to key risk areas. The Public Sector Code of Ethics is contained within the Department's Code of Conduct. Therefore, a breach of the Code of Ethics is also a breach of the Code of Conduct, however a breach of the Code of Conduct is not automatically a breach of the Code of Ethics. All employees are required to read and sign the Code of Conduct as part of the induction process. Further, the document includes a section on how employees can report breaches of the Code.</p> <p>Unconscious Bias training was delivered in 2019. While this training was not compulsory, it provided those that attended with a refresher on the Code of Ethics. The Department is also developing a training course for AWU supervisors which will provide support and guidance to new and current supervisors in relation to responsibilities associated with personnel management</p>

Recordkeeping plans

As required under section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000*, the Department has an approved Recordkeeping Plan. The Department's recordkeeping program is supported by policy, procedures and training to ensure compliance with the Act. In 2018-19 the Department implemented a new records retention and disposal schedule approved by the State Records Commission.

Completion of an e-learning course covering the legislative and policy framework for recordkeeping is a mandatory induction requirement for all new staff, including temporary staff and contractors. This course has been redeveloped to address changes in recordkeeping requirements and incorporate more practical content to raise awareness of recordkeeping practices, including records capture, security, retention and disposal. The revamped course was successfully rolled out to all staff in April 2019. A completion rate of approximately 25 per cent within the first month indicates the Department's recordkeeping awareness training continues to be effective.

The Department is continuing to work towards a more digital recordkeeping environment to support business outcomes and deliver better services.



Government policy requirements

Government building training policy

DBCA 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 included within its tender documentation a monitoring plan for building and construction or maintenance projects with a duration of greater than three months and an estimated labour component of \$2 million and over. During the reporting period, the Department did not have any contracts applicable to the GBT Policy.

The Department's Tender documentation has been updated to reflect that the GBT has been replaced by the Priority Start policy effective 1 April 2019.

Table 17: Projects under the Government Building Training Policy

Measure	Building and Construction Projects 2018-19	Maintenance projects 2018-19
Active contracts within the scope of the policy in the reporting period	0	0
Contracts granted a variation to the target training rate in the reporting period	Not applicable	Not applicable
Head contractors involved in the contracts	Not applicable	Not applicable
Construction apprentices/trainees required to meet target training rate across all contracts	Not applicable	Not applicable
Construction apprentices/trainees employed by head contractors; and the subcontractors they are using for the contracts	Not applicable	Not applicable
Contracts that met or exceeded the target training rate	Not applicable	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 Department's *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2015–20* 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 2018-20* 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.

In 2018–19, RAP key outcomes included:

- The Department continued to engage with traditional owner groups to undertake conservation works across the State under fee-for-service arrangements. These arrangements offer the opportunity for Aboriginal people to be involved and employed in land management on-country, including work such as aerial prescribed burning, biodiversity surveys, park maintenance, advice

on Aboriginal heritage values, and feral animal and weed control.

- The *Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2017–19* aims increase the representation of Aboriginal staff employed across all levels, roles and locations, with a target of six per cent by 2019. At 30 June 2019, Aboriginal staff represented 5.4 per cent (not including the Statutory Authorities). This is the highest number recorded since 2010.
- Approximately 1700 Department staff has completed cultural awareness training, including the Statutory Authorities. Cultural awareness training increases knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and achievements.
- The *Culture in the Parks* program, which aims to facilitate Aboriginal tourism businesses in national parks and other conservation reserves, helped increase the number of Aboriginal businesses licensed to operate on CALM Act lands and waters to 36 operators.
- Training to staff and Aboriginal ranger groups on facilitating customary activities on Department-managed land continued to be rolled out.
- The Department has implemented the *State Aboriginal Procurement Strategy* and is on track to achieve the set targets for 2018-19.
- An information sheet on Aboriginal engagement and culture was developed for Departmental volunteers.
- Traditional owner groups aspirations to name Departmental areas, features and assets with culturally appropriate language has been supported.

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.

Health, safety and wellbeing

The Department promotes a strong culture of workplace health, safety and wellbeing with a focus on shared responsibility. The Department works collaboratively to establish and maintain a standardised approach to health, safety, wellbeing and injury management and maintains management systems in accordance with legislative requirements, the *Code of Practice: Occupational Safety and Health in the Western Australian Public Sector* and the elements of the WorkSafe Plan. The Department continues to maintain advisory and corporate committees that provide strategic direction and is committed to consulting and communicating with employee elected health and safety representatives, management appointed Safety Officers, Health and Safety Committees, managers and employees regarding health, safety and wellbeing matters, as appropriate. The Department continues to provide wellbeing support including via the Employee Assistance Program, Peer Supporter Network, Critical Incident Peer Responder Program and Mental Health First Aid training.

Table 18: Health and safety performance indicators

Measure	Actual results		Results against target	
	2016-17	2018-19	Target	Comment on result
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease incidence rate	2.18	2.67	0 or 10% reduction	Not Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate	6.06	0.07	0 or 10% reduction	Achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:				
(i) within 13 weeks	93.4%	97.4%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Achieved
(ii) within 26 weeks	96.7.%	100%	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



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

2019_210 09190 40

