



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

2019–20 Annual Report



Acknowledgements

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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

Phone: (08) 9219 9000

Email: info@dbca.wa.gov.au

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Cover images (clockwise from top left):

- 1: Kings Park Festival. *Photo – BGPA*
- 2: Parker Point, Rottnest Island. *Photo – Tourism WA*
- 3: Dangg National Park. *Photo – Shem Bisluk/DBCA*
- 4: Otters at Perth Zoo. *Photo – Alex Cearns*
- 5: 100 Year Forest. *Photo – Michael Pez/DBCA*
- 6: Forest red-tailed black cockatoos. *Photo – Rick Dawson*

Back page image: Canoeing at Kalbarri National Park. *Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA*



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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 2019 to 30 June 2020.

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



Kalbarri National Park. Photo – Shem Bisluk/DBCA

Foreword

In 2019–20 the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) continued its important work to promote biodiversity and conservation through sustainable management of WA’s species, ecosystems, lands and the attractions in its care. DBCA’s third year of operations was productive with significant achievements across a range of service areas.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic presented an unprecedented challenge to people and organisations around the world. In Western Australia (WA), DBCA contributed to a unified State Government response to the State of Emergency in a number of ways, including the deployment of staff to the COVID-19 Information Coordination Centre, the issuing of essential public information, and changes to procedures across the State.

I am proud to say that DBCA staff continued to deliver a wide range of services to the WA community with minimal disruption. For about one third of DBCA’s workforce, working from home was not possible due to the field-based nature of their roles. These staff adapted their work practices to implement physical distancing and hygiene procedures, consistent with health advice. More than 500 staff members moved temporarily into working-from-home arrangements to help address the risk of community spread of the disease. I would particularly like to acknowledge the work of People Services Branch and the Office for Information Management for making this transition as smooth as possible. National and marine parks and reserves – as well as Kings Park and Botanic Garden – remained opened to the public throughout the State of Emergency, providing welcome relief to people during the toughest times of the pandemic. Unfortunately, Perth Zoo closed for the first time in 122 years, although many staff remained

on site to care for the animals. Rottneest Island was closed to holidaymakers and used as a quarantine site for travellers, playing a key role in the protection of the WA community. The value of natural spaces was highlighted as restrictions eased and campgrounds reopened, with visitors flocking to book campsites at Park Stay WA. I would like to extend my appreciation to all staff, volunteers and partner organisations for their flexibility during this challenging time.

During 2019–20, DBCA progressed the Plan for Our Parks initiative, a bold plan that will see WA's conservation estate expand by 20 per cent over five years. We celebrated the creation of Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park and the addition of 'Site L' to the jointly-managed Murujuga National Park in July 2019, and the creation of a class A conservation reserve to protect Beeliar Wetlands in May 2020.

Together with other State Government departments, we consulted widely with traditional owners, the resource sector, pastoralists, commercial and recreational fishers, conservation groups, local government authorities, neighbours and other key stakeholders and interest holders to help refine the 18 opportunity areas identified under Plan for Our Parks. Since the launch of the initiative in February 2019, several hundred stakeholders have been contacted and over 80 meetings held. Feedback was constructive and positive with a broad level of support for the initiative.

The 2019–20 southern bushfire season presented a number of challenging bushfires. On five occasions, pre-formed teams consisting of staff from DBCA, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Forest Products Commission were deployed to respond to major bushfires. These teams were deployed to Stirling Range National Park on two separate occasions, the Esperance-Goldfields complex, and the Wellington and Yanchep bushfires.

Our science programs continued to deliver high-quality, targeted science to support DBCA's operations. Following bushfires at Stirling Range National Park, we assessed the impact on threatened invertebrates and began developing a recovery strategy for this unique group of animals. In addition, our scientists refined monitoring protocols for the western ground parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*), night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) and Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) through the use of audio recording units. A great deal of work went into the development of interim recovery plans for two threatened plants, *Conospermum galeatum* and *Gastrolobium vestitum*, which were released in June 2020.

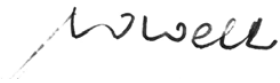
DBCA's collaborative partnerships with industry and the community again proved to be very effective in managing and protecting the nature of WA. Three projects between DBCA and Chevron have been completed as part the Wheatstone offsets program. These projects resulted in widescale conservation actions in the Pilbara Region, including fencing of the 327,000-hectare Cane River Conservation Park to restrict access to feral herbivores and stray cattle. In addition, Chevron offset funding supported island conservation, weed eradication and community education works. I look forward to hearing progress on the two continuing projects under this program.

2020 also marked 50 years of the WA Herbarium's botanical journal *Nuytsia*. In celebration, 54 new species were named or described as part of a 'golden anniversary' edition of the journal.

Another exciting achievement was DBCA being recognised as the first WA public sector agency and the first WA-based organisation to become a Disability Confident Recruiter, after being granted certification from the Australian Network on Disability. This title reinforces DBCA's commitment to attracting, supporting and retaining skilled candidates with disability.

Our progress would not be possible without the support of a 16,000-strong group of registered volunteers, who this year contributed more than 762,000 hours to the conservation and management of WA's environment. Fortunately, many of these groups were able to continue their good work during the COVID-19 pandemic by putting hygiene and physical distancing measures into place.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the leadership of Minister for Environment Hon Stephen Dawson MLC and Minister for Tourism Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA and their staff. Their support and guidance helped drive DBCA's achievements during 2019–20. I would also like to thank my colleagues across our Corporate Executive group, who helped shape and implement a broad range of initiatives and programs with efficiency and professionalism.

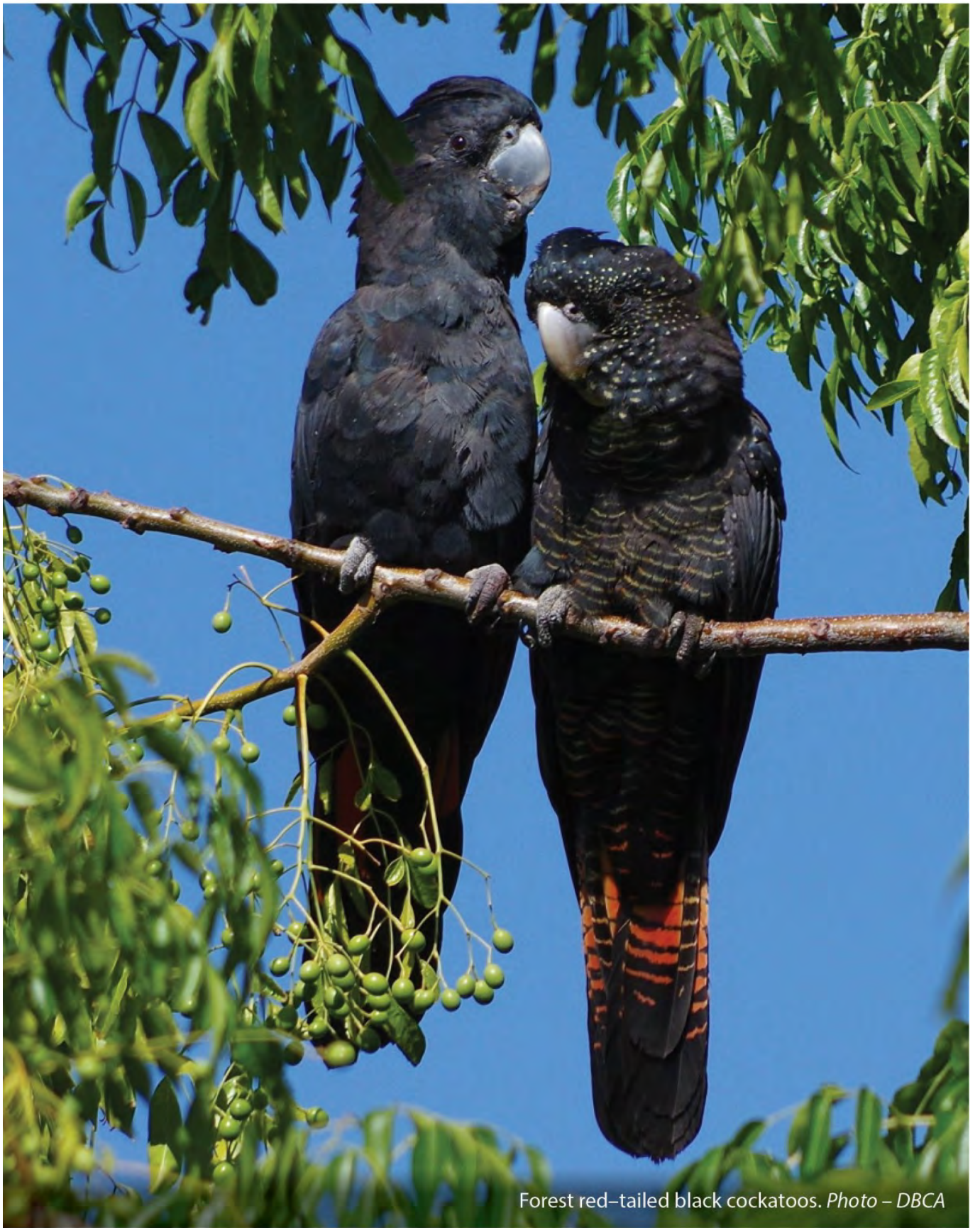
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Webb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mark Webb PSM

Director General

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

September 2020



Forest red-tailed black cockatoos. Photo – DBCA

Overview of the agency



Executive summary

Science

Science in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) is coordinated by Biodiversity and Conservation Science, which provides targeted science to support evidence-based decision making by the Parks and Wildlife Service, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Zoological Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority. Operating from a range of locations across the State, DBCA's scientists work in the areas of conservation genetics, biological survey, fire behaviour, ecology, marine science and plant biology, among many others. Science and research is undertaken using both State Government and external funding sources.

In 2019–20, significant work was done to reassess the conservation status of Western Australia's threatened species and ensure alignment between the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the State *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. DBCA also contributed to a national working group to develop a common assessment method for threatened species across Western Australia, with the goal of creating a single national threatened species list.

DBCA's Marine Science Program joined the Australian Institute of Marine Science and Parks Australia to measure the impacts of widespread but patchy coral bleaching at Rowley Shoals Marine Park and the inshore marine parks of the Kimberley Region. Ongoing surveys and monitoring will continue to provide an insight into the long-term health of this ecosystem.

Conservation and threat management

DBCA's flagship wildlife recovery program, *Western Shield*, continued to protect threatened species from the threat of introduced predators, such as foxes and feral cats. About 3.8 million hectares of Department-managed and adjoining lands across Western Australia were baited as part of the core program involving the use of approximately 410,000 fox baits and 602,000 Eradicat® feral cat baits.

Conservation efforts in Dryandra Woodland proved valuable, as district staff worked with landholders, community groups and industry partner Western Areas Ltd to carry out predator control on- and off-reserve – especially important due to the fragmented nature of the woodland. Population monitoring for woylies (*Bettongia penicillata*) and numbats (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) showed positive trends in recovery.

In anticipation of a high demand for woylies for use in proposed translocations in the next few years, DBCA began developing a population management strategy for the species.

Work to assess the impact and contain the spread of the plant pathogen *Phytophthora* dieback continued. DBCA developed an online Green Card course to facilitate training in dieback awareness and management, which was rolled out to DBCA and Forest Products Commission staff. The course contained additional information about surveillance for myrtle rust, a plant pathogen that has the potential to broadly impact the Myrtaceae family. In addition, the *Fitzgerald River National Park and Fitzgerald Biosphere Phytophthora Dieback Protection Plan 2019–2029* was completed.

In the Kimberley, community education about the impact and dispersal of cane toads continued. DBCA also began delivering an updated internal weed management course, using both online and face-to-face learning tools. The course creates a new standard for weed management across DBCA through weed identification, integrated weed management, weed treatment and chemical use and safety skills and knowledge.

Parks

DBCA's commitment to providing high-quality nature-based tourism experiences continued in 2019–20. The Kalbarri Skywalk was completed, allowing visitors sweeping views of the Murchison River on two accessible platforms that extend beyond the rim of the gorge. The opening of the skywalk precinct marked the culmination of the \$24 million Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Improvement Project, a five-year project to improve facilities across the park and make it easier for visitors to experience the rugged wilderness of the Midwest.

WA's bid to have Murujuga (the traditional name for the Dampier Archipelago and surrounds, including Murujuga National Park) added to the World Heritage List made good progress, with its inclusion on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List in January 2020. In addition, a 221-hectare area of land known as 'Site L' was added to Murujuga National Park, and an art viewing trail was built to enable visitors to safely view ancient Aboriginal rock art. DBCA collaborated closely with joint management partners Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation on this important project.

The State Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative continued. The ambitious plan aims to add five million hectares to WA's conservation estate over five years. DBCA and other State Government agencies consulted widely with a broad range of stakeholders, including traditional owners, industry groups and local government. In particular, DBCA is working closely with Bunuba, Gooniyandi and Kija (Yurriyangem Taam) traditional owners on the creation of a national park along the Fitzroy River. Consultation during the year focused on the potential national park boundary and management arrangements such as bore access, fencing, and management approaches.

An initiative to revitalise a former mine, now known as Lake Kepwari, reached an important milestone, with the announcement of an additional \$2.7 million towards the water-based tourism development near Collie. Work to upgrade the first 2.2km of access road was completed during 2019–20 by local business Cardinal Contractors.

Two exciting mountain biking projects, Collie Adventure Trails and Dwellingup Adventure Trails, were progressed during the year. The \$10 million and \$8.4 million projects aim to boost tourism in the region by embracing a growing interest in active recreation. In June 2020, the 36km Arklow mountain bike trail network was unveiled, which includes 6km of trail specially designed to accommodate hand cycles, allowing mountain bike riders with disability the opportunity to enjoy even more of the area.

Forest management

DBCA continued to focus on the implementation of the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* to maintain the health of WA's south-west forests, while allowing for industry and community needs to be met.

Monitoring and investigations continued into areas of forest vegetation density decline, with remote sensing trend maps and on-ground validation examining forest health, post-fire recovery and climatic influences. Examination of the vulnerability of forest ecosystems to climate change in terms of structure, composition regeneration and functioning commenced, using drought-affected and bushfire-affected forest study sites.

Fire management

DBCA continued its prescribed burning program to protect lives, property and infrastructure from bushfires through a carefully planned regime of controlled burns. A major target of the program is to maintain a fuel age of less than six years across 45 per cent of south-west forest. In 2019–20, DBCA achieved more than 130,000 hectares of prescribed burning and this contributed to the increase of the proportion of south-west forest fuels to 49.5 per cent. This year's program was assisted by additional State Government funding of \$5.5 million via the Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DBCA adopted a scalable approach to the Autumn 2020 prescribed burning program. This ensured appropriate measures were in place to manage staff safety and wellbeing, ensure burn security, appropriately manage any potential smoke impacts, and maintain a capacity to respond to bushfires.

DBCA bought 10 R3 incendiary machines to improve efficiency of aerial ignition for large-scale prescribed burns. The new machines are more compact and technically advanced and will be phased into burning operations in 2020–21.

The 2019–20 southern bushfire season was exceptionally busy, with major bushfires at Stirling Range National Park, Esperance–Goldfields, Wellington and Yanchep. Overall, fire staff from the Parks and Wildlife Service and DBCA support staff attended 663 bushfires across the State.

The Fire Management Development Program continued to support skilled people to develop a career in fire management, and support the agency's succession planning for fire.

Swan Canning Riverpark

The Swan Canning Riverpark continued to face a range of challenges associated with urban influences. In 2019–20, a variety of community engagement projects were delivered to support behaviour change and citizen science initiatives. The *River Guardians* program provided *RiverWise* training, volunteering opportunities and presentations from scientific and behaviour change experts. The *River Guardians* program now has more than 2800 subscribers.

More than 1500 trained *Dolphin Watch* volunteers contributed thousands of reports to assist with monitoring dolphin activity, health and numbers in the Riverpark, Peel–Harvey Estuary and Roebuck Bay. A comprehensive review of the *Dolphin Watch* project was undertaken to determine new focus areas for research, training requirements and the key tools required for data collection.

In 2019–20, the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) provided \$332,756 to 21 community groups to implement 59 landcare projects throughout the Swan Canning catchment. SALP is a grants program administered by Perth Natural Resource Management (Perth NRM) and jointly funded by DBCA, Alcoa of Australia and the Burswood Park Board.

Water quality and biota sampling was conducted in response to a toxic *Alexandrium* algal bloom in the Swan Canning Estuary between December 2019 and March 2020. *Alexandrium* produces toxins that may cause paralytic shellfish poisoning. Mussels, crabs and fish were tested, and toxins related to *Alexandrium* were found in mussels and crab viscera. Data from the sampling supported the Department of Health's delivery of relevant public health warnings.

People

The COVID-19 pandemic and WA State of Emergency greatly impacted DBCA's workforce of more than 1500 full-time equivalent staff. The wellbeing of staff during this unprecedented and challenging time was DBCA's top priority, with hygiene procedures, physical distancing protocols and working-from-home arrangements being implemented. Staff also continued to have access to a network of Peer Supporters and counselling through DBCA's Employee Assistance Program. Where possible, staff training was delivered online and meetings conducted via online video conferencing platforms.

DBCA continued to be supported by its broad network of registered volunteers, who provided a wide range of services in support of the natural environment. There were 17 new volunteer projects created, with assistance from 1627 new volunteers, for turtle tracking at Bibra Lake, tree maintenance in the south-west, fauna monitoring in Frankland District and the Kimberley Toad Muster.



Joint management with traditional owners. Photo – DBCA

About the Department

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) was created on 1 July 2017, bringing together the Parks and Wildlife Service, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Zoological Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Biodiversity and Conservation Science, supported by Corporate and Business Services Division.

DBCA's mission is to:

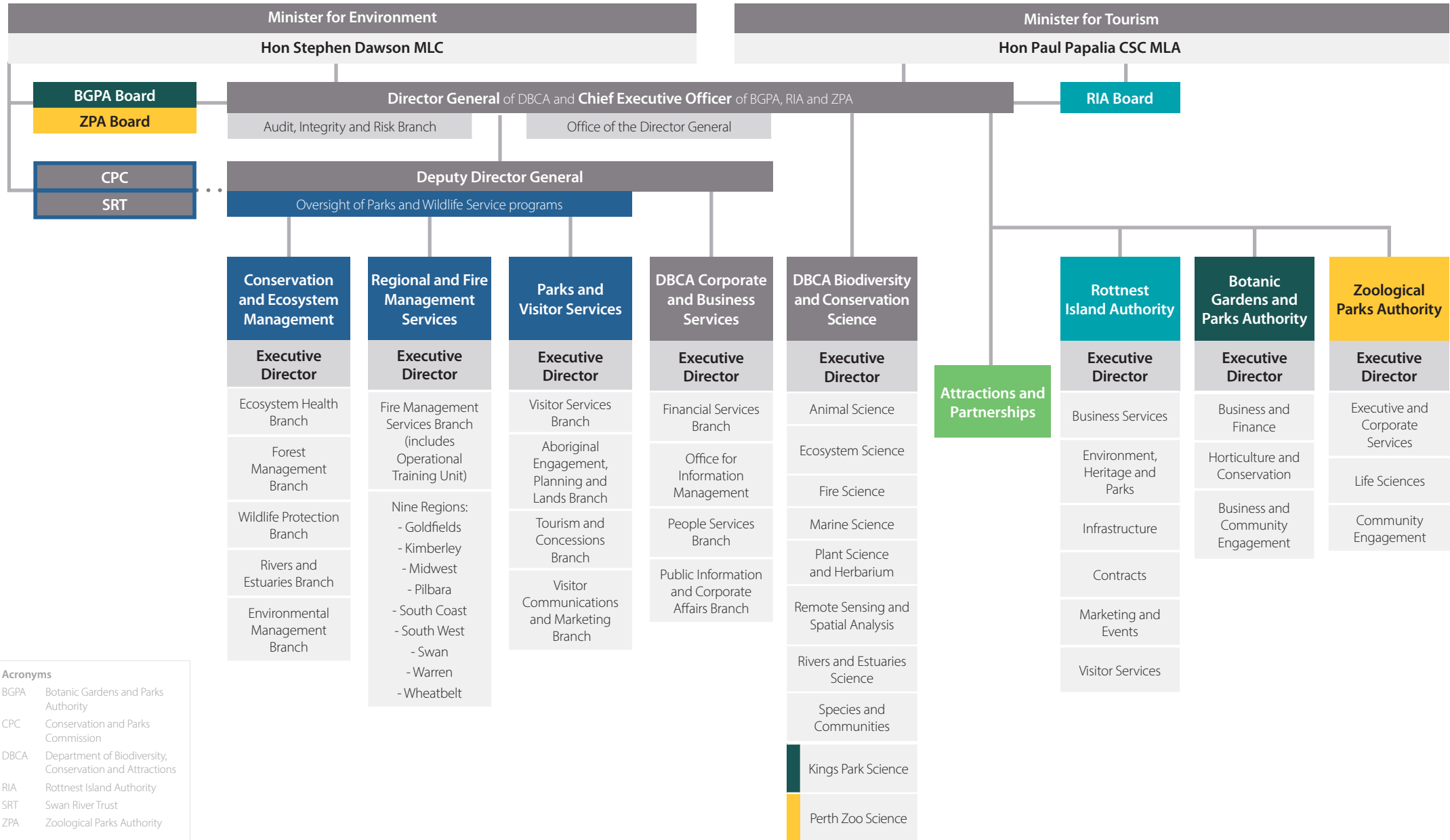
- manage WA's parks, forests and reserves to conserve wildlife, provide sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities, protect communities and assets from bushfire and achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives
- inspire and act for wildlife conservation
- conserve and enhance Kings 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 has a close working relationship with the Conservation and Parks Commission and the Swan River Trust.



Organisational chart

30 June 2020



Acronyms

BGPA	Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority
CPC	Conservation and Parks Commission
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
RIA	Rotttnest Island Authority
SRT	Swan River Trust
ZPA	Zoological Parks Authority

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). Consistent with reporting requirements, the Statutory Authorities produce individual annual reports, available on dbca.wa.gov.au/annual-reports.

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.

Legislation administered by the Department at 30 June 2020

Acts

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act)
- *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 (BC Regulations)
- Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 (CALM Regulations)
- Forest Management Regulations 1993
- Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007

Legislation administered by the Statutory Authorities at 30 June 2020

Acts

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

Regulations

- Botanic Gardens and Parks Regulations 1999
- Rottnest Island Regulations 1988
- Zoological Parks Authority Regulations 2002

Changes made in 2019–20 to legislation administered by the Department

- The *Reserves (Marmion Marine Park) Act 2019* received Royal Assent on 8 October 2019.

A commencement proclamation was published in the *Government Gazette* on 3 December 2019 and the Act commenced on 4 December 2019. The Act excised the Ocean Reef Marina development area from the Marmion Marine Park.

- The *Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2019* (published in the *Government Gazette* on 28 June 2019) made amendments to Regulation 99 of the CALM Regulations.
- The *Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations (No 3) 2019* (published in the *Government Gazette* on 2 August 2019) made amendments to Schedule 1, Division 2, inserted Schedule 1, Divisions 6 and 7 and amended various fees in Schedule 1 of the CALM Regulations.

Changes made in 2019–20 to legislation administered by the Statutory Authorities

- The *Rottneest Island Amendment Regulations 2019* (published in the *Government Gazette* on 9 August 2019) amended the Rottneest Island Regulations 1988.
- The *Zoological Parks and Authority Amendment Regulations 2020* (published in the *Government Gazette* on 11 February 2020) made amendments to the regulations 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20 and 21 and Schedule 2 to amend penalties in the Zoological Parks Authority Regulations 2002.

Notices, appointments, orders and approvals

The following notices, appointments and orders were published:

- *Biodiversity Conservation (Authorised Persons) Notice 2019*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 19 July 2019 pursuant to s.252(2) of the BC Act.
- *Biodiversity Conservation (Exemptions) Amendment Order 2019*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 5 November 2019 pursuant to s.271(2) of the BC Act.
- *Conservation and Land Management (Changes to State Forest No. 14) Proposal 2019*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 8 November 2019 proposed that the land identified as Lots 500-526 on Deposited Plan 41193 version 1 cease to be State forest.
- *Parks and reserves of the south-west Kimberley and the north-west Pilbara joint management plan 2019*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 29 November 2019 pursuant to s.61 of the CALM Act.
- *Jalangurru Manyjawarra Bunba Muwayi Yarrangu joint management plan 2019*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 3 December 2019 pursuant to s.61 of the CALM Act.
- *Proposed Niiwalarra Islands (Sir Graham Moore Islands) National Park and Lesueur Island Nature Reserve joint management plan 2019*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 17 December 2019 pursuant to s.61 of the CALM Act.
- *Lalang-Garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park (Classified Waters) Notice 2019*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 24 December 2019 pursuant to s.62(1)(a) of the CALM Act.
- *Lalang-Garram / Camden Sound Marine Park (Classified Waters) Notice 2020*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 28 February 2020 pursuant to s.62(1)(a) of the CALM Act.
- *Conservation and Land Management (Changes to State Forest No. 26) Proposal 2019*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 27 March 2020 proposed that the land identified as Lots 400-411 on Deposited Plan 416086 version 1 cease to be State forest.
- The *Conospermum galeatum Interim Recovery Plan*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 16 June 2020, pursuant to s.107 of the BC Act.
- The *Gastrolobium vestitum Interim Recovery Plan*, published in the *Government Gazette* on 16 June 2020, pursuant to s.107 of the BC Act.

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.

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

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services
Better Places: A quality environment with liveable and affordable communities and vibrant regions.	Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	Plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation utilises evidenced-based science and effective partnerships.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities 7. Research and Conservation Partnerships
	Sustainable use of forest resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Implementation of the Forest Management Plan
	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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Prescribed Burning and Fire Management 10. Bushfire Suppression

* Reported separately.

** For the purpose of reporting against the Outcome-Based Management Structure and for consistency with Budget Papers, Service 4 refers to the 'Swan and Canning Riverpark'. However the legal name of the area that was established under the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* is the 'Swan Canning Riverpark'.



Apex Park project on the Mount Pleasant foreshore. Photo – Advantearing Civil Engineers

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



Pied oystercatcher chicks. Photo – Gary Tate

About Service 4

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.

Outcome

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

Priorities

The priorities for Service 4 in 2019–20 were:

- providing advice to the Minister for Environment, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and local government authorities with respect to development in or affecting the Swan Canning Development Control Area
- integrated delivery of environmental management programs critical to the *Swan Canning River Protection Strategy* (SCRPS) and the *Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan* (SCWQIP)
- 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
- provision of expert advice and distribution of \$1 million in funding for foreshore restoration and protection works through landholder partnerships in the *Riverbank* program. This funding

continued to be matched by riverside land managers, equating to a \$2 million investment along the rivers

- implementing the *Riverpark Trail Master Plan* and '*Marli Riverpark*' *Interpretation Plan* through the development of interpretation facilities at selected locations
- 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 activities in priority nutrient suburbs.

Strategies and key activities

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2019–20. 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 locality plans for identified areas of the Riverpark in conjunction with the WAPC and local government authorities
- assessing development applications, providing advice to the WAPC and local government, ensuring developments comply with approval conditions and working with relevant authorities and developers to manage impacts on the rivers from the development of projects of State significance
- supporting local and State Government agencies in State Administrative Tribunal matters relating to the Swan Canning river system
- 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 Canning river system, maintaining stormwater and groundwater quantity flows to the river system, and improving 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 (CRCWSC) and the New WAter Ways capacity building program.

2. 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* (SCRM Act). 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 SCRM Act 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.

3. Delivering environmental programs to improve the health and resilience of the river system, including protecting its shorelines, from 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 run-off
- administering the State Government's Community Rivercare Program, which is supporting community volunteer groups' projects that restore foreshores, reduce nutrient inflows, stabilise banks and protect and improve fish and waterbird habitat within the river system
- operating wetland intervention projects to trap nutrients, organic material, sediments and other pollutants in Bayswater Brook, Canning Plain and Ellen Brook catchments, and implementing fencing and revegetation projects in other priority catchments
- partnering with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to continue 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
- working with stakeholders to reduce sediment loads entering drains and tributaries from subdivisions and building sites
- 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 SCWQIP including a review of sub-catchment modelling
- conducting preliminary site investigations to identify options to improve water quality and natural diversity at Ashfield Flats Reserve, in the Town of Bassendean
- 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; including a review of foreshore land manager understanding of best-practice as it applies to bioengineering.

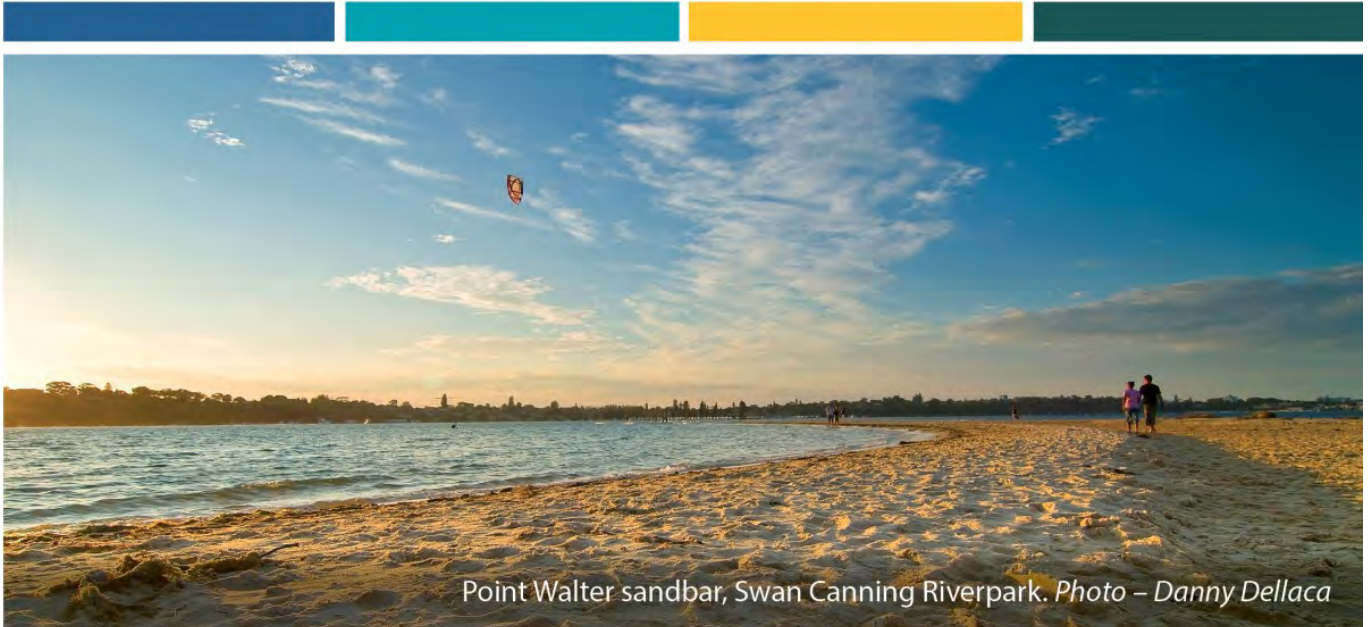
4. Delivering operational and compliance activities, recreational and commercial activities in the Riverpark to enhance community benefit and amenity, by:

- 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
- undertaking an annual visitor survey to measure satisfaction levels and provide guidance and recommendations to land managers
- responding to and investigating incidents and complaints around the Riverpark and undertaking proactive compliance activities
- 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 recreational 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 ensuring the maintenance of courtesy moorings and other public facilities
- ensuring responsible use of the river through the *Swan Canning Riverpark Boating Management Strategy* and delivering compliance and educational activities, in partnership with other stakeholders.
- supporting an effective incident response framework and capability for algal blooms, fish kills, hydrocarbon spills, wastewater overflow, bushfire, and dolphin entanglement, injury or death.

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

- building a membership of *RiverWise* advocates and *River Guardians* online subscribers through education, citizen science, free community events and member benefits
- undertaking a comprehensive review of the *Dolphin Watch* project and smartphone app to improve *Dolphin Watch* data and education and further support dolphin research in the Riverpark to provide a framework for the expansion of the *Dolphin Watch* project across the State
- expanding the *Reel It In* fishing line bin project in the Riverpark and at priority coastal fishing locations across Western Australia (WA)
- 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
- delivering communication services to inform the public and encourage participation and engagement in managing and protecting the Riverpark.



Point Walter sandbar, Swan Canning Riverpark. Photo – Danny Dellaca

Performance

Performance summary

Table 1: Service 4 performance summary

	2019–20 target	2019–20 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$14,196,000	\$13,677,000	(\$519,000)
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare of managing the Swan Canning Riverpark*	\$1939	\$1868	(\$71)
Key effectiveness indicator			
Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	85%	90.9%	5.9%

*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 the Swan River Trust) and adjoining public lands (vested with State and local authorities) included in the 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.

More information on these indicators can be found in DBCA’s Outcome-Based Management Structure in the *Disclosures and Legal Compliance* section under *Key Performance Indicators*.

Performance highlights

River Systems Management

- The Swan Canning river system continued to face a range of water quality and ecosystem health challenges. In 2019–20, river management initiatives were delivered to protect and enhance the health of the river system, improve understanding of the rivers' function and optimise land use planning in the Riverpark.

Healthy Catchments

- In 2019–20, the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) provided \$332,756 to 21 community groups to implement 59 land care projects throughout the Swan Canning catchment. SALP is a grants program administered by Perth NRM and jointly funded by DBCA, Alcoa of Australia and the Burswood Park Board.
- Funding of \$630,000 was provided to a variety of sub-regional NRM groups to coordinate a range of community catchment restoration projects to improve the water quality entering the river system.
- Through round two of the State Government's Community Rivercare Program, nine community groups shared \$300,000 in funding to deliver projects that address water quality improvement, foreshore restoration and habitat creation in waterways of the Perth NRM region.

Drainage and Nutrient Intervention Program

- Operation of seven demonstration sites in partnership with 10 stakeholder groups continued to build capacity among land managers, statutory authorities, catchment management groups and the public to refine approaches to water quality improvement.
- Hydrological and nutrient modelling of the Swan Canning catchment-estuary system continued. The results will be used to improve and expand on modelling originally undertaken in 2008. This will help inform future revisions to river management strategies and actions.
- Monitoring of the Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary Wetland continued through a partnership with CRCWSC, ChemCentre, The University of Western Australia (UWA) and the City of Bayswater. An assessment of the wetland's performance in improving water quality is due to be published in late 2020.
- Modifications to the Ellen Brook constructed wetland were made to allow more water to be filtered and treated. The wetland treated 152ML of water from Ellen Brook during 2019–20. The effect of these modifications will be evaluated in 2020–21.
- The site selection and prioritisation project is a decision support tool which utilises empirical and modelled data to identify and prioritise sites to implement water quality intervention projects within the Swan Canning catchment. The tool is now used to assist the Water Corporation, local governments and catchment management groups with site selection, project development, design, monitoring and evaluation.
- The Department continued a hydrological study of Ashfield Flats Reserve, the largest remaining river flat in the Perth metropolitan area, with funding from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and supported by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Regional Landcare Partnerships through Perth NRM.
- The Department continued planning for the Drainage and Nutrient Intervention Program to take over management of the existing Swan and Canning Rivers Oxygenation Program. This large infrastructure program improves river health by increasing oxygen levels in vulnerable reaches of the Swan and Canning rivers through large-scale oxygenation in four locations.
- DBCA worked with DWER to operate two oxygenation plants on the upper Swan estuary that

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.

Riverbank funding

- Under the longstanding Riverbank grants program, more than \$1 million was distributed to 11 foreshore land managers for 15 projects. These projects included erosion control, revegetation, weed control, river wall construction, enhancing foreshore and river access, widening vegetation corridors and creating native animal habitat.
- The Riverbank shoreline dataset was expanded with the collection of ancillary data from the Helena and Southern rivers. This dataset helps to inform Riverbank funding decisions through up-to-date data collation, priority identification and clear risk communication, and assists in demonstrating value for money.
- DBCA made a commitment to invest \$250,000 over three years (2019–20 to 2021–22) in the Nature Conservancy's Swan-Canning mussel reef restoration project. This includes the provision of specialist advice into a technical advisory group.

Investigations into Riverpark values, threats and mitigation

- Investigations into site sediment transport into drainage infrastructure continued to measure turbidity generated by development activities. A numerical model to determine the impact of storm events on sediment transport through the drains has been developed. The model is designed to influence construction management behaviour and reduce sediment transport to drainage infrastructure and receiving waters.
- Information on other science projects supporting the understanding of and mitigation of threats to the Swan and Canning rivers can be found in *Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities* within this report.

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 Royal Street and Kenwick and Nicholson roads, Langford. This initiative helped identify unlawful structures and activity along the Canning River foreshore, with three issues being identified and resolved.

Events, complaints, incidents and compliance activities

- The Department responded to 244 complaints in and around the Riverpark, compared with 223 complaints in the 2018-19 financial year.
- Fifty compliance notices were issued for a variety of offences and one offender was prosecuted for damaging DBCA property. One foreshore vegetation protection sign was installed in the Riverpark. These signs are a useful tool to reduce vegetation damage and help educate the public about the value of shoreline vegetation. There was an increase in reported incidents of vegetation damage with 17 incidents recorded during 2019–20, compared with 11 in 2018–19.

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 12 fish kills and one algal bloom event. More information on DBCA's response to the *Alexandrium* algal bloom that occurred in the Riverpark during 2019–20 can be found in *Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities* within this report.

River Journeys project

- A visitor interpretation site was completed at Kent Street Weir Park in Wilson as part of the *River Journeys* project to develop a series of trail interpretation sites throughout the Riverpark. The Department was also successful in obtaining grant funding from Woodside, through the WA Parks Foundation, to develop another three interpretation sites.

Visitor satisfaction

- A face-to-face visitor satisfaction survey, consisting of 243 interviews, was undertaken to gain valuable community feedback and perceptions of users and visitors to the Riverpark. The average satisfaction was 90.9 per cent, with a target level of 85 per cent.

Statutory assessments

- The Department issued 175 approvals for works or activities in the Swan Canning Development Control Area, as part of a management process to maintain the Riverpark's ecological and community values and amenity. The Rivers and Estuaries Branch Statutory Assessments Unit provided advice on 192 development and subdivision applications that were in, next to, or affecting the Swan and Canning rivers; applying State and Department policy objectives. Six development applications were assessed, and recommendations made to the Minister for Environment, under Part 5 of the SCRM Act.
- 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 East Perth, Elizabeth Quay, Midland and Armadale (including Wungong).
- The variety and number of proposed commercial operations within the Riverpark continued to grow. Forty-eight tourism operator licences were granted on the Swan and Canning rivers, plus another 20 aquatic activity licences. A further two operators were approved to use the foreshore, primarily for events, pop-up installations and food and beverage outlets.
- The Department continued to work with Tourism WA to provide advice on key projects. Support was provided to the State's Matagarup Bridge climb, zipline and access pod initiative and the Tawarri Hot Springs proposal was referred to the State Design Review Panel to inform a high-quality development outcome.
- The Department continued to support local and State Government agencies in State Administrative Tribunal matters regarding the Swan Canning river system.

Strategic activities

- The *Perth Water Buneenboro Locality Plan* continued to be developed in collaboration with seven other State Government agencies and local governments. The plan will guide future

- improvement of Perth Water, its foreshores and abutting private development interface.
- The Department undertook an expressions of interest process to establish a long-term commercial seaplane operation on Perth Water. This followed conclusion of the seaplane trial and assessment of the community's views on the use of Perth Water for commercial seaplanes.
- The Department continued to work with DPLH on a review of *State Planning Policy (SPP) 2.10: Swan-Canning River System* and *SPP 2.9 Water Resources* and associated guidelines and datasets.
- To complement these SPP reviews, the Department captured current contextual information for the Swan and Canning rivers and continued developing a Swan and Canning rivers locality-based planning policy.
- The Department updated its guidelines *Scientific Studies: Applying Regulation 16C and Variation or Extension of Approval: Applying Section 84* to increase efficiencies and provide further clarity to proponents.

Water-sensitive cities program

- The Department continued to support the New Water Ways program and CRCWSC. DBCA continued to support the implementation of a water-sensitive Perth through membership of the Water Sensitive Transition Network (WSTN). In August 2019, the WSTN released the *Vision and Transition Strategy for a Water Sensitive Greater Perth – Implementation Plan 2019–2021*. The Department provided support and information for numerous Water Sensitive Cities index benchmarking and visioning workshops for local governments. These workshops identified the current status of a local government area on its journey to a water-sensitive city and key actions to transition to water-sensitive cities.
- The Department contributed to a UWA/Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub project entitled *Reconstructing an understanding of Noongar knowledge for the Swan Canning catchment – implications for land-use and water planning in Perth*.
- The Department provided comments on the *Draft Precinct Design State Planning Policy and Guidelines* (WAPC and DPLH) and the Green Star for New Buildings nature category credits (Green Building Council Australia) to improve water-sensitive urban design and protection of the Swan Canning river system and other valuable WA biodiversity and attractions.

Swan Canning River Protection Strategy

- The Department continued to work with members of the SCRPS Advisory Group to oversee implementation and reporting of key river management actions to the Swan River Trust.
- The *Swan Canning River Protection Strategy Progress Report 2019*, covering the period July 2018 to December 2019, was finalised and published.

Community engagement

- A variety of community engagement projects were undertaken to support behaviour change and citizen science initiatives for the Swan and Canning rivers. The following programs and projects were delivered and supported by the Department's Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch.
 - The *River Guardians* program now has 2828 subscribers. *River Guardians* continued to provide *RiverWise* training, volunteering opportunities and presentations from scientific and behaviour change experts addressing key issues impacting the Swan and Canning rivers.
 - There are now 1541 trained *Dolphin Watch* volunteers who have contributed over 28,000 reports in the Riverpark. A comprehensive review of the *Dolphin Watch* project

was undertaken to determine new focus areas for research, training requirements and the key tools required for data collection. All volunteers were invited to respond to a survey aimed at improving the project.

- 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 Riverpark. Project participation included 13 riverfront councils plus Fremantle Ports, Hillarys Marina, City of Cockburn, City of Mandurah, Shire of Manjimup, City of Bunbury, Shire of Busselton and Rottnest Island. During the year the bins collected 28km of fishing line, 4450 hooks and sinkers, 2200 bait bags and over 11,000 pieces of general rubbish. There are now 64 volunteers who have adopted fishing line bin sites throughout the Riverpark and help empty the bins. This year, DBCA received a \$20,000 grant from Recfishwest to help expand the project to popular WA coastal fishing locations.
- *River Guardians* partnered with WA Seabird Rescue and Recfishwest to produce an educational video and erect signage along the river in the City of Bayswater and Town of Bassendean to help reduce wildlife entanglements in fishing line.
- A priority nutrient input catchment in Bull Creek was selected for the 2019 *RiverWise Gardens*. Through this behaviour change program, 3000 households were engaged and 600 households were personally contacted. The program delivers personalised coaching, combined with on-site garden consultations, feedback letters and referrals to a gardening workshop. The coaching team worked with 412 households, with participants supporting 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 Gardening Australia presenter Dr Josh Byrne.
- Three *RiverWise* gardening workshops were delivered in Spring 2019 attracting 314 participants who responded to an online questionnaire. From these participants, 67.5 per cent identified the key take-home messages as using less fertiliser/minimising nutrient run-off and being more waterwise. The autumn series of three workshops was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and will be rescheduled in 2020–21.
- The Department sponsored and supported community events such as Swanfish, Swim Thru at Matilda Bay, Underwater Explorers dive club river cleanup, *Dolphin Watch* Trophy Day and *Reel It In* Trophy Day yacht races, Perth Skyworks, Avon Descent, Scitech river education displays and the Kings Park Festival to help deliver environmental education to the community.

Information on other 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.



Proposed Helena–Aurora Range National Park. Photo – Shem Bisluk/DBCA

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



Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

About Service 5

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.

Outcomes

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

Priorities

The priorities of this service in 2019–20 were:

- implementing the Plan for Our Parks initiative, which is creating five million hectares of new national and marine parks and reserves across the State, to provide more opportunities for nature-based and cultural tourism, enhance biodiversity conservation and build on Aboriginal joint management
- continuing to develop a world-class parks system by improving the presentation of parks and developing a range of tourism and recreation attractions including the development of trails, nature-based and cultural experiences in parks
- continuing to expand the level of Aboriginal engagement and involvement by encouraging customary practices on the conservation estate and, where resourced, joint vesting and management of reserves including in the Kimberley, Midwest, Goldfields and South West regions
- negotiating and implementing Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and joint management arrangements with traditional owners to create new reserves, including the Yamatji Nation Agreement (previously named the Geraldton Alternative Settlement Agreement) and South West Native Title Settlement

- negotiating native title compensation agreement and tenure reform for Gibson Desert Nature Reserve
- implementing the Aboriginal Ranger Program, including allocating a further \$9.25 million in funding through the second round of the program
- amending the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) to allow joint vesting of marine parks
- completing 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 establish improved access and new visitor facilities in key parks including William Bay, Danggū (formerly Geikie Gorge), Karijini and Greater Beedelup national parks and at Monkey Mia Conservation Park
- implementing the Collie Adventure Trails initiative to establish Collie as a premier trail adventure town to attract local, national and international mountain bike and bushwalking tourists and support local economies
- continuing to establish new and improved visitor facilities in the Collie region, including the upgrade of roads in Wellington National Park and Westralia Conservation Park, the expansion of Wellington National Park and a water-based tourism precinct at Lake Kepwari
- implementing the Dwellingup Adventure Trails project in partnership with the Shire of Murray to transform the town of Dwellingup into a world-class trails destination
- revising the Marmion Marine Park Management Plan in response to the expansion of Ocean Reef Marina
- establishing Kalgulup Regional Park (previously referred to as Preston River to Ocean Regional Park and Leschenault Regional Park)
- working closely with the community and with other agencies and community partners to plan for strategic investments in park visitor infrastructure development
- building and strengthening community connections by involving volunteers and by working with recreation and other community user groups
- working with the tourism industry to expand commercial opportunities to deliver high-quality visitor experiences, including Aboriginal cultural tourism experiences, that also contribute direct expenditure in regional communities
- contributing to the development and implementation of the *Two-year action plan for nature-based tourism in Western Australia 2019 and 2020*
- implementing provisions that address health and safety issues related to shacks at Wedge and Grey reserves
- establishing Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park; undertaking visitor and management planning; and design of new and improved tourist facilities to support regional economic growth in the Midwest
- progressing the World Heritage nomination for Murujuga (the traditional Aboriginal name of the Dampier Archipelago, including the Burrup Peninsula) and working with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation and other partners to progress the Living Knowledge Centre at Murujuga
- working with partners such as Nature Play WA and the WA Parks Foundation to promote the outdoors and connect people to parks.

Strategies and key activities

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2019–20.

1. Plan and advocate for a world-class park system which maintains or enhances Western Australia's (WA's) natural environment, with key natural assets as attractions, by:

- implementing a system of comprehensive and representative reserves including proposed new land acquisitions and expansions
- preparing CALM Act marine and terrestrial management plans
- aligning the management planning process with the negotiation and implementation of ILUAs
- undertaking destination visitor planning that delivers community and regional tourism outcomes including economic benefits and job creation
- undertaking recreation, interpretation and tourism business master planning at high-priority sites
- in consultation with the community and the tourism industry, identifying opportunities and planning for nature-based tourism investment and commercial operations in parks, including Aboriginal tourism and business
- assisting in the preparation of Statewide, regional and local trail strategies, including walking, mountain biking, horse riding and motorised recreation trails
- aligning operational plans and works programming with the *Parks and Visitor Service Strategic Plan*.

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

- developing new attractions in parks that will benefit local and State businesses, creative industries and communities
- offering a diverse spectrum of visitor experiences that meet existing and emerging visitor requirements
- ensuring Aboriginal people, heritage and culture are included in design and construction of projects and developing Aboriginal capacity throughout planning and implementation of projects
- renovating and redeveloping existing recreation sites and park facilities in accordance to the Department's capital works program and completing development projects already commenced
- expanding the network of trails including a focus on walking, trail running, mountain biking, and driving
- investing in park access roads and associated infrastructure to protect high-value road assets, address visitor risk and provide visitors with an enjoyable driving experience
- designing and constructing new and improved bridges for safe access and increased bushfire resilience.

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

- progressing opportunities for private sector investments in nature-based tourism through leases, licences and other partnerships in accordance with State Government policy
- implementing the visitor risk management system and ensuring it continues to be a priority
- ensuring that fire management and emergency response plans and procedures are in place where required and regularly reviewed, including in leased areas
- coordinating recreation activity management to ensure consistency of approach to activities and events

- managing parks, recreation areas, facilities and services to protect the environment and provide a quality and safe visitor experience
- developing and implementing recreation facility, road and bridge asset maintenance programs
- undertaking compliance and law enforcement activities as required.

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

- providing high-quality information and interpretation for visitors at key nature-based tourism attractions that promotes awareness and appreciation of natural and cultural values, visitor services and facilities
- preparing visitor communication and interpretation content and designs for priority visitor experiences including signs, websites, mobile applications, social media and emerging tools
- improving the functionality and quality of the Explore Parks WA, Park Stay WA and other websites and continue to focus on making more content available through digital channels
- expanding the use of digital technologies to creatively engage with and inform the community and partners
- developing mobile applications to meet visitor needs for park information and visitor safety advice.

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

- protecting and conserving the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people through policy development, training, management planning and other opportunities
- investigating an Aboriginal cultural planning framework and methodology to guide work units in considering cultural values in work programs
- supporting engagement with Aboriginal communities through establishment of local area arrangements, other partnerships and facilitation of customary activities
- undertaking and assisting with the implementation of ILUAs according to State Government priorities
- implementing native title agreements across the State
- building and strengthening working relationships with Aboriginal communities, native title representative bodies and Aboriginal working parties.

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

- focusing on building constituency with communities so they can advocate for biodiversity, conservation and protecting parks
- expanding opportunities for volunteers, focusing on families and offering more short-term, one-off or occasional options and more corporate volunteering opportunities
- working with recreation user groups with a focus on long trails, mountain biking, horse riding, bushwalking, trail running, motorised vehicle use and boating groups
- building and strengthening relationships with partner groups, key stakeholders, and State Government agencies
- collaborating with the WA Parks Foundation, Bibbulmun Track Foundation, Munda Biddi Trail Foundation and other community partners to attract resources for management
- working with Tourism WA to develop capacity and skills with Aboriginal tourism businesses to deliver products in parks
- developing a community of supporters through social media platforms.

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

- implementing the Department's *Aboriginal Employment Strategy, Reconciliation Action Plan* and the State Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program including employment of Aboriginal rangers
- actively encouraging recruitment of Aboriginal businesses and people in contracts for Departmental works and services
- providing specialist training to staff to assist professional development and productivity outputs including the *Cultural Learning Program* to increase cultural awareness and understanding
- improving technology management and information connectivity and investing in a customer relationship management.



Kalbarri Skywalk, Kalbarri National Park. Photo - DBCA

Performance

Performance summary

Table 2: Service 5 performance summary

	2019–20 target	2019–20 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$100,445,000	\$97,199,000	(\$3,246,000)
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare in national parks and other lands and waters	\$3.24	\$3.08	(\$0.16)
Key effectiveness indicator			
Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters*	90%	NR*	NR*

*Not reported. An exemption from reporting ‘Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters’ in 2019–20 was granted, upon request to the Under Treasurer, due to the impact of COVID-19.

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

- Three CALM Act management plans were finalised and released for implementation:
 - *Parks and reserves of the south-west Kimberley and north-west Pilbara joint management plan*
 - *Jalangurru Manyjawardra Bunuba Muwayi Yarrangu joint management plan*
 - *Niiwalarra Islands (Sir Graham Moore Islands) National Park and Lesueur Island Nature Reserve joint management plan*
- The majority of the management zoning was gazetted for Lalang-garram / Camden Sound and Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls marine parks.

Aboriginal engagement

- The Department continued 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 Nynggulu Coastal Reserves began with the establishment of an interim joint management body and employment of Aboriginal rangers, while the ILUA for the Nynggulu Coastal Reserves was executed by the Minister for Environment on 29 June 2020.
- There was an increase in registration of Aboriginal tourism operators. Five new businesses commenced operation.
- Mandatory Aboriginal cross-cultural awareness training for staff across the State continued to be delivered, with 150 employees having completed this training.
- The Department's *Reconciliation Action Plan 2018–20* outcomes are progressing to fulfil the plan in the required timeframe.
- The Department's Aboriginal engagement newsletter *Yarning Time* had an increase in subscribers.
- Consultation, engagement and planning with native title groups across the State commenced through the implementation of the Plan for Our Parks initiative.
- A second round of funding for the State Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program was completed during 2019–20, which awarded \$9.4 million to 14 Aboriginal ranger projects across the State. This brings the State Government's total investment in the program since its inception to almost \$16 million across 25 projects, and total employment to 275 people, more than half of whom are women. A third round of funding also opened during 2019–20 which will see another \$4 million allocated in the coming year.

Tourism and accommodation

- Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation was announced as the successful proponent to develop an ecotourism facility in Millstream Chichester National Park, which will result in new ecotourism accommodation for visitors and 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 run for commercial opportunities for a kiosk at the new Kalbarri Skywalk in Kalbarri National Park and for adventure activities and a pop-up trail centre in Lane Poole Reserve as part of the Dwellingup Adventure Trails initiative, and planning for a tourism opportunity at the Gloucester Tree near Pemberton progressed.

- The whale shark industry in Ningaloo Marine Park had 1754 tours and a whale shark contact success rate of 96 per cent during the 2019 season (full calendar year). Main season figures (1 April to 31 July) for 2019 had 1435 tours and 99 per cent success rate. Passenger numbers decreased from 32,054 in 2018 to 30,690 in 2019.
- The fourth season of the trial of in-water interactions with humpback whales in Ningaloo Marine Park was conducted from July to November 2019 in partnership with 15 licensed whale shark operators. This unique activity was experienced by 3429 people on 354 tours. Of attempted interactions with humpback whales, 78 per cent were successful. The final management program for humpback whale interactions along the Ningaloo Coast was released following consultation with operators, stakeholders and a public comment period.
- 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 implementation of an online commercial operations licensing system.

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.
- On 23 January 2020, the Murujuga Cultural Landscape was officially added to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation World Heritage Centre. This was the first formal step toward World Heritage listing as a nomination will not be considered until a property has been on the Tentative List for at least 12 months.
- In partnership with traditional owners, an intensive feral cat trapping program was conducted around the campground precincts of Purnululu National Park. Eighty-five feral cats were caught in this period. Data gained from subsequent fauna surveys showed an increase in mammal numbers, a reversal of the trend of decline in numbers from previous annual surveys.
- Following two workshops on climate change and its impact on Shark Bay World Heritage Area, a report was released by the Western Australian Maritime Science Institution, *Application of the Climate Vulnerability Index for Shark Bay, Western Australia*, in June 2020.
- Shark Bay and Ningaloo Coast World Heritage areas were successful in obtaining National Heritage funding from the Australian Government. At Shark Bay, the funding will be used to rejuvenate the Monkey Mia visitor attraction. Along the Ningaloo Coast, it will be used to relocate two car parks that impact on critical turtle nesting habitat.

Recreation and trails

- The Department continued to work closely with key recreation bodies to develop and implement strategic planning initiatives, including the development of the *WA Hiking Strategy: Bushwalking and Trail Running in WA 2020–2030* and the implementation of the *WA Horse Trail Strategy*, and the Peel and Great Southern regional trails master plans.
- The Department maintained 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.
- Implementation commenced on the \$8.5 million, three-year Dwellingup Adventure Trails initiative to develop new trails and recreation facilities in Lane Poole Reserve and Dwellingup. The initiative is jointly funded by the Department in partnership with the Shire of Murray through

the Australian Government's Building Better Regions fund. Works completed in 2019–20 include the construction of 10km of new mountain bike trail in Lane Poole Reserve, and the design and installation of new canoe launching facilities to provide additional paddling opportunities.

- Similarly, the Department commenced implementation of the \$10 million, four-year Collie Adventure Trails initiative in partnership with the Shire of Collie, funded by Royalties for Regions. Works completed in 2019–20 include the construction of 12km of new mountain bike trail in Arklow Forest Block near Collie, along with final planning and approvals for Stage 2 of the Willman Bilya Walk Trail from Collie south to Wellington Dam (including a new suspension bridge over the Collie River) and Stage 1 (22km) of the Wellington National Park mountain bike trails.
- The Department progressed the development of mountain bike trails in the Perth Hills, including concept planning for the Kalamunda Network and detailed design at the Goat Farm.
- 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, Trails WA, Outdoors WA, Westcycle, WA Mountain Bike Association, Track Care WA, the Recreational Trailbike Riders' Association of WA and the Australian Trail Horse Riders' Association.
- Bibbulmun Track Foundation volunteers continued to assist the Department on major maintenance work on the Bibbulmun Track, including major bridge maintenance, shelter refurbishment and track improvements on the south coast.
- The Department's partnership with Track Care continued, with volunteers working alongside staff on projects such as the Warriedar Homestead in the Karara Rangelands. As part of this partnership, the Department funded two sessions for dieback Green Card training with a focus on motorised recreation.
- The Department continued to collaborate through an interagency 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.
- Continual improvements were made to the Explore Parks WA website and planning to build a new website began. The current website received 1.1 million visits.
- Nineteen campgrounds were added to the Park Stay WA online campsite booking system, allowing visitors to book online ahead of their stay. These include: Boat Harbour and One K in Cape Range National Park; Four Mile in Fitzgerald River National Park; South Lefroy Bay, North Lefroy Bay, Janes Bay, Point Billie, Winderabandi, Maggies, Elles Beach, Stevens Camp, Sandy Point, Stans Camp, Black Moon Cliff, The Ridge, 14 Mile, Nicks Camp, Lagoon and Amherst Point in Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves. There are now 1613 campsites that are bookable online.
- *Western Australia's national parks* visitor guide was published and distributed through more than 300 stockists Statewide, including Parks and Wildlife Service offices, visitor centres, accommodation, car hire and retail outlets.
- As part of ongoing trail development projects, recreation site planning and detailed design continued for improved visitor infrastructure in John Forrest and William Bay national parks, Monkey Mia Conservation Park, Lake Kepwari, Lane Poole Reserve and Wellington National Park.
- Recreation site planning and detailed design for improved visitor infrastructure began in Karijini, Gloucester and Porongurup national parks and Dryandra Woodland.
- Recreation site planning and detailed design concluded for the skywalk project in Kalbarri National Park.

- Master planning continued for parks in the West Kimberley with Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation, in Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park, Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park, North Lalang-garram Marine Park and Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves. Recreational master planning also began for Murujuga National Park and the Helena-Aurora Range.
- Visitor planning and community consultation progressed for the Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls, North Lalang-garram, Lalang-garram / Camden Sound marine parks and with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation for Murujuga National Park.
- Design and engineering were completed and tenders advertised for the construction of Ngajarli (Deep Gorge) in Murujuga to allow safe and respectful access to view rock art.
- The Department continued its partnership with Google to December 2019 to capture imagery on key tourist trails.

Improving facilities

- The \$24 million Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure Project was completed, with the installation of the two lookout structures and associated infrastructure and sealing of the car park.
- Maintenance for the Department's 36,000km road network continued.
- The upgrade of roads in William Bay National Park commenced and the repair of flood-damaged roads in Karijini National Park was completed.
- Sealing of the remaining section of Wellington Forest Road in Wellington National Park and sections of Collie Scenic Drive in Westralia Conservation Park were completed.
- Implementation of the \$5.9 million Public Recreation and Joint Management Arrangements for the Ningaloo Coast Royalties for Regions project was completed, with the finalisation of an ILUA 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.
- Visitor facilities at Black Point in D'Entrecasteaux National Park were upgraded.
- Visitor facilities in Dales Campground in Karijini National Park and Le Grand Beach Campground in Cape Le Grand National Park were upgraded.
- The boardwalk in Greater Beedelup National Park was replaced.
- Construction of a new boat floating dock and jetty in Danggu (formerly Geikie Gorge) National Park began.
- New river access stairs into the Murray River in Lane Poole Reserve were installed.
- Facilities at the Old Mill Dam recreation area in Dryandra Woodland were upgraded.
- Fifteen vehicle bridges across the south-west of the State were replaced or repaired as part of a \$1.845 million investment.

Interpretation

- Sign planning was conducted for new and redeveloped campgrounds and recreation sites.
- Interpretive and management signage was developed for more than 50 locations including the Bibbulmun Track and Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park.
- The Department continued to consult with and provide advice to special interest groups, local governments and agencies for a variety of visitor communication and planning needs, including Kalgulup Regional Park (formerly referred to as Preston River to Ocean and Leschenault regional parks) in the Bunbury area.

Working with the community

- At 30 June 2020, there were 16,073 volunteers registered with the Parks and Wildlife Service.

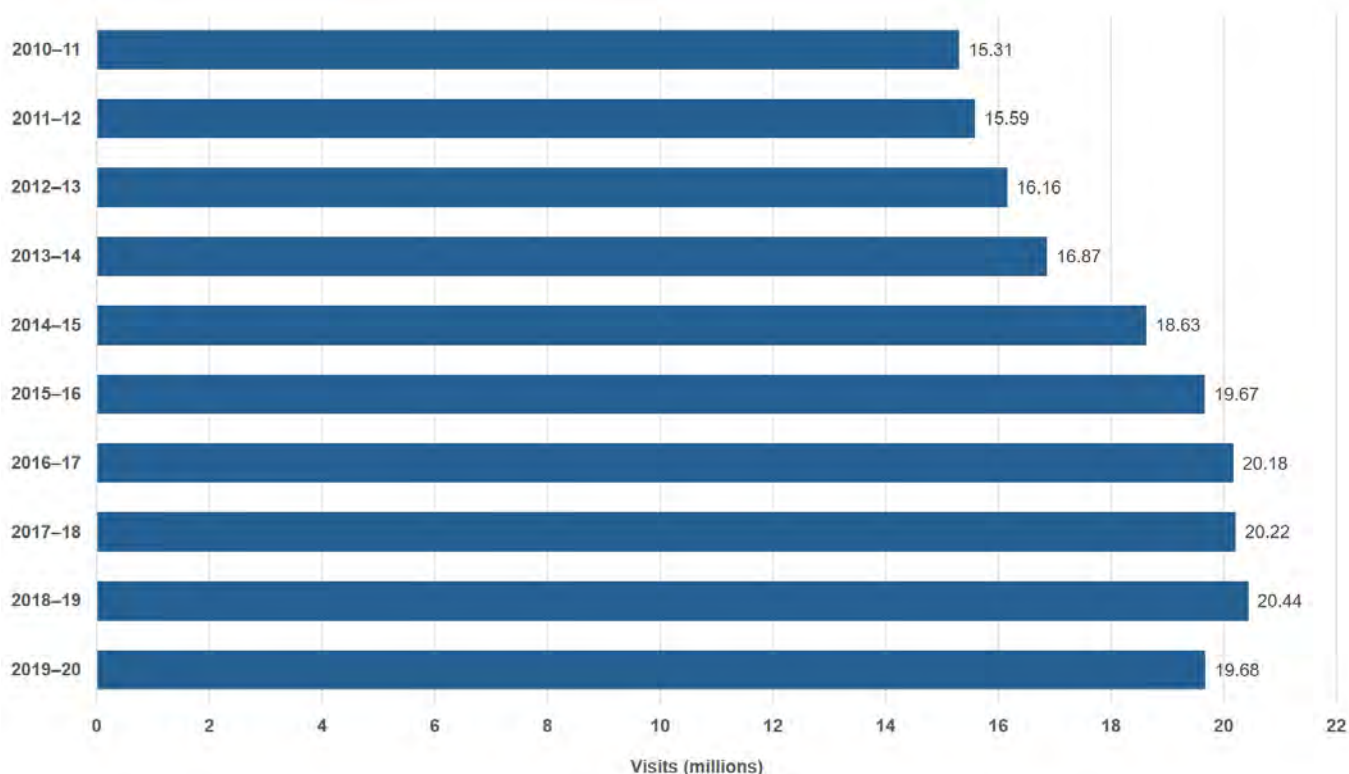
Of these 5961 contributed 762,564 hours to projects across the State including campground hosting, collecting seeds, clearing weeds, wildlife rehabilitation, terrestrial and marine plant and animal surveys and track, trail and park maintenance.

- The Volunteer Coordination Unit continued to support Parks and Wildlife Service staff and community stakeholders to supervise more than 200 active volunteer projects across WA, including the Jarrahdale Historical Society, 'Friends of' and four-wheel-drive groups, major wildlife rehabilitation centres and other community-based organisations.
- The Department registered 1627 new volunteers and created 17 new volunteer projects, including turtle trackers at Bibra Lake, tree maintenance in the south-west, fauna monitoring in Frankland District and the Kimberley Toad Muster.
- The Department's partnership with the Rio Tinto Earth Assist program continued to deliver effective on-ground conservation work and in-school environmental programs to primary and secondary school students.
- The Department's corporate volunteer project with Bankwest entered its third year. Six teams, each consisting of up to 30 participants, volunteered at Yanchep National Park at the beginning of each Noongar season, working on weed control, fauna monitoring, revegetation, wildflower garden maintenance and cave conservation. Volunteers also take part in an Aboriginal Experience session to strengthen their understanding of Noongar culture.
- The Wildcare Helpline's 37 office and home-based volunteers contributed 5983 hours fielding approximately 9400 calls from members of the public concerned for sick or injured native wildlife. The helpline's referral network, supported by the Volunteer Coordination Unit, includes 15 major native wildlife rehabilitation centres across WA and more than 100 Animal Control Agents. The Wildcare Helpline smartphone app was downloaded more than 950 times during 2019–20.
- The Campground Host program had 257 volunteers at 53 campgrounds providing more than 157,000 hours of park and visitor management.
- More than 1500 wildlife rehabilitation volunteers across the State, volunteering as individuals or at one of several rehabilitation centres, provided more than 402,500 voluntary hours of care for native wildlife.
- A total of 126 volunteers attended on-site training, including 23 campground hosts attending basic fire awareness training, and 103 campground hosts attending the annual workshop in Perth in November 2019. Twenty-five Wildcare Helpline volunteers attended an information and training session presented by WA Seabird Rescue in December 2019.
- An online volunteer management training course for staff was launched in March 2020, 23 staff completed the course by 30 June 2020.

Park visitor statistics

- In 2019–20 an exemption from reporting '*Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters*' was granted, upon request to the Under Treasurer, due to the impact of COVID-19.
- The total number of visits to Parks and Wildlife Service-managed lands and waters was \$19.68 million, a decrease from \$20.44 million last year (Figure 1). The decrease in visitation appears to be largely driven by COVID-19 travel restrictions. Most regions experienced an initial drop in visits in March. This was followed by more populated regions such as Swan and South West experiencing an increase in visitation, while parks that traditionally relied upon large numbers of international and non-Western Australian visitors have experienced a decrease – predominantly in the Pilbara and Kimberley.

Figure 1. Total visits to Parks and Wildlife Service-managed lands and waters



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



Rowley Shoals Marine Park. Photo – DBCA

Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities



About Service 6

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.

Outcomes

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

Priorities

The priorities of this service in 2019–20 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 management
- promoting public and stakeholder awareness, understanding of biodiversity, the threats facing it and its conservation, including through being involved in conservation programs.

Strategies and key activities

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2019–20. 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:

- implementing the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and Regulations (BC Regulations), and developing other supporting mechanisms as required
- developing, refining and implementing processes for authorisation to take or disturb threatened fauna and threatened ecological communities, and for listing critical habitat and key threatening processes
- developing strategic documents and programs prioritised to support policy implementation
- developing and implementing regional 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:
 - the State Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative
 - lands purchased for conservation
 - proposals in the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*
 - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia regions with less than 10 per cent in conservation reserves
- implementing priority conservation and science actions in marine reserve management plans
- implementing priority conservation and science actions in terrestrial reserve management plans or taking action to effectively manage terrestrial reserves through other appropriate mechanisms
- effectively managing World Heritage-listed areas through collaborative conservation management programs across various tenures
- implementing the Western Australian (WA) marine monitoring program in marine parks and reserves, and estuarine and catchment monitoring 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 wildlife, by:

- developing and implementing approved biodiversity management programs, including recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities, based on identified priorities
- maintaining, reviewing and updating lists of threatened and priority species, and threatened and priority ecological communities

- ensuring the sustainable use of flora and fauna, hobby keeping of fauna and the trade in wildlife are appropriately regulated, managed and licensed where necessary
- maintaining an effective system for monitoring and compliance with legislation for biodiversity conservation and management
- ensuring effective monitoring and deterrence of illegal activity
- managing wildlife interactions to protect life and property and responding to nuisance and damage caused by wildlife
- implementing programs to improve the management and use of sandalwood.

4. Reducing impacts of key threatening processes, by:

- conducting monitoring and reporting 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 *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 areas that are protectable
- managing the threats of foxes and feral cats to native fauna through the delivery of the *Western Shield* program, 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 *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) and jointly managed conservation lands
- implementing strategic actions to improve the resilience of terrestrial and marine species and ecological communities under predicted climate change settings
- providing 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
- providing conservation medicine support for injured wildlife, confiscated animals, and biosecurity hazards.

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

- undertaking science programs that address knowledge gaps to deliver improved Departmental management strategies for effective conservation, protection and management of flora, fauna, ecological communities and conservation reserves
- undertaking terrestrial and marine biological surveys to systematically address gaps in knowledge and increase understanding of biodiversity components and patterns to better inform wildlife and conservation reserve management, including joint management with Aboriginal traditional owners
- undertaking research relating to priority weeds, plant diseases and pest animals and related conservation and management actions, including factors influencing the effectiveness of fox

- and feral cat control and development of more effective management regimes
- planning and implementing translocations of high-priority threatened flora and fauna, including effective predator control, and the development of success criteria
- undertaking breeding of native animals to support conservation, where required
- using GIS tools, 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 prescribed fire to support conservation and land management, including the development of a monitoring approach
- managing and curating WA plant collections to improve representation of rare and poorly known taxa on and off the conservation estate, supporting botanic garden collections, and conducting and supporting taxonomic research on WA plants, algae and fungi
- assisting the WA Museum and other research institutions with research into faunal taxonomy, particularly in poorly known groups such as terrestrial and marine invertebrates, and taxa of conservation concern, such as short-range endemics
- undertaking ex-situ conservation and aligned research to manage WA's native seed, plant tissue culture and fungal collections to improve conservation of threatened taxa and restoration of degraded lands
- undertaking research on population genetics, demography, ecology, 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.

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
- developing and supporting the implementation of a survey database to provide access to information on biodiversity
- developing and implementing a central database to manage information and knowledge of threatened species and communities
- 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 implement works programs
- reviewing and improving information management and licensing systems.

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

- strengthening the Department's communications to enhance community understanding about the value of biodiversity, 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 provide high-value conservation outcomes
- facilitating conservation actions on land not managed by the Department.



Greater stick-nest rat. Photo – DBCA

Performance

Performance summary

Table 3: Service 6 performance summary

	2019–20 target	2019–20 actual	Variance
Expenses by service	\$63,543,000	\$60,268,000	(\$3,275,000)
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat	\$2.00	\$1.91	(\$0.09)
Key effectiveness indicators			
Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan	73.50%	73.70%	0.20%
Area of land baited for introduced predators (in hectares)	4,082,563	3,988,246	(94,317)

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

Biodiversity conservation legislation, policy and strategic programs

- The Department continued to prepare guidance documents to implement the BC Regulations and is focusing on education and awareness for community members affected by changes. Work to develop a new online licensing system progressed. The system integrates the issue and management of licences, other authorisations and CEO approvals that relate to licences.
- The Department continued implementing its *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 continued to provide timely advice and input to regulatory and coordinating agencies involved with key State Government initiatives and projects, and major private sector developments of economic importance to WA, including Water for Food, Ocean Reef Marina and lithium mining and processing projects at Greenbushes and Kemerton.
- The Department provided scientific and biodiversity information to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for the development of the *State Climate Policy* and policy initiatives for native vegetation.
- The Department made significant progress on an integrated species and ecological communities data management system to facilitate improved management of threatened species and communities.

Establish and manage the conservation reserve system

- The Department continued to implement the Plan for Our Parks initiative, which seeks to create five million hectares of new and expanded parks and reserves over five years, increasing the State's conservation estate by 20 per cent.
- Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park was created in July 2019, Beeliar Conservation Park was created in May 2020 and 'Site L' was added to Murujuga National Park in July 2019.
- Niiwalarra Islands National Park was created in December 2019 from islands contained within the Sir Graham Moore Islands group. The new national park is jointly vested and jointly managed by DBCA and the Balangarra people.
- Consultation on the 18 opportunity areas identified under the initiative was undertaken with traditional owners, conservation groups, the resource sector, pastoralists, neighbours, commercial and recreational fishers, local government authorities and other key stakeholders to refine these 18 reserve proposals.
- The State Government has also identified a further one million hectares for reservation under Plan for Our Parks as a risk management measure to ensure the five-million-hectare target is met. A consultation and refinement process for the additional areas began during the year.
- Work continued to deliver election commitments such as the establishment of a national park in the Fitzroy River, Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park, Kalgulup Regional Park (formerly Preston River to Ocean Regional Park and Leschenault Regional Park), and the expansion of Wellington National Park as well as other strategic priorities, including Badimia conservation reserves, expansion of Marmion Marine Park and proposed conservation reserves along the Ningaloo Coast (now known as Nyinggulu Coastal Reserves). Additionally, the negotiation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements continued for Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara National Park, Wanjarri Nature Reserve additions and Lake Mason and Kaluwiri nature reserves, and initial consultation for a marine park on the south coast was undertaken.
- Under the Department's marine monitoring program, staff collected data and reported on the condition of key ecological values in WA's marine parks and reserves, and the pressures on

them. Long-term monitoring in the Kimberley marine reserves continued, measuring the condition of key ecological assets such as corals, mangroves, water quality, dolphins and turtles. Outside of the Kimberley Region, monitoring data was collected and analysed for diverse ecological values including fishes, coral, invertebrate fauna, seagrass, little penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) and deep reef communities at Ningaloo Marine Reserves, Shark Bay Marine Reserves, Jurien Bay Marine Park, Marmion Marine Park, Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, Ngari Capes Marine Park, and Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park.

- The Department produced spatial analysis and vegetation statistics reports to guide the acquisition of land and meet the principles of a comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation reserve system.

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-three 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 State BC Act. This brings the total number of species with changed EPBC Act status under this process to 97.
- The WA Threatened Species Scientific Committee met to conduct preliminary reviews of nominations for listing under the BC Act.
- The current lists of threatened species are those that were transitioned on 1 January 2019, the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (WC Act) threatened species lists (Specially Protected Fauna and Rare Flora as gazetted on 11 September 2018) are the BC Act lists of Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected Species (Fauna and Flora).

Threatened animals

- At 30 June 2020, there were 249 threatened fauna species (57 critically endangered, 58 endangered and 134 vulnerable), 23 extinct fauna species, 88 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 39,251 records of sightings, captures or evidence of threatened and priority fauna added to the Threatened and Priority Fauna database.
- The Department supported development of six national recovery plans, including the draft *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Seabirds*, which provides protection for 73 species, to ensure that recovery efforts for species that occur in WA are contributing to conservation across their broader distribution.
- The Department implemented the national *Wildlife Conservation Plan for Migratory Shorebirds* for species of threatened migratory shorebirds that visit WA.
- The Department continued to collaborate with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) for conservation of the critically endangered Margaret River hairy marron (*Cherax tenuimanus*) and established a number of these animals at Perth Zoo.
- The Department assessed the impact of the bushfires on threatened invertebrates within Stirling Range National Park and began developing a recovery strategy for this unique group of animals.
- Development of a novel approach to finding and relocating female pythons from inside the

Waychinicup National Park enclosure to reduce predation on the Gilbert's potoroo (*Potorous gilbertii*) continued. Monitoring in the enclosure has shown that since 2016 the potoroo population has been stable (between 20 and 30 animals), with frequent breeding and recruitment of young.

- Monitoring protocols for the western ground parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*), night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) and Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) continue to be refined through the use of audio recording units, with automation of sound recognition the next challenge.
- A survey for the near threatened heath mouse (*Pseudomys shortridgei*) revealed two new population locations in south-west WA, the first confirmed records of the species since 2004.
- The Department continued a long-term annual monitoring program of the health of the Rottneest Island quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) population.
- Rapid quokka surveys were conducted throughout the Warren Region to provide a better understanding of the current distribution of quokka and changes in distribution over time.
- A pine wilding density assessment undertaken in the Gnangara region using high-resolution digital aerial photography provided spatially explicit information to aid maintenance of Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus latirostris*) food value and population viability assessments.

Threatened and important plants

- At 30 June 2020, there were 429 extant threatened flora species (160 critically endangered, 140 endangered and 129 vulnerable), 15 listed as presumed to be extinct and 3321 taxa on the Department's priority flora list.
- A total of 957 populations, comprising 404 species of threatened and priority flora, were surveyed or monitored, and 54 new populations of threatened flora and 236 new populations of priority flora were located. Of the 114 records added to the Threatened and Priority Flora database, 75 were for new populations.
- Two interim recovery plans were approved for threatened flora species – *Conospermum galeatum* and *Gastrolobium vestitum*.
- The WA Herbarium collection increased by 9938 specimens, bringing the total number of specimens held to 811,429. A total of 732 names were added to the WA Plant Census.
- The WA Herbarium journal *Nuytsia* celebrated its 50th year and names for 53 taxa were published in the journal.
- Flora surveys from the Pilbara Biological Survey and the Kimberley Islands Survey resulted in 2356 plant specimens being lodged with the WA Herbarium.
- A total of 73 seed collections for 37 threatened species and seven priority species were banked at the WA Seed Centre; 63 of these collections were from species listed as critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable. The Department continued to provide technical advice and assistance for projects involving seed collection and use. Collections of nine critically endangered species, one vulnerable species and two collections from an ecologically significant population of a species were withdrawn from the seed bank and germinated for use in Departmental translocation projects. At 30 June 2020, the seed bank contained collections of 386 threatened flora and 876 priority flora.
- During 2019–20, new populations of nine threatened flora species were planted in 19 locations free or largely free of key threats.
- A program evaluating the extent of habitat senescence at key threatened flora populations within the conservation estate of the Wheatbelt expanded into the northern part of the region.

Threatened ecological communities

- At 30 June 2020, 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 391 ecological communities were on the priority list.
- Two meetings of the Threatened Ecological Community Scientific Committee were held.
- Sixty-five ecological communities were assessed against new listing criteria in preparation for consideration for listing under the BC Act.
- New occurrence information was added to the Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities database for 1790 occurrences of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) and Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) distributed across the State, helping resolve the status of the PECs and providing improved information for land use planning. Surveys were completed in 55 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.
- Forty-two TEC fact sheets including description, Indigenous interests and threatening processes were prepared and uploaded to the Department's website.
- Public consultation was completed for draft interim recovery plans for 'Assemblages of the organic springs and mound springs of Mandora Marsh area' TEC, and 'Inland mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) community of Salt Creek' PEC in the Kimberley.
- The Department monitored the impact of bushfires on the 'Eastern Stirling Range montane heath and thicket' TEC and the 'Montane mallee thicket' PEC within Stirling Range National Park.
- The benefits of conducting a prescribed burn prior to translocating the threatened *Banksia cuneata* into a priority banksia woodland community continued to be monitored in a Wheatbelt nature reserve.

Managing threats

- The Department continued to implement the *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2014–19*, with a focus on protecting native wildlife as well as community engagement, education and quarantine strategies. The Department adapted the cane toad program to incorporate research outcomes, including taste aversion therapy of threatened northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) and other vulnerable taxa.
- Sixty hectares of threatened vegetation in Stirling Range National Park and two areas of *Banksia brownii* habitat on the south coast were aerially treated with phosphite to protect them from the impacts of dieback. Backpack application of phosphite for dieback control was undertaken on highly susceptible species such as *Lambertia echinata* ssp. *occidentalis* and *Banksia nivea* ssp. *uliginosa* within the critically endangered 'Shrublands on southern Swan Coastal Plain Ironstones (Busselton area)' TEC.
- The Department continued to administer the system for registering dieback interpreters and monitoring standards of interpretation. There are currently 15 interpreters employed by the Department, and seven who work in the private sector. The Department developed an online Green Card course to facilitate training in dieback awareness and management for Departmental and Forest Products Commission staff.
- The *Fitzgerald River National Park and Fitzgerald Biosphere Phytophthora Dieback Protection Plan 2019–2029* was completed. Animal exclusion fencing and barriers continued to prevent spread of dieback from the Bell Track infestation in Fitzgerald River National Park.
- The Department continued its collaboration with the Murdoch University Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management on the identification of *Phytophthora* species.

The Department tested 1500 samples and provided 68 isolates of *P. cinnamomi* to Deakin University for research purposes.

- The Department continued to support the Dieback Working Group in its delivery of Green Card training to industry and the broader community and through participation in its Basic Raw Materials Subcommittee.
- The Department continued to provide annual point data for 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.
- Analysis of data from the Kimberley monitoring program, compared with previous surveys, showed that threatened mammals have increased in abundance under prescribed fire management from 2000 through to the present.
- The Department began a project investigating variation in tolerable fire intervals in sensitive plant species across the South Coast Region.
- Research to develop and refine on-ground and remote sensing approaches to survey and mapping of fine-scale variation in fire severity continued. This project will help improve reporting of fire impacts and prescribed burning outcomes with benefits for biodiversity monitoring and research, and for fire management and planning.
- Operations to prioritise, review and manage priority environmental weeds continued throughout the State, including through collaborative efforts with traditional owner and community groups.
- The Department began delivering an updated internal weed management course, using both online and face-to-face learning tools. The course creates a new standard for weed management across the Department through weed identification, integrated weed management, weed treatment and chemical use and safety skills and knowledge.
- 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 these groups to manage pest animals in Avon Valley National Park, Walyunga National Park and Lake Muir National Park, and is currently undertaking work to control feral deer in Rockingham Lakes Regional Park with the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia.
- The Department continued to participate in wild dog management in collaboration with recognised biosecurity groups, to ensure a coordinated landscape-wide approach to minimising the impact of wild dogs on agricultural and pastoral production.
- The *National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife* was published by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment in collaboration with DBCA.
- The Department provided technical information and advice to State Government agencies and local governments on reserves, species, ecosystems and landscapes to facilitate environmental impact assessment, regulation of land clearing and land use planning.
- Following an investigation, the Department determined that invasive redclaw crayfish had been spread in the Pilbara and are having significant impact on river pool communities. DBCA worked with DPIRD to raise awareness of the adverse impacts that redclaw crayfish have on the native freshwater aquatic animals of north-western Australia.
- A long-term prescribed burn program to regenerate senescing vegetation and maintain biodiversity values in nature reserves around Wongan Hills was progressed using the Department's Fire Regime Optimisation Planning System tool. The long-term absence of fire from many Wheatbelt reserves is an emerging consideration in managing biodiversity.
- In the Lake Bryde catchment in the Wheatbelt, 360 hectares of freehold land was purchased for revegetation and hydrological management, and 41 hectares of revegetation was completed to address hydrological threats on the western boundary of Lakelands Nature Reserve.

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. About 3.8 million hectares of Department-managed and adjoining lands across WA were baited as part of the core program involving the use of approximately 410,000 fox baits and 602,000 Eradocat® feral cat baits. Regular monitoring of baited areas continued to track the recovery of native species.
- More than 7000 volunteers used the *Western Shield Camera Watch* webpage hosted by Zooniverse to help classify a significant number of remote camera images, contributing to the monitoring of native fauna and their predators, feral cats and foxes, in the northern jarrah forest.

Wildlife sanctuaries and translocations

- Monitoring of woylies (*Bettongia penicillata*) and numbats (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) at Dryandra Woodland continued and showed positive trends in recovery following integrated fox and feral cat control.
- The Department began developing a woylie population management strategy and translocation planning to manage a high demand for animals associated with several intra- and inter-state translocation proposals over the next few years.
- The 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*) continued to be monitored. Golden bandicoots continued to persist outside the fenced enclosure, albeit in low numbers. Martu Traditional Owners and the Department continued 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 and western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*). Ongoing monitoring of recent western ringtail possum translocations showed 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. Monitoring showed the population recovering and growing following the translocation of five individuals to Kalbarri National Park in 2018.
- The Perth Zoo breeding program continued to produce numbats (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*), dibblers (*Parantechinus apicalis*) and western swamp tortoises (*Pseudemydura umbrina*) for wild release. A program to rear orange-bellied frogs (*Geocrinia vitellina*) and white-bellied frogs (*Geocrinia alba*) was undertaken to supplement wild populations near Margaret River.
- Seventy-three critically endangered western swamp tortoises were translocated from Perth Zoo to Moore River Nature Reserve to further establish a translocated population in the reserve.
- Fauna translocations to Dirk Hartog Island National Park included 50 rufous hare-wallabies (*Lagorchestes hirsutus bernieri*), bringing the total to 112 translocated between 2017 and 2019; 72 Shark Bay bandicoots (*Perameles bougainville*) with 12 individuals fitted with radio-transmitters; and 26 dibblers (*Parantechinus apicalis*) from a captive-bred population at Perth Zoo with six individuals fitted with radio-transmitters. Early signs indicated the bandicoots are doing well, with evidence of breeding and animals increasing in weight.
- A study was undertaken to investigate the survivorship of eastern grey kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) relocated from Perth to State forest near Jarrahdale.

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.

- Research continued to deliver projects associated with environmental offset programs from the Pluto and Wheatstone gas developments in Pilbara coastal waters. Projects include marine fauna distribution and habitat use, genetic connectivity among marine species, and trophic structures and energy flows associated with inshore marine habitats.
- The *Dolphin Watch* app was expanded to allow for community use in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions. The Department is investigating how best to use the collected data for management and to maximise community engagement. A dolphin survey was conducted in the Prince Regent River.
- Research into resident flatback turtles (*Natator depressus*) at foraging grounds in Roebuck Bay and off Eighty Mile Beach continued to investigate how environmental drivers influence turtle distribution, movement, and foraging ranges.
- A two-year study that analysed satellite-derived data of seagrass distribution over the entire Shark Bay World Heritage Area (13,000km²) in 2002, 2010, 2014 and 2016 was published and identified that over 1000km² was lost following the 2011 heatwave with some recovery occurring.

Rivers and estuaries science

- The Department continued to partner with The University of Western Australia to develop the Swan Canning Estuarine Response Model and use tools and data from the model for management purposes, including water quality improvement planning.
- The Swan Canning Acoustic Array, which consists of 30 acoustic receivers deployed throughout the Swan Canning Estuary, continued to provide valuable information on the movement of fish relative to water quality. Data from the array is being related to water quality outputs from the Swan Canning Estuarine Response Model.
- The Department conducted weekly water quality monitoring at 41 sites throughout the Swan Canning Estuary, with nutrients being monitored fortnightly at 20 of those sites and data uploaded to the Department's website. Water quality and nutrients are also monitored fortnightly at 33 sites within the Swan Canning catchment.
- Water quality and biotic sampling was conducted in response to a toxic *Alexandrium* algal bloom in the Swan Canning Estuary between December 2019 and March 2020. *Alexandrium* produces toxins that may cause paralytic shellfish poisoning. Mussels, crabs and fish were tested for toxins and were found in mussels and crab viscera. Data from the sampling supported the delivery of public health warnings for the Department of Health. DBCA commenced development of an options paper for monitoring and managing the response to any future *Alexandrium* bloom in the Swan Canning Estuary.
- The 2019 condition assessment of the Swan Canning Estuary based on the fish community index identified that, on average, the nearshore and offshore waters were in fair ecological condition, consistent with results obtained since 2011.
- Investigations into the ecological response of the Canning and Helena rivers to environmental water releases continued.
- 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.
- The use of imaging flow cytometry to augment monitoring of plankton in the Swan Canning Riverpark was investigated.
- Annual monitoring of Swan Canning Riverpark seagrass habitat continued.
- The Department developed software that automates visualisation of key metrics for monitoring the Swan Canning Riverpark including phytoplankton monitoring visualisations and annual report graphics.

Wetlands

- The Department reviewed the Peel-Yalgorup System Ramsar site boundary and continued to collaborate with the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council to assess the suitability of Crown land buffering the site as a boundary extension.
- The Department continued delivery of the *Toolibin Lake Catchment Recovery Plan*, including the planting of 15,000 seedlings on recently acquired land to the west of the lake. High-resolution topographic data was acquired and quality assured to assist in managing surface water, while a new conceptual hydrogeological model was completed, incorporating research undertaken with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, and a numerical model is under construction.
- An analysis of the Lake Carnegie hydroperiod using Landsat satellite data from 1988 to 2019 provided an understanding of the rainfall and likely filling of the lake and enabled a biological survey to be undertaken.
- Surface water monitoring was conducted at the Lake Warden Ramsar wetlands and water level manipulation continued to reduce inundation and achieve optimal shorebird habitat.

Forest science

- Monitoring was undertaken at seven FORESTCHECK grids in the Jarrah Sandy Basins forest ecosystem in the eastern part of Blackwood District including measurement of forest structure and leaf litter accumulation, understorey floristic composition, and light-attracted canopy invertebrates. Vertebrate fauna activity was monitored using motion-activated cameras.
- Findings from a study of the effects of timber harvesting and fire history on coarse woody debris in the jarrah forest were published.
- Research to inform silvicultural practices and potential adaptation strategies under a drying climate continued, with post-harvest silviculture implemented in the Yarragil 4L experimental catchment east of Dwellingup. Instrumentation for monitoring groundwater levels and streamflow was upgraded to allow data to be accessed remotely. Monitoring of groundwater bores in Warren Region continued.
- Monitoring and investigations continued into areas of forest vegetation density decline, with remote sensing trend maps and on-ground validation examining forest health, post-fire recovery and climatic influences.
- Examination of the vulnerability of forest ecosystems to climate change in terms of structure, composition regeneration and functioning commenced, using drought-affected and bushfire-affected forest study sites.
- A review to examine the use of forest thinning to enhance forest resilience in a drier and warmer future began, and data from thinning experiments in regrowth forests of karri and jarrah were analysed to understand forest growth and stand dynamics.
- Litterfall and litter accumulation data from a range of forest types in the south-west were collated for inclusion into a continental-scale synthesis of litter dynamics in Australian woody plant communities.

Off-reserve conservation

- The Department's *Land for Wildlife* program registered 12 new properties, bringing the total area of registered sites managed privately for conservation to 1,145,329 hectares over 1960 properties. An online portal was developed in partnership with the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, allowing partners better access to program information.
- The voluntary *Nature Conservation Covenant* program registered 23 new covenants (10 conditional and 13 voluntary). Through the program, covenants have been established on 370

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* program 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 and workshops, set up restoration trials, gave presentations and published a quarterly newsletter to support community involvement in bushland conservation.

Sustainable use of natural resources

- The *Management Plan for the Commercial Harvest of Kangaroos in Western Australia 2019–2023* continued to be applied to 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 *Management of Commercial Harvesting of Protected Flora in Western Australia 2018–2023*, which was also approved by the Australian Government.
- Four prosecutions were initiated. These involved 20 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, 768 offences were reported, with 97 per cent of these dealt with by way of infringement or caution notices.

Licensing and Ministerial Authorisation

- The Department coordinated a grants program to support wildlife rehabilitators and encourage individuals to join a group or organisation to network, share knowledge and learn from others to give sick, injured and abandoned fauna the best chance of being released back to their natural habitat. The program aims to increase awareness of the need for groups and people undertaking wildlife rehabilitation activities to hold a licence.
- To support the sustainable use of wildlife, the Department issued 4922 licences under the BC Act to take, collect, keep and breed, deal in, trap, import or export native animals, and 1116 licences to collect, supply, deal and process native plants, including sandalwood. A further 173 licences were issued to either scare, destroy, trap or relocate nuisance wildlife or dangerous wildlife and wildlife causing damage.
- Under the BC Act, Ministerial Authorisation is required for the take and disturbance of threatened species (fauna and flora) and the modification of TECs. There were 221 fauna authorisations and 192 flora authorisations granted.

For information about prosecutions under the WC Act, the BC Act, the CALM Act and associated regulations please see the *Supporting the Department* section under *Legal matters*.



Purple-crowned fairy wren. Photo – Karen Bettink/DBCA

Service 7: Conservation Partnerships



Humpback dolphin. Photo – Holly Raudino/DBCA

About Service 7

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.

Outcome

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.

Priorities

The priorities of this service in 2019–20 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), government agencies, Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies, traditional owner representative bodies, local government, non-government organisations, private companies 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 management.

Strategies and key activities

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2019–20. The service is delivered by multiple divisions, services and Statutory Authorities across the Department. Regional conservation plans, divisional plans, area-specific management plans and invasive species priority lists provide more detail on priorities and activities at those business levels.

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
- applying for external funds to deliver on-ground management, monitoring and research that improves the understanding and management of the State's biodiversity and conservation reserve system, according to State Government priorities
- working with other bodies to develop funding applications that will contribute to delivering State Government and Departmental priorities
- implementing externally funded projects, including environmental and biodiversity 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:
 - implementing priority conservation and science actions in marine reserve management plans
 - implementing priority conservation and science actions in terrestrial reserve management plans and taking action to effectively manage terrestrial reserves through other appropriate mechanisms
 - effectively managing 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
- managing animal collections at Perth Zoo to contribute to regional and global animal conservation programs.

4. Reducing impacts of key threatening processes, by:

- implementing priority and targeted actions for pest animal control, including integration of feral cat and fox baiting in *Western Shield* areas, 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 areas that are protectable
- 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 *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and jointly managed conservation lands
- implementing strategic actions to improve the resilience of threatened terrestrial and marine species and ecological communities under climate change predictions
- providing conservation medicine support for injured wildlife, confiscated animals, and biosecurity hazards.

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 for effective conservation, protection and management of flora, fauna, ecological communities and conservation reserves
- undertaking research on population genetics, demography, ecology, eco-physiology, seed biology, reproductive ecology and ex-situ biotechnology to improve management and conservation of threatened flora and fauna
- undertaking research to support restoration of disturbed and degraded land
- delivering the Dirk Hartog Island National Park Ecological Restoration Project (*Return to 1616*)
- undertaking 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 Aboriginal 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
- delivering the Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program
- undertaking research and monitoring, including the use of remotely sensed approaches, to inform the development and delivery of landscape scale management
- facilitating the development of models to determine the effects of human-induced climate change on biodiversity.



Performance

Performance summary

Table 4: Service 7 performance summary

	2019–20 target	2019–20 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$27,983,000	\$20,694,000	(\$7,289,000)
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat	\$0.88	\$0.65	(\$0.23)

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

Strategic partnerships

- The Department 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, in partnership with the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub.
- Under the same NESP partnership, the Department is coordinating a greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) project in the Fitzroy Catchment with traditional owners to better understand distribution and population trends.
- 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 evaluating conservation policy options for data-challenged species; developing a national threatened species index for birds, mammals and plants and a Red Hot List for imperiled plants; and translocation, reintroduction and fencing for threatened fauna. The Department also contributed to projects reviewing threatened species monitoring methods and data capture with Aboriginal ranger teams.

- The Department is working with the Wildlife and Threatened Species Bushfire Recovery Expert Panel to address and better understand the impacts of the 2019–20 bushfires on threatened species and ecological communities at a national scale.
- The Department managed the *Kimberley Marine Research Program* for WAMSI. All research is now complete and focus has moved to communicating information to traditional owners, managers and stakeholders and providing science-based information to support decision making in the Kimberley marine reserves.
- The Department engaged with WABSI facilitating the implementation of a research program for subterranean fauna and developing a feral cat research program.
- The State Government approved funding to establish the Biodiversity Information Office to support the Environment Online initiative to improve and streamline environmental approvals. The project will lead a culture of shared expertise, common data standards, policies and incentives for data sharing, and will mobilise biodiversity data to make it promptly and routinely available to all end-users.
- Monitoring for the *Rangeland Restoration* program on Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara continued with support from the Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation, the MKK Rangers and Desert Support Services. Activities included introduced predator control and prescribed burning outside the enclosure, and species monitoring within the enclosure. Animal handling training was also provided to the MKK Rangers. This program is supported by funding from the Chevron-operated Gorgon project.
- The Department is a partner in four Bioplatforms Australia initiatives: Oz Mammals Genomics, Genomics of Australian Plants, Australian Microbiome and Threatened Species Framework. These initiatives are providing genomics resources to support animal, plant and microbe conservation.
- 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

- Waterbirds using the Muir-Byenup System Ramsar wetlands were monitored on a monthly basis with funding from South West Catchments Council.
- Multidisciplinary studies of the flora of Western Australia's (WA's) gypsum soils are being undertaken as part of a global study led by the Pyrenean Institute of Ecology with funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research program.
- An extensive survey of coral communities was undertaken with the Australian Institute of Marine Science and Parks Australia to measure the impacts of widespread but patchy coral bleaching at Rowley Shoals Marine Park and the inshore marine parks of the Kimberley Region.
- As part of the Wheatstone offset program, a collaboration was undertaken with Murdoch University and Edith Cowan University to conduct multidisciplinary research on dugong (*Dugong dugon*) and seagrass ecosystem interactions and health across the Pilbara coast.
- A partnership with the Australian Microbiome Initiative, CSIRO, Flinders University, Reading University, Alcoa of Australia, South32, Iluka and Tronox is surveying soil microbiome through post-mining restoration chronosequences.

Threatened and important animals

- The North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program's annual flatback turtle nesting monitoring continued at beaches on Thevenard and Delambre islands. Research continued on satellite tracking the movements of adult females from nesting beaches, better understanding the impacts of artificial light on hatchling behaviour, fox predation on turtle hatchlings and eggs, and climate change on marine turtle incubation. The recently discovered Roebuck Bay flatback turtle foraging area has enabled research on poorly studied younger life stages, including neonate turtles. In collaboration with traditional owners, data has been collected using satellite tags, daily diary loggers and cameras carried by turtles as they forage.
- The Department and Australian Government, in partnership with BirdLife Australia and Friends of the Western Ground Parrot conducted emergency management actions for western ground parrots (*Pezoporus flaviventris*) following summer bushfires that impacted the south coast population. Additional predator control and rapid on-ground assessment of western ground parrots was undertaken to protect and support recovery of this critically endangered species.
- A vessel-based dolphin survey was conducted in collaboration with Dambimangari joint managers in the Prince Regent River in Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park.
- Fieldwork was undertaken on collaborative research with scientists from Curtin University to study intertidal coral diversity in Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park.
- The Department continued the partnership with Peel-Harvey Catchment Council to deliver the Numbat Neighbourhood project, funded through the National Landcare Program. The project supports activities on and off reserve to manage and protect numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) habitat and control feral predators. Activities included monitoring the breeding population of numbats in Dryandra Woodland, sourcing wild stock for the Perth Zoo captive breeding program and increasing the supply of termites to feed the Zoo's captive breeding colony.
- A collaboration between the Department and the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group, with funding from State NRM, supported a citizen science radio-tracking exercise for Gilbert's potoroo (*Potorous gilbertii*) inside the enclosure in Waychinicup National Park. Another State NRM funded project is investigating genetic variation among wild and translocated populations.
- In partnership with WWF-Australia and with financial support from San Diego Zoo Global and West Australian Opera, the Department continued to survey and monitor the recovery of the quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) population near Northcliffe.
- Innovative approaches to surveying and monitoring populations of the northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) and bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) continued in the Pilbara with offset and other corporate funding from Fortescue Metals Group and Roy Hill.
- A five-year broadscale feral cat baiting project in the Pilbara provided benefits to northern quoll populations; quolls persisted in the presence of aerial baiting using Eradicat® and their range expanded.
- Survey and monitoring of bilby populations 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.
- In partnership with BirdLife Australia, and supported by State NRM, surveys for the endangered Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) were conducted with automatic call recorders and camera traps.
- Support continued for citizen science projects such as BirdLife Australia's Great Cocky Count and Shorebirds 2020 surveys, GeoCatch's Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) Tally and WWF Australia's Spring Quenda (*Isoodon fusciventer*) Count 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*) across the northern jarrah forest and Swan Coastal Plain, in partnership with Murdoch University and The University of Western Australia (UWA).

- A collaborative research project investigating the effectiveness of artificial nest hollows as a short-term solution to the loss of natural nesting hollows used by Carnaby's cockatoos was completed.
- A genetic assessment of ghost bats (*Macroderma gigas*) in the Pilbara, undertaken in partnership with Biologic and funded by BHP, continued with a similar approach being applied to Pilbara leaf-nosed bats (*Rhinonicteris aurantia*) as a component of an Atlas Iron offset.
- An ARC Linkage project aimed to identify dispersal corridors and evolutionary refugia for multiple Pilbara mammals using a landscape genomics approach is underway with multiple collaborators including Murdoch University, ANU, WABSI, Roy Hill, Biologic, WA Museum and CSIRO.
- The relationship between prescribed fire and quokkas (*Setonix brachyurus*) in the northern jarrah forest is being explored with support from a compensation arrangement between Alcoa of Australia and DBCA through the Forest Enhancement Funding program, and Murdoch University. This research will inform burning strategies to effectively manage these fragmented quokka populations.
- In collaboration with Peel-Harvey Catchment Council, the Department carried out fauna surveys in Carrabungup and Austin Bay nature reserves.
- Threatened fauna recovery was facilitated through the coordination of species-based recovery teams that include Government, industry and community members.
- A comprehensive fire scar history for the Great Victoria Desert over the period 1995 to 2019 using Landsat satellite imagery and analysis of the fire patch size and frequency has been undertaken with the Great Victoria Desert Biodiversity Trust. This information is vital for habitat modelling and planned fire activities to protect sandhill dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*) and malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*).

Threatened and important plants

- The WA Herbarium's Pilbara plant identification program, a partnership with Rio Tinto, continued to provide an authoritative identification service to industry.
- The Department's WA Seed Centre continued to be involved in the Australian Seedbank Partnership and international seed conservation projects, such as the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership. The seed centre worked with staff and students at the Woodlupine Primary School establishing a seed production area for threatened and conservation-significant species at the school and collecting seed of those species.
- As part of the Australian Government's *Threatened Species Strategy*, the Department implemented recovery actions, including translocations for four critically endangered flora species.
- 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.
- A partnership with Mineral Resources Limited continued to investigate the translocation requirements of the threatened short-range endemic plant species *Tetratheca erubescens* that is associated with banded ironstone formations.
- The Global Innovation Linkage Project, a collaboration with BHP, Rio Tinto, UWA, and Greening Australia has further designed, constructed and tested new mechanised seeding equipment across a number of mine sites in the Pilbara, and the project has expanded to include Alcoa of Australia in the south-west.

- A collaborative project with UWA conducted a desktop review for BHP evaluating native Pilbara plant species that have potential use in rehabilitation seed supply, bushfood, pastoral and bio-materials markets.
- A partnership with Rio Tinto developed germination protocols for the threatened species *Aluta quadrata* to inform potential future research into translocation.
- A research collaboration with Mt Annan Botanic Gardens and other partners investigating advanced cryobanking for recalcitrant-seeded Australian rainforest plants continued.
- Conservation genetic analysis for the threatened species *Styphelia longissima* was conducted in partnership with Iluka Resources Limited.

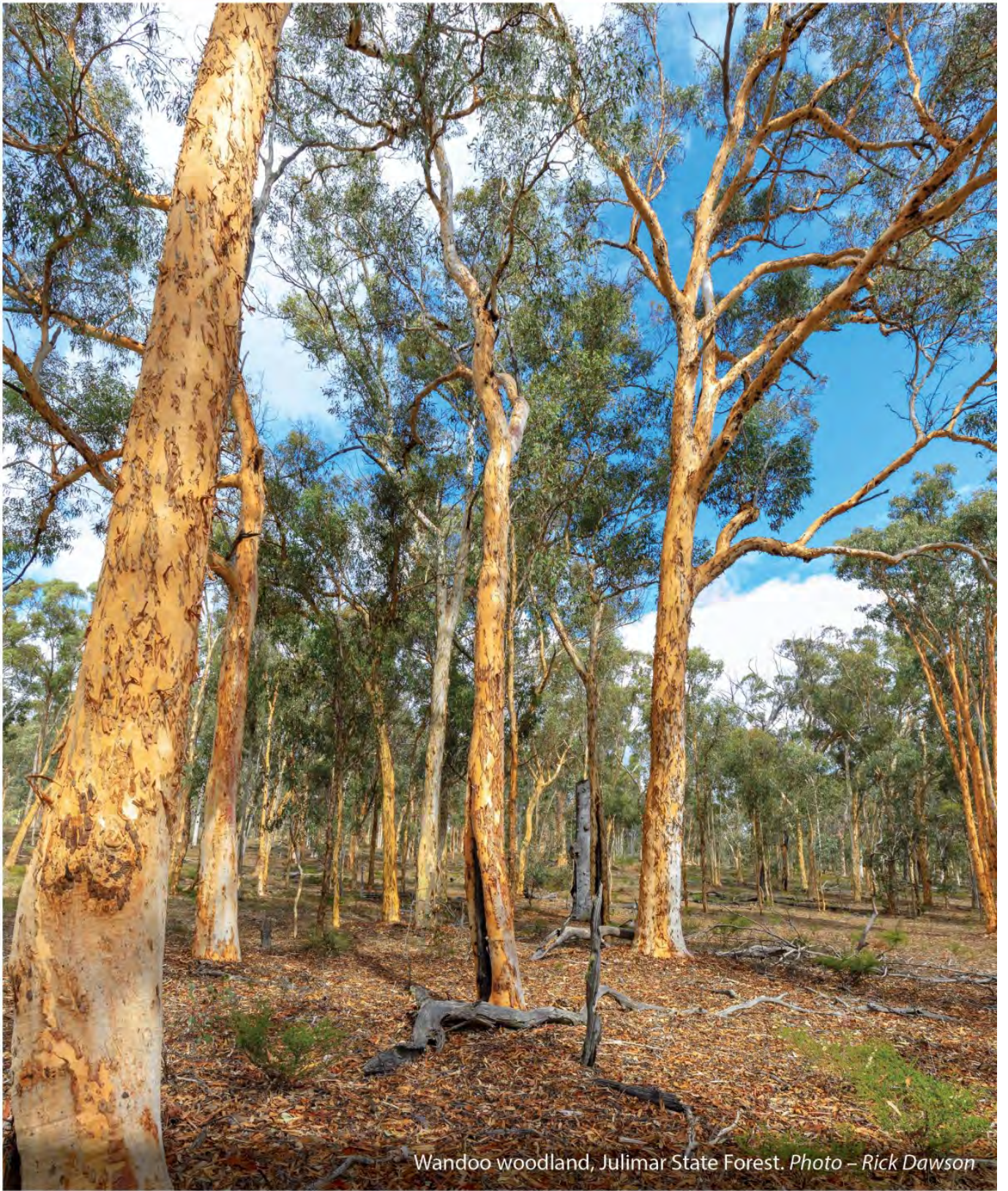
Managing threats

- With sponsorship from Alcoa of Australia, Tronox and Western Areas Limited, the *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program continued to implement broadscale, integrated fox and feral cat baiting across Department-managed and adjoining lands.
- The Department continued the partnership 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 dieback.
- A collaboration commenced with Western Power to undertake a strategic dieback risk assessment of its transmission and distribution lines, with a view to implementing strategies to reduce dieback risk associated with maintenance.
- In collaboration with the 10 Deserts Project, the Department delivered broader camel control activities on Aboriginal lands in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.
- Research to understand the hydrological and geochemical factors associated with the climate-change driven acidification of peat wetlands in the Muir-Byenup System Ramsar site has been expanded with support from National Landcare Program Phase Two funding via South West Catchments Council. 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 new conceptual understanding of how groundwater supports mound springs at Walyarta (Eighty Mile Beach Ramsar site) was completed with support from BHP and will contribute to management of the associated aquifers.
- A radio tracking study of threatened Gouldian finches (*Erythrura gouldiae*) and Kimberley fire mosaics was completed in a joint project with the Balanggarra Aboriginal Rangers, Charles Darwin University and WWF-Australia.
- A collaborative camera trapping study with Charles Darwin University was undertaken to investigate tree hollow use overlap among north Australian arboreal mammals and their predators.
- Experimental burns were undertaken in the Kimberley for a collaborative fire and weed invasion impact study with UWA to investigate the impacts of fire on weeds and co-occurring native savanna plant communities.
- 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. Following the eradication of sheep, goats and feral cats, the project focused on the reconstruction of native fauna. Monitoring surveys of source populations, vegetation change, threatened bird species, weed management and community engagement continued. Fauna translocations included 50 rufous hare-wallabies (*Lagorchestes*

hirsutus bernieri), 72 Shark Bay bandicoots (*Perameles bougainville*) and 26 dibblers (*Parantechinus apicalis*). Methods to analyse remote piloted aircraft (drone) imagery to undertake flora species identification and vegetation cover measures over exclusion plots were tested, allowing the impact of reintroduced native fauna on vegetation to be measured and monitored.

- With assistance from Chevron, surveys of the water rat rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) on Barrow Island commenced in preparation for a planned translocation to the Montebello Islands. After almost 10 years since the first translocation of selected mammal and bird species from Barrow Island to these islands, funded by a Gorgon Barrow Island offset, ongoing monitoring has indicated successful establishment, with populations broadly distributed across each island.
- The Department and Perth NRM worked 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 were undertaken at these sites, including trials of weed management techniques for the only known population of the critically endangered *Ptilotus pyramidatus*.
- The Department partnered with SERCUL and Friends of Paganoni Swamp to protect habitat and populations of glossy-leaved hammer orchid (*Drakea elastica*) at Rockingham Lakes Regional Park through the installation of limestone access tracks to prevent the spread of dieback.
- In partnership with Murdoch University, the cities of Canning and Cockburn, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, research continued on the fire ecology and management of urban and peri-urban reserves, including banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain. A new site was established, an experimental burn at Yangebup Lake conducted, and pre- and post-burn surveys undertaken.
- Coordination of the *Banksia Woodland Restoration Project*, funded through Jandakot Airport environmental offsets, continued and is transitioning to an operational management and long-term monitoring status. The project has restored 50 hectares of banksia woodland to provide new feeding habitat for the endangered Carnaby's cockatoo, controlled major environmental weeds across 23 reserves, and implemented a monitoring framework to assess the longer-term effects of weed control and bushfire on banksia woodland biodiversity and condition.
- The Department collaborated with Peel-Harvey Catchment Council on the Saving Lake McLarty project that aims to safeguard existing flows of water into the lake and improve water quality by drainage management. Investigations into the diversity of aquatic invertebrates and their abundance as shorebird food resources commenced.
- The Department is working with Peel-Harvey Catchment Council on a banksia woodland 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.
- A partnership with Landcare SJ (Serpentine-Jarrahdale) and Baldivis Secondary College on Greening Australia's Three Rivers project continued restoration work on the Serpentine River at Lowlands Nature Reserve to improve habitat for the endangered freshwater mussel (*Westralunio carteri*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) and rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) as well as a range of native fish declining in other river systems on the Swan Coastal Plain.
- In collaboration with South West Catchments Council, 34,000 native seedlings were planted on a denuded nature reserve adjacent to Toolibin Lake Nature Reserve, providing a buffer for the Ramsar-listed site.
- The Department published a two-year collaborative study that analysed satellite-derived data to

- provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of the 2011 marine heatwave on seagrasses over Shark Bay World Heritage Area and marine park.
- A collaboration with researchers at Murdoch University investigated the historic structure of fish assemblages and how these have changed with increasing fishing pressure and technology in metropolitan marine parks.
 - The Department continued to work with the Fremantle Ports Authority to monitor water quality within Fremantle Harbour.
 - The Department collaborated with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, and CSIRO to use the Muir-Byenup System Ramsar site as a case study in the development of a national framework for assessing the climate change vulnerability of Ramsar-listed wetlands in Australia.
 - The Department collaborated with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to improve wetland mapping datasets for WA including the development of a new wetland mapping dataset and evaluation methodology for the Swan Coastal Plain.
 - The Healthy Wetland Habitats program, supported by offsets funding from Main Roads, assisted 13 landholders to manage conservation value wetlands on their properties and resulted in the program delivering a total of 45.7km of fencing, 47.2 hectares of weed control and 4.43 hectares of revegetation with 13,307 plants.
 - The Department collaborated with Murdoch University to investigate the vulnerability of the northern jarrah forest to drought/heatwave events and wildfire, in terms of changes in structure, regeneration, composition and functioning.
 - Land use and land cover datasets of the Swan and Canning catchments were derived from machine learning applied to digital aerial photography. This provided inputs to nutrient modelling as part of a project with UWA and DWER.
 - The spatial analysis of the Fortescue Marsh Feral Herbivore project in collaboration with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, NRM Rangelands and the Pilbara Regional Biosecurity Group was completed and will inform feral herbivore management including the identification of vegetation communities targeted by feral herbivores and barriers to movement.
 - An Australian Research Council project with UWA and industry partners Hanson and Bentonite Products WA continued to develop seed enhancement technologies for mine site rehabilitation.
 - In partnership with UWA, and with support from the Australian Research Council and the Wettenhall Foundation, the Department continued to assess impacts on plants pollinated by vertebrates in banksia woodland.
 - In collaboration with universities, CSIRO, AGRF, Hanson and Tronox, and with funding through the Australian Research Council, provenance trial research into climate-resilient seed-sourcing for restoration continued.
 - The Department commenced a new partnership with UWA, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the South Australian Department for Environment and Water to investigate changes in bushfire season and its impacts on ecosystems in southern Australia.
 - The Department continued its Australian Research Council-funded collaboration with Murdoch University examining the impacts of varying fire interval on banksia woodland plant species and community response.
 - Partnerships with several local governments (Canning, Cockburn and Greater Geraldton) continue to support long-term research on the interactions between fire and weed management in urban banksia woodland reserves.



Wandoo woodland, Julimar State Forest. Photo – Rick Dawson

Service 8: Implementation of the Forest Management Plan



About Service 8

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.

Outcomes

The desired outcome of the service is the sustainable use of forest resources.

Priorities

The overall priorities for 2019–20 related to implementing the requirements of the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023* (FMP), and ecologically sustainable management of the range of forest values and uses. 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 2019–20 were:

- focusing resources on addressing the requirements of the FMP, with consideration to weed, pest animal and disease management issues (including *Phytophthora* dieback)
- preparing indicative three-year timber harvest plans which provide an improved basis for integration with strategic fire management objectives and prescribed fire management programs

- refining monitoring, research and knowledge acquisition programs to facilitate reporting on the FMP key performance indicators
- implementing recommendations and management responses identified in the FMP mid-term performance review undertaken by the Conservation and Parks Commission
- 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 a sustainable forest products industry in Western Australia (WA)
- ensuring areas harvested are regenerated in a timely manner (where this is the primary silvicultural objective), and appropriate fire management and biodiversity 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:

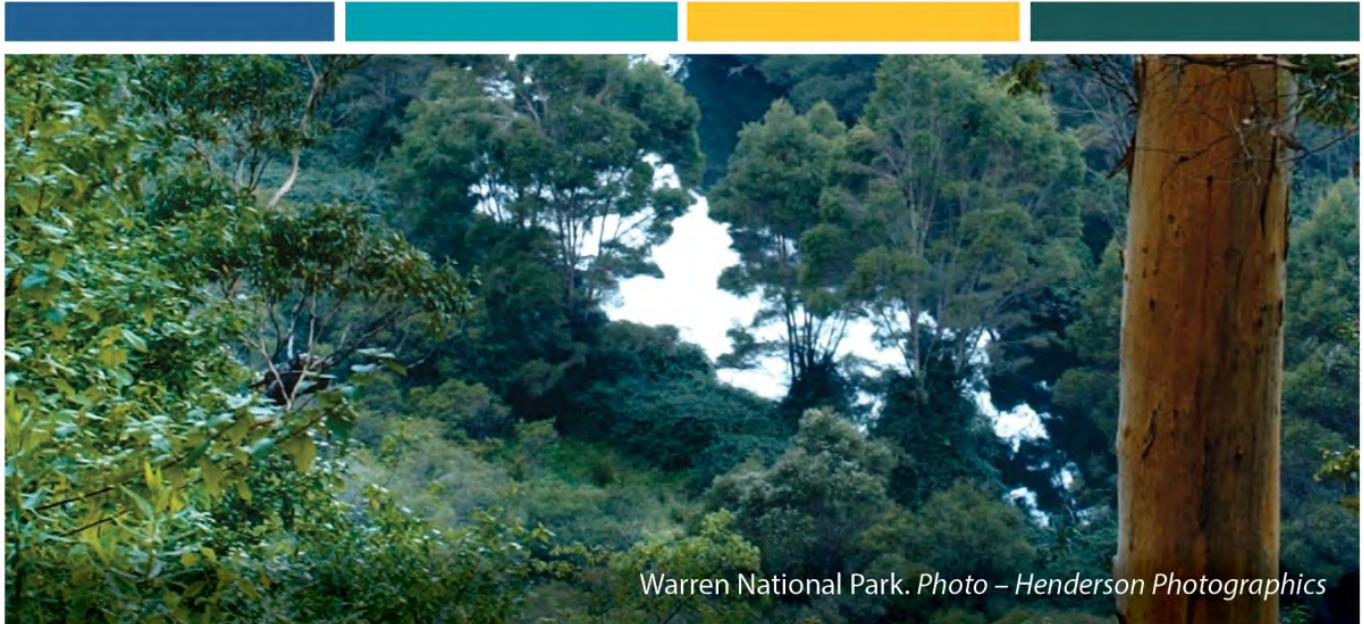
- acquiring and analysing wood inventory data to help the Department and FPC in planning, managing and monitoring wood production in State forest and timber reserves
- mapping vegetation to inform silvicultural decisions, old-growth forest assessments, dieback disease presence and impact predictions, 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 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 finalise 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 the effects of infrastructure construction or threatening processes
- delivering information about and mapping of dieback and evaluating disease hygiene standards to minimise spread through planned disturbance operations
- 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
 - Australian Government agencies.



Warren National Park. Photo – Henderson Photographics

Performance

Performance summary

Table 5: Service 8 performance summary

	2019–20 target	2019–20 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$19,271,000	\$18,437,000	(\$834,000)
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare of managing forest	\$14.92	\$14.28	(\$0.64)
Key effectiveness indicator			
Cumulative removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan	1,146,000m ³	777,430m ³	(368,570m 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.
- WA's Regional Forest Agreement was renewed for a further 20 years in 2019. The first Annual Meeting of Officials was held for the extended WA Regional Forest Agreement in March 2020.
- The Department provided technical and information support to help deliver the *Djarlma Plan for the Western Australian Forestry Industry* – an interagency initiative for operational trials of ecological thinning in the jarrah forests. The trials will assess reduction in water use in dense highly stocked stands of jarrah, to promote forest health and resilience in a drying climate and to reduce potential for intense bushfires by reducing woody fuel loads.
- Information on science projects supporting implementation of the FMP can be found in *Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities* within this report.

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.
- The Department provided technical support, on-ground works and advice to FPC for implementation of annual harvest and coupe plans, fire management and forest regeneration activities.
- The Department prepared projections of native forest timber resources available under the FMP to inform market development options for the forest products industry.
- The Department prepared a draft guideline for thinning in mining rehabilitation and reviewed the jarrah treemarking field guide, as part of ongoing preparation and review of operational guidance documents (required by the FMP).
- Training on the Disturbance Approvals System (DAS) to operational, planning and management personnel continued across the Department. At 30 June 2020, the DAS contained 274 proposals for disturbances ranging from timber harvesting to recreation site development, including operations submitted by external parties, including local government authorities, Telstra, Water Corporation, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Main Roads WA and the FPC.
- Salvage operations in the 2016 Waroona–Yarloop bushfire area continued. This is part of forest restoration to promote natural regeneration at a 'patch' level.
- The Department developed silvicultural specifications to guide an adaptive management trial of thinning in 30-year-old regrowth jarrah stands that have been rehabilitated following bauxite mining. The trial is a collaborative project involving Alcoa of Australia, FPC and DBCA, and aims to improve forest health by improving the resilience of rehabilitated forest to climate change.

Forest planning and monitoring

- Preliminary planning on the next three-year timber harvest plans (2021–23) for the south-west forest regions began.
- A total of 99 disturbance operations covering 7172 hectares of State forest and timber reserves were evaluated and monitored for compliance with the environmental outcomes sought in the FMP. This included 16 soil disturbance and erosion surveys across 15 active native forest coupes (covering 191 hectares and 191km of log extraction track), and 11 treemarking assessments in 11 forest coupes covering 3787 hectares with 55 hectares assessed.

- In 2019, detection and mapping of dieback was undertaken on 30,664 hectares of land managed by the Department to help plan and manage disturbance operations and the prioritisation of disease management treatments.
- All mapped old-growth forest on lands managed by DBCA 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. This included 234 hectares of jarrah old-growth forest, and 10 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 February 2020.
- In accordance with the FMP, the Department analysed the potential location of 10 new fauna habitat zones and finalised six of these (comprising a gross area of 687 hectares). Fauna habitat zones in State forests are created to help maintain biodiversity values in areas subject to timber harvesting. The total number of fauna habitat zones is 145, comprising a gross area of 37,060 hectares. An updated map of fauna habitat zone locations was published to the Department's website in February 2020.
- High-resolution, digital aerial imagery was gathered across 186,000 hectares of forest and plantations to monitor and measure areas for timber harvest operations, silvicultural outcomes, bushfire recovery and prescribed fire outcomes. Photogrammetric techniques were applied to the imagery of the pinaster pine estate to generate stocking and height classifications for estimation of the standing timber resource.



Prescribed burning in Serpentine National Park. *Photo – Owen Donovan/DBCA*

Service 9: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management



Prescribed burning near Walpole. Photo – Brad Barton/DBCA

About Service 9

Responsibilities

This service is responsible for using planned fire to achieve community and asset protection, and land, forest, and wildlife management objectives. The Department is committed to proactively reducing risk rather than relying on bushfire suppression and response.

Outcomes

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. Ongoing improvement in planning and implementing the prescribed burning and fire management programs assists in meeting this outcome.

Priorities

The priorities of this service in 2019–20 were:

- achieving best-practice prescribed burning and fire management procedures
- improving staff development and succession planning for fire management
- implementing prescribed burning performance measures for the Department's south-west forest regions.

Strategies and key activities

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2019–20.

1. Achieve best-practice prescribed burning and fire management procedures, by:

- applying principles of risk management and ongoing improvement in 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

- using adaptive management principles to promote the adoption of new knowledge, technology and techniques for community protection as well as land, forest, and wildlife management outcomes
- applying sound policy, technology, information management systems and approaches to deliver 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 safely implement the prescribed burning program
- developing and implementing new performance measures and reporting for the prescribed burning program to enable a better understanding of the Department's prescribed burning program achievements and contribution to community protection and other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.

2. Improve staff development and succession planning for fire management, by:

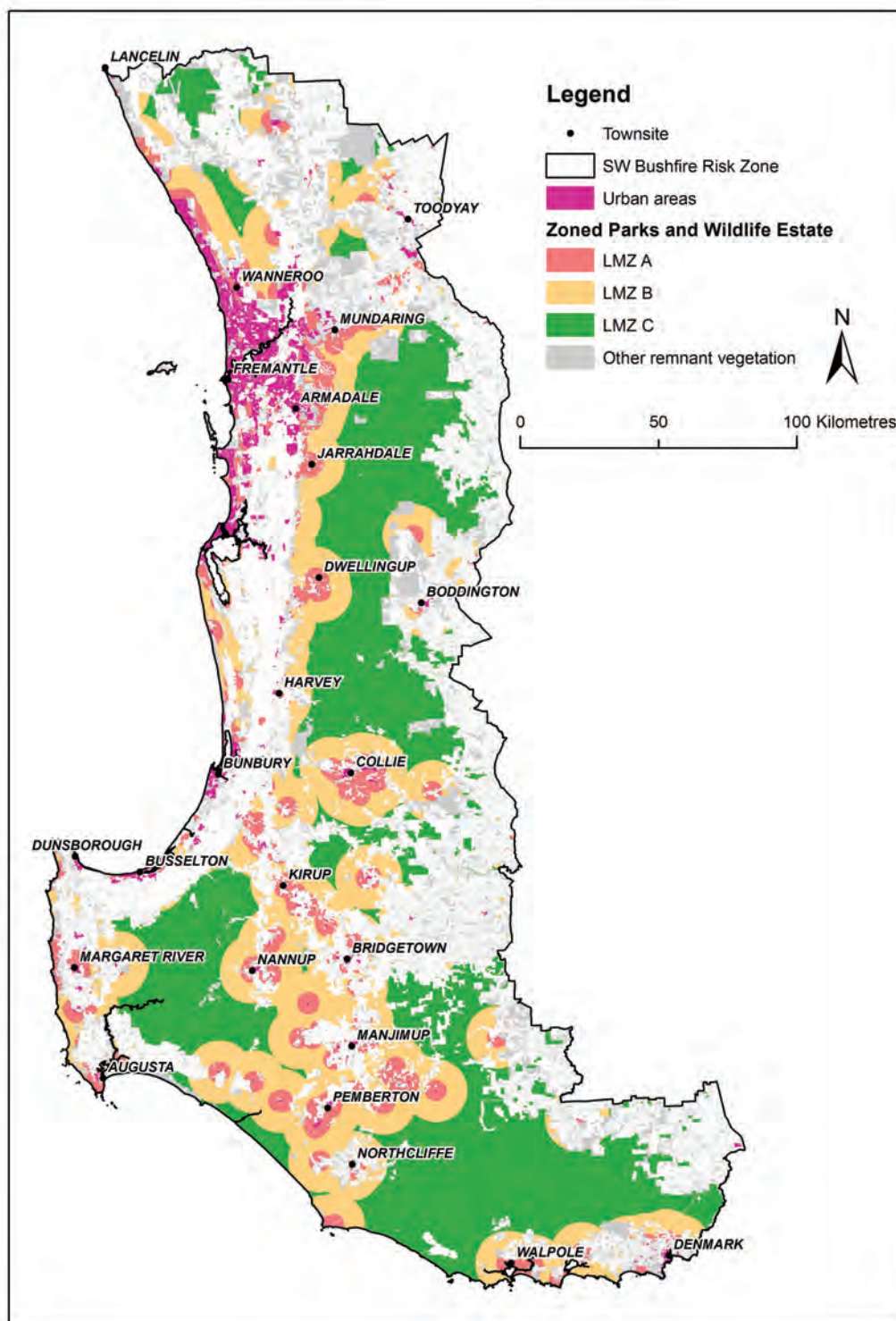
- continuing the Fire Management Development Program (FMDP) through the strategic recruitment, training and development of program staff, and extending FMDP opportunities to other Departmental personnel, to provide a sustained level of capability required to effectively and efficiently deliver the operational fire management program
- expanding the capacity for prescribed burning and other bushfire risk reduction methods beyond the forested south-west by sharing knowledge and resources between regions and organisations
- developing and implementing time-bound succession plans to ensure the Department retains fire research and senior fire leadership capacity
- continuing training and development of staff from various work areas to have the skills and knowledge required to fulfil the Department's fire management needs
- enhancing operational training delivery through the Fire Management Services Branch's Operational Training Unit.

3. Implement prescribed burning performance measures for the Department's south-west forest regions. The two measures are:

i. Annual prescribed burning targets for special land management zones (LMZs) in the Department's three south-west forest regions.

The zones (shown in Figure 3) are at the interface of populated areas and natural lands with the zoning determined by the distance from the urban interface. LMZ A extends 3.5km from a populated area, LMZ B extends a further 7.5km and the third zone, LMZ C, comprises the remainder of the Department-managed landscape. LMZ C is further from populated areas but 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.

Figure 3: Land management zones



The prescribed burning targets for each zone are based on the proportion of Department-managed land in that zone, and are a portion of the nominal 200,000 hectare annual prescribed burning target for the south-west forest regions.

After rounding, the nominal 2019–20 prescribed burning targets for the zones were:

- **LMZ A** 20,000 hectares
- **LMZ B** 70,000 hectares
- **LMZ C** 110,000 hectares.

The 2019–20 achievements for each LMZ target are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: 2019–20 LMZ prescribed burning achievements

LMZ	Distance from populated area	Nominal 2019–20 target (ha)	Achieved (ha)	Percentage of target
A	within 3.5km	20,000	14,897	74
B	3.5–11km	70,000	36,997	53
C	beyond 11km	110,000	75,568	69

* LMZ prescribed burning figures apply to Department-managed land only.

ii. To maintain a fuel age of less than six years since last burnt in at least 45 per cent of the landscape across the Department’s three south-west forest regions.

Research has shown that prescribed burning is effective in significantly reducing the frequency and size of bushfires in the forests of south-west Western Australia (WA). *‘The proportion of Department-managed lands in the south-west forest regions that is less than six years since last burnt’* is therefore used as an annual indicator of the effectiveness of the Department’s prescribed burning program in mitigating bushfire risk.

To achieve the 45 per cent target, the Department aims to conduct prescribed burning over at least 200,000 hectares per annum.

In 2019–20 conditions for prescribed burning were impacted by a drier than usual spring limiting the opportunities to implement the planned burns, a significant resource commitment to bushfires in the Goldfields and Great Southern regions during December and January; and COVID-19 restrictions on the safe movement of resources across the south-west to implement planned burns during the autumn burning period.

Despite these limitations, at 30 June 2020, 49.5 per cent of the landscape had a fuel age of less than six years.



Fire Operations Officer Beverly Gardiner (right) on deployment to a bushfire in the United States. Photo – DBCA

Performance

Performance summary

Table 6: Service 9 performance summary

	2019–20 target	2019–20 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$51,078,000	\$50,193,000	(\$885,000)
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare burnt	\$16.01	\$14.13	(\$1.88)
Key effectiveness indicator			
Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved	55%	42%	(13%)

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 programs and targets

- The Department carried out 132,940 hectares of prescribed burning in the south-west forest regions in 2019–20. This year’s program was assisted by additional State Government funding of \$5.5 million via the Enhanced Prescribed Burning Program.

- A further 3,420,290 hectares was burnt in the Department's other six regions: 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.
- Through the *Women in Fire Management Action Plan 2019–22*, work continued on increasing gender diversity in fire management and building a stronger, more flexible and innovative workforce. In 2018–19, women filled 35 per cent of roles in fire management. In 2019–20, women filled 30.4 per cent of roles.

Prescribed fire planning and risk management

- The Department continued implementing the Bushfire Risk Management Framework, which helps prioritise bushfire mitigation work on Departmental lands across the State through the development of Regional Fuel Management Plans. At 30 June 2020, two of the Department's nine regions had a Regional Fuel Management Plan.
- The Department continued to engage and collaborate with the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) in pursuit of ongoing improvements.
- Through its ongoing assurance program, OBRM considered a range of DBCA's prescribed fire planning processes in the Albany District and Goldfields Region. The findings confirmed that the Department's processes for planning and implementing prescribed burning align with ISO 31000:2009, the international standard for risk management.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DBCA adopted a scalable approach to its autumn prescribed burning program. This ensured appropriate measures were in place to manage staff safety and wellbeing, ensure burn security, appropriately manage any potential smoke impacts, and maintain a capacity to respond to bushfires.

Fire management fleet and infrastructure

- The Department bought 10 R3 incendiary machines to improve efficiency of aerial ignition for large-scale burns. The new machines are more compact and technically advanced and will be phased into burning operations in 2020–21.

Bushfire risk management on unallocated Crown land

- The Department is responsible for the coordination and on-ground management of bushfire risk through targeted bushfire mitigation on 91 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves outside the Perth metropolitan area and townsites.
- The Department carried out 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 work was made possible through the continued strategic investment of funding from the State Government's Mitigation Activity Fund to protect regional towns. In 2018–19, 351km of modified vegetation buffers and 562km of fire access track were completed. In 2019–20, 474km (3082 hectares) of modified vegetation buffers, 878km of fire access track and 532,850 hectares of prescribed burning were completed. This work complemented Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) activities.
- 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

- The FMDP currently has 11 full-time participants working across several regions and districts.
- The FMDP Expansion Program provided opportunities for staff to increase their fire knowledge, development, and career opportunities. At 30 June 2020 there were 10 employees in the program from several of the Department's regions, four of whom replaced those who had successfully completed the two-year program.
- The FMDP Undergraduate Conservation Employee Program targeting university students provided opportunities for individuals considering career opportunities with DBCA to gain pre-employment experience in fire management. Since it began five years ago, six students have gained ongoing employment through participation in the program.
- More than 75 applications were received for FMDP pool positions advertised in May 2020.
- Three District Fire Coordinators and two Regional Leader Fire Management positions have been won by FMDP participants through merit select processes, four from the full program and one from the expansion program.
- Over the past two years, the number of women applying to join the FMDP has more than doubled, rising from 14 per cent to 36 per cent.

Fire ecology education programs

- Fire Management Services Branch continued to work with Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch to:
 - provide a range of *Nearer to Nature* fire education programs. School students 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.
 - develop a community education and awareness program on fire in the environment, focusing on the south-west regions of WA, to be delivered over the next four years. This program aims to increase awareness, understanding, support and advocacy of the Department's prescribed burning program, practices and policies.
- A general fire ecology information session was undertaken for local staff in the Warren Region.



Peak Charles bushfire. Photo – Matt Savage/DBCA

Service 10: Bushfire Suppression



About Service 10

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.

Outcomes

The desired outcome of the service is to suppress bushfires that threaten or occur on lands managed by the Department.

Priorities

The priorities of this service in 2019–20 were:

- maintaining a skilled, well-trained and response-ready bushfire detection and suppression workforce
- maintaining 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
- achieving continued improvement in interagency working arrangements and common operating procedures to enhance interagency collaboration, information exchange and bushfire suppression effectiveness
- maintaining a record of the annual bushfire suppression performance measure – the ratio of bushfire affected area to the prescribed burn area.

Strategies and key activities

The following strategies and focus areas guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2019–20.

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 bushfires 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
- maintaining the 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 to review and improve 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
- revising internal doctrine, processes and systems to facilitate alignment with agreed interagency arrangements.

4. Maintenance of a record of the annual bushfire suppression performance measure – the ratio of bushfire-affected area to the prescribed burn area, by:

- calculating the ratio of bushfire-affected area, where the Department was the initial attack agency, to the prescribed burn area. The ratio for 2019–20 was 'bushfire 2,936,520 hectares: prescribed burning 3,553,230 hectares (ratio of 1:1.21)'. There is no specific target for this measure; rather it provides an indication of medium-term trends and 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.

Note: Areas used to calculate the bushfire to prescribed burn ratio relate to *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (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.



Mount Cooke bushfire. Photo – Renato Gasotti/DBCA

Performance

Performance summary

Table 7: Service 10 performance summary

	2019–20 target	2019–20 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$31,383,000	\$49,473,000	\$18,090,000
Key efficiency indicator			
Average cost per hectare burnt	\$20.11	\$16.84	(\$3.27)
Key effectiveness indicator			
Proportion of south-west bushfires contained to less than two hectares	75%	84%	9%

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*.

Performance highlights

Bushfire management

- Departmental personnel fought and/or monitored 663 bushfires that burnt about 2,936,520 hectares in 2019–20, including:
 - 94,962 hectares in the Pilbara Region

- 394,897 hectares in the Goldfields Region
- 1,117,329 hectares in the Kimberley Region
- 1,057,848 hectares in the South Coast Region
- 23,669 hectares in the Midwest Region
- 221,123 hectares in the Wheatbelt Region
- 26,692 hectares in the three south-west forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren).
- The causes of these fires were:
 - lightning – 29 per cent (above the 10-year average of 25 per cent)
 - deliberately-lit or arson-caused fires – 38 per cent (below the 10-year average of about 40 per cent)
 - accidental fires – 5 per cent
 - escapes from private burns – 3 per cent
 - escapes from Departmental burns – 1 per cent
 - other causes – 9 per cent
 - unknown – 8 per cent.
- In conjunction with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), and local governments through the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA), 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 to provide a quick and effective bushfire response capacity for the community.
- There were five deployments of the State bushfire pre-formed teams involving DFES staff and volunteers and local government authorities. These teams were deployed to Stirling Range National Park on two separate occasions, the Esperance-Goldfields complex, Wellington and Yanchep bushfires, in November and December 2019.
- The Department provided considerable firefighter resource support to New South Wales and Queensland to assist with the national bushfire emergency response during the 2019–20 bushfire season.

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 1345.10 hours of aerial surveillance. Flight schedules varied according to bushfire danger levels and fire activity.
- The detection aircraft also flew 563.90 hours in support of bushfire suppression operations.

Aerial bushfire suppression operations

- The Department contracted eight fixed-wing 802 air tractor water bombers in the south-west forest regions from November 2019 to April 2020. 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 1552.12 operational hours in attending 158 bushfires and dropped 2094 loads, delivering 6,282,000 million litres of suppressant.

Bushfire training and development

- Fire Management Services Branch training and development staff conducted 65 formal fire training sessions involving 1016 participants. The courses included Basic Wildfire Awareness, AIIMS Awareness, Fire Fighting Crew Member, Fire Fighting Crew Leader, Duty Officer, Fireline Construction with Machines, Fireline Construction – Pushing Trees, Fireline Construction Machine Support and Mandatory Preseason Training. Training staff also co-presented with DFES the Level 2 Operations Management, Level 2 Logistics Officer, Fire Weather 1 and 2, Fire Behaviour Analyst and Level 2 Incident Controller courses.
- For Department-presented courses the participants were predominantly internal staff, 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 2019–20 bushfire season was conducted for 781 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 burn-over drills.
- The Department delivered a short course for new incident mappers across DBCA, DFES and MapsWA volunteers.
- The Department continued to recognise prior learning for firefighters to be awarded Fire Fighting Crew Member national units of competency including the Fire Fighting Crew Leader.
- During 2019–20, 22 staff completed the Prescribed Burn training. DBCA continued to work closely with DFES' Bushfire Centre of Excellence on developing an implementation guide for prescribed burning.
- Fire Training and Capability Development Section continued its membership on State and national learning and development forums including the Interagency Bushfire Operations Committee Training and Development Subcommittee and the Australian Fire Authorities Council Learning and Development group. This facilitated collaboration and input into nationally accredited training, ensured training product consistency and enabled staff to keep abreast of best training practice.
- Fire aviation personnel provided 84 formal fire aviation training sessions for 709 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; Aerial Incendiary Bombardier; Aerial Incendiary Bombardier currency; Helitorch Ground Crew; Helitorch Ground Crew currency, Search and Rescue Watch, Water Bomber Reloader and Work Safely Around Aircraft.
- Water bomber reloading training was provided to 298 participants across 28 operational bases including the RAAF base at Pearce.
- 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 the Northern Territory.
- The Department was represented at the public safety training package national industry review for nationally-recognised training products.

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 WALGA), 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 New South Wales and Queensland in fighting numerous large-scale bushfires.
 - The Department continued to work collaboratively with DFES' Rural Fire Division and local governments to develop a collaborative approach to fuel reduction and bushfire mitigation on lands outside of the conservation estate managed by the Department. This approach complements the Department's longstanding prescribed burning program and helps to maximise on-ground bushfire mitigation opportunities across the broader public and private landscape to better protect local communities.



Ring-tailed dragon on Barrow Island. *Photo – Judy Dunlop/DBCA*

Supporting the Department

Corporate and Business Services Division

Corporate and Business Services (CBS) Division provides services to the Department including its Statutory Authorities and the Forest Products Commission.

During 2019–20, CBS was heavily involved in the Department's response to COVID-19, including several senior staff members participating in the Department's Incident Coordination Group. Staff within the division were also responsible for developing the Department's *Pandemic Management Plan*.

CBS assisted with the interpretation of relevant information from a number of avenues including Public Sector Commission labour relations circulars and bulletins, relevant Government agencies such as the departments of Health, the Premier and Cabinet, Finance and Treasury, union consultation, and Prime Minister and Premier announcements to ensure communications were disseminated to Corporate Executive, regional and branch managers and employees as required.

CBS's existing mobile, secure cloud solutions enabled the department's workforce to rapidly implement flexible working arrangements while enabling the continued delivery of Departmental services to the public throughout the challenging restrictions in operation during COVID-19.

CBS continued to coordinate Department-wide reports on personal protective equipment stock levels, working-from-home figures and extensive financial reporting. These reports are provided to the Department of Finance, the Public Sector Commission and the Department of Treasury respectively.

CBS facilitated internal and external public information and corporate communication support during the prevention, preparation and response phases of COVID-19 and is continuing through the recovery process.

The above response occurred while maintaining the following critical business functions of the Department:

- ensuring the safety and wellbeing of personnel
- uninterrupted payroll services and functions
- delivering essential corporate information technology services and systems
- producing various communication notices:
 - bushfire and prescribed burn alerts and warnings
 - media relations, social media and Ministerial communications
 - website and intranet publications
- maintaining Kensington headquarters security, electricity and water
- provisioning financial management and business support systems
- processing of various accounting functions.

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:

- Financial Systems
- Procurement
- Accounting Operations
- Fleet, Works and Facilities
- Reporting and 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 e-commerce.

Key achievements for 2019–20 include:

- implementing new accounting standards
- recognising biological assets as an administered asset in the financial statements
- exceeding the Aboriginal Procurement Policy target
- implementing State fleet initiatives
- adopting the new *Treasury Instruction 304 – Authorisation of payments*
- incorporating Government procurement reform
- implementing the ORACLE Property Management Module to account for leases.

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.

The Department developed a harmonised Code of Conduct that applies across the Department. A conduct charter is also being developed, which will outline a consistent set of core values across the Department. These values will be reflective of aspirations for appropriate workplace behaviour and play an important role in building a positive culture.

The Department understands and promotes the benefits of a diverse workforce and endeavours to ensure that recruitment processes are inclusive, barrier-free, and are accessible to people with a disability. In addition to existing initiatives, in 2019–20 the branch worked with the Australian Network on Disability to become a 'Disability Confident Recruiter'. This ensures the Department is an employer of choice for people with disability. The Department has also partnered with National Disability Services WA to implement strategies to increase the rate of employment of people with disability.

The branch continued to progress permanent appointment of employees in accordance with *Commissioner's Instruction No. 23 – Conversion and appointment of fixed term contract and casual employees to permanency*. To date, 165 employees have been converted to permanent following the initial review.

Key achievements for 2019–20 include:

- developing and rolling out unconscious bias training across DBCA
- refining payroll and system processes with Statutory Authorities following the Machinery of Government changes
- completing negotiations for the *Rangers (National Parks) General Agreement 2020* and the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (Operations) Agreement 2020* with the relevant unions.

Office for Information Management

The Office for Information Management 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 Western Australia (WA).

The branch continued to support business units to achieve the Department's strategic, tactical and operational goals for IT and collaborated with the Office of Digital Government and State Records Office to ensure good IT governance and robust IT standards in the Department.

Key achievements for 2019–20 include:

- enhancing cyber security to protect the Department's people, information and technology
- fostering the use of information and communication technology (ICT) as-a-service and open ICT ecosystems to bring better business and financial value to the Department
- enabling a digital workforce through corporate IT training
- enhancing the interoperability and security of the shared IT common operating environment to enable the Department's mobile workforce to work anywhere anytime.

In conjunction with the Parks and Visitor Services Division, the branch developed a Commercial Operator Licensing System (COLS). This new system streamlined the application for, and management of, commercial operation licences, and effectively manages commercial operator activities on Departmental lands and waters.

Launched in December 2019, COLS allows commercial operators to apply for and renew a commercial operations licence, update organisation details, and pay park entry fees online. The system replaced the paper-based application process and integrates with the financial system to upload financial transaction data.

Developed using open software and Department architecture standards, COLS will enhance the future capabilities of other Department online systems and enable reuse and collaboration opportunities for other systems.

Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch

Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch delivers a broad range of strategic communication services, including public safety information during incidents, fire awareness, environmental education and behaviour change programs, media relations and communication planning. In addition, the branch coordinates and develops digital content, carries out photography services and video production, delivers customer service, publishing and graphic design, as well as public participation planning, advertising and social media coordination. The branch also manages the 15-hectare Perth Hills Discovery Centre in Beelu National Park.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the branch adapted its educational programs and customer service processes to ensure business continuity, and placed key communication staff with the whole-of-Government Information Coordination Centre.

Key achievements for 2019–20 include:

- gathering video and photo content from across the Department's nine regions and creating more than 100 audio visual products for internal and external distribution via online and traditional communication channels
- providing communications support to the Minister for Environment's office, including for major Government initiatives such as Plan for Our Parks and the Aboriginal Ranger Program
- coordinating public information for incidents by issuing hundreds of bushfire alerts and participating in deployments to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services State Operations Centre during large-scale multi-agency incidents
- designing and producing more than 800 publication and signage jobs covering the full scope of

the Department's work, including WA's quarterly parks, wildlife and conservation magazine *LANDSCOPE* and accompanying calendar

- completing more than 1350 web requests from across the Department and for the first time, producing the *DBCA Annual Report* in a digital HTML format to improve efficiency and accessibility
- developing an online training course for staff to learn about web publishing and accessibility, in line with standards set under the State Government's *Digital Services Policy*
- coordinating the first Departmental education forum, to increase collaboration between education staff from the Parks and Wildlife Service, Kings Park, Perth Zoo and Rottnest Island
- coordinating and supporting almost 3200 *Bush Ranger* cadets in 62 high schools across WA; and ongoing collaboration with *Nearer to Nature* education program partners such as Alcoa of Australia, Water Corporation and the Forest Products Commission
- developing a new bushfire-themed teacher professional learning workshop, 'Bushfire: Hot Topics', which was held at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre and attracted 29 participants ranging from pre-primary to Year 12 teachers
- managing the *Dolphin Watch* citizen science program, including training 50 new volunteers, bringing the total number of people volunteering with the citizen science program to 1541
- delivering the *Reel It In* behaviour change project, which saw the removal of more than 28km of fishing line from the Swan Canning Riverpark during the year to help reduce wildlife entanglements, and installing new bins at popular fishing locations including Mandurah, Dawesville, Busselton and Bunbury.

Department-managed lands and waters

Total estate

At 30 June 2020, the total area under the Department's care was 31,598,531 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 2020.

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

Table 9: 2019–20 Legislated lands and waters (in hectares)

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total (hectares)
National park	154,342	1,419,669	571,658	2,436,756	856,879	144,286	118,141	561,365	1,257	6,264,352
Conservation park	184,425	560,091	15,643	281,779	677	13,651	24,450	706	5,383	1,086,805
Nature reserve	6,292,610	174,836	740,163	259,632	1,584,391	13,211	54,364	87,228	1,070,541	10,276,977
State forest	781				4,052	534,914	474,075	265,342	28,372	1,307,536
Timber reserve	28,394		26,280		5,150	26,281	28,728	8,315		123,147
Section 5(1)(g) & 5(1)(h) reserves	81,552	827,011	66,036	10,263	4,415	31,483	34,708	1,857	2,981	1,060,306
Marine park		3,070,778	869,492	343,505		123,000	16,248	1,446		4,424,469
Marine nature reserve			132,000							132,000
Marine management area				143,385						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 – Department-managed							8,728			8,728
SCRM Act – river reserve							3,597			3,597
Totals	6,770,665	6,052,385	2,512,651	3,475,320	2,455,656	906,715	763,088	930,922	1,108,534	24,975,936

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 (hectares)
Crown freehold – Department-interest			12,761		5,877	4,194	13,355	1,661	5,047	42,895
Crown reserve – Department-interest								141		141
Unallocated Crown land – Department-interest	1,921,114	175,516	3,277,565	1,145,195	16,885	5	1	134	43,143	6,579,559

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total (hectares)
Totals	1,921,114	175,516	3,290,326	1,145,195	22,762	4,199	13,356	1,936	48,190	6,622,595

Table 11: Provisional area of national parks vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2020

Name	Area (hectares)
Alexander Morrison	8499
Avon Valley	4456
Badgingarra	13,105
Bandilngan	2082
Beelu	4617
Blackwood River	20,470
Boorabbin	28,188
Boorara-Gardner	11,017
Boyndaminup	5439
Brockman	51
Cape Arid	277,462
Cape Le Grand	31,189
Cape Range	49,984
Collier Range	235,305
D'Entrecasteaux	118,948
Dalgarup	2377
Danggu	2748
Dirk Hartog Island	62,664
Dimalurru	91
Dordagup	6406

Name	Area (hectares)
Drovers Cave	2565
Drysdale River	447,675
Easter	2975
Eucla	3815
Fitzgerald River	295,822
Forest Grove	1379
Francois Peron	53,145
Frank Hann	68,709
Gloucester	874
Goldfields Woodlands	66,146
Goongarrie	60,008
Gooseberry Hill	33
Greater Beedelup	19,277
Greenmount	202
Gull Rock	2107
Hassell	1138
Hawke	14,003
Helena	12,261
Hilliger	16,979
Houtman Abrolhos Islands	1564
Jane	6864
John Forrest	2698
Kalamunda	397
Kalbarri	183,249

Name	Area (hectares)
Karijini	624,335
Karlamilyi	1,283,810
Kennedy Range	142,298
Kingston	21,100
Korong	6350
Lake Muir	9629
Lawley River	17,347
Leeuwin-Naturaliste	21,600
Lesmurdie Falls	57
Lesueur	27,232
Midgegooroo	2,492
Millstream Chichester	238,187
Milyeannup	18,690
Mirima	2065
Mitchell River	115,185
Moore River	17,229
Mount Augustus	9163
Mount Frankland	37,102
Mount Frankland North	22,052
Mount Frankland South	42,266
Mount Lindesay	39,540
Mount Roe	127,713
Murujuga*	5134
Nambung	19,388

Name	Area (hectares)
Niiwalarra Islands	3352
Neerabup	973
Peak Charles	39,953
Porongurup	2686
Preston	12,666
Prince Regent	585,291
Purnululu	243,833
Scott	3322
Serpentine	4283
Shannon	52,585
Sir James Mitchell	173
Stirling Range	113,541
Stokes	10,027
Tathra	4322
Torndirrup	4022
Tuart Forest	2044
Un-named (Blackwood District)	1571
Un-named (Perth Hills District)	81
Walpole-Nornalup	18,540
Walyunga	1813
Wandoo	46,335
Warren	3122
Watheroo	44,464
Waychinicup	3974

Name	Area (hectares)
Wellington	17,426
West Cape Howe	3669
Whicher	6352
William Bay	1745
Wiltshire-Butler	11,645
Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater	1455
Wooditjup	3891
Yalgorup	14,119
Yanchep	2859
Yelverton	728

* Freehold land managed as national park under s.8A of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

Notes:

1. Areas are from Landgate cadastral/tenure information systems dated 31 March 2020.
2. Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater is managed as a national park.
3. Additions/changes from 2018–19 include:
 - Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park – new addition
 - Niiwalarra Islands National Park – new addition
 - Danggu National Park previously called Geikie Gorge National Park
 - Dimalurru National Park previously called Tunnel Creek National Park
 - Bandilingan National Park previously called Windjana Gorge National Park

Marine reserves

The total area of marine reserves vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2020 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 2020 was approximately 4.4 million hectares.

The area of marine nature reserves at 30 June 2020 was approximately 132,000 hectares.

The area of marine management areas at 30 June 2020 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.

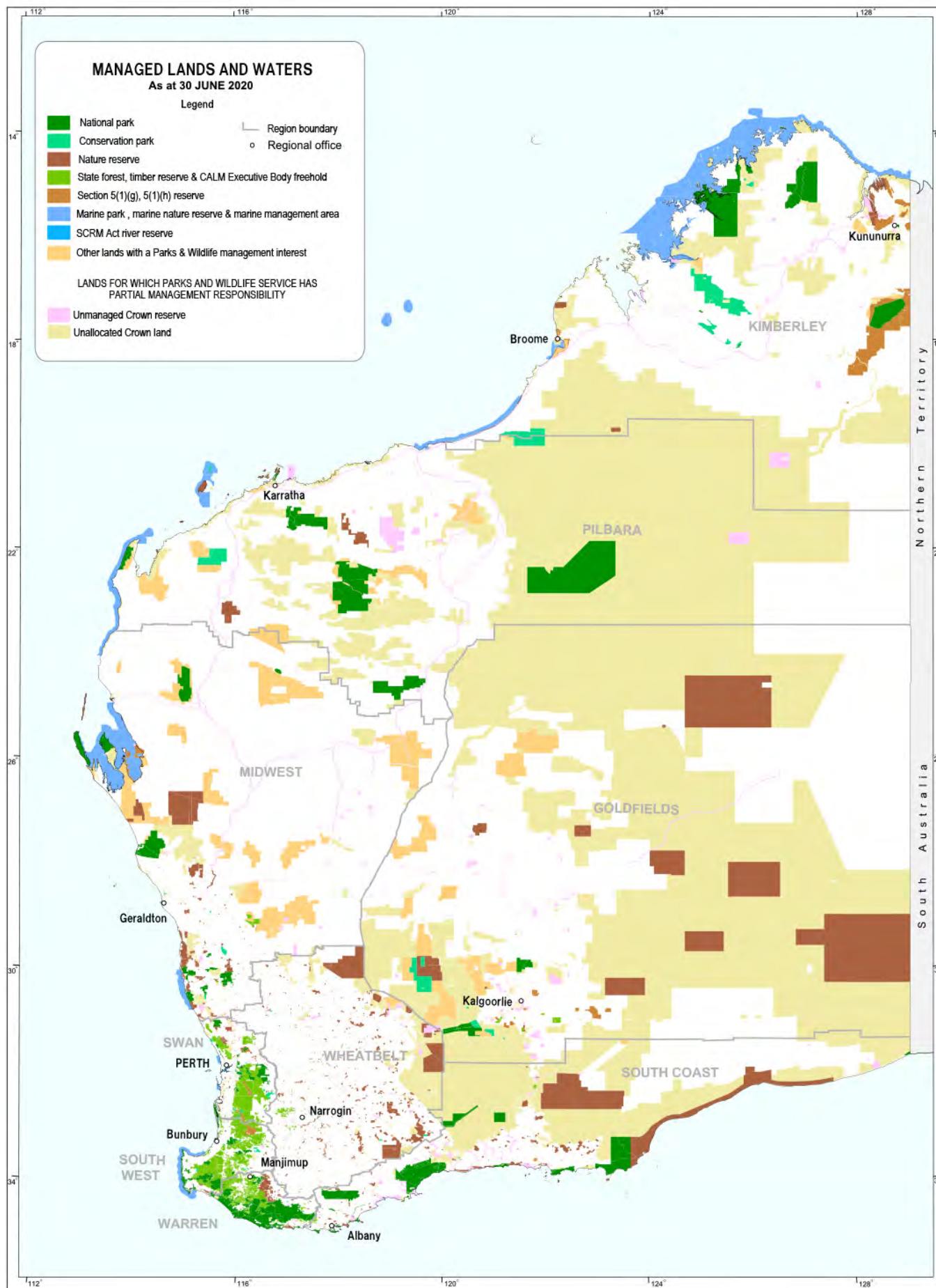
Table 12: Marine reserves vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2020

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
Muiron Islands Marine Management Area	26,769
Ngari Capes Marine Park	123,000
Ningaloo Marine Park	263,313
North Kimberley Marine Park	1,670,000
North Lalang-garram Marine Park	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
Yawuru Nagulagun / Roebuck Bay Marine Park	41,000
Total	4,699,997

Conservation land acquisitions

DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service purchased nine parcels of land of high conservation value covering a combined total area of about 1009 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 \$4,068,000.

Figure 5: Department-managed lands and waters at 30 June 2020



Legal matters

Freedom of Information

The Office of the Director General managed processes for the Department under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The Department's *Information Statement 2020–21* describes the nature of the information held by the Department and its related agencies, and the type of information that is made available to the public.

The Department received 27 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 2017 Machinery of Government changes 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 four prosecutions during 2019–20, involving a total of 20 fauna related charges for possession of protected and rare fauna.

Finalised prosecutions for 2019–20

Of the four prosecutions commenced, three were subject to final court determination during 2019–20, including cases relating to the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

These matters resulted in the imposition of fines totalling \$7500 and costs to the value of \$451.80.

In addition to the four prosecutions commenced during this period a further three were carried forward and finalised from years 2017–19. These matters resulted in the imposition of fines totalling \$50,800 and costs to the value of \$1016.

Prosecutions currently before the courts

As at 30 June 2020, three prosecutions were yet to be concluded and remained before the courts and two cases are at State Solicitor's Office for advice.

Total reported offences

Between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, a total of 768 offences were reported, of which 18 were dealt with by way of prosecution, 512 were dealt with by infringement notice, four resulted in letters of warning, 230 were dealt with by caution notices, two were no further action and two were dismissed.

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

There were 25 reports of whales entangled in fishing gear off WA. The Department deployed a satellite tracking tag on six occasions and successfully completed disentanglement operations on five occasions.

Commonwealth marine parks

For the second year since signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Australian Government, the Department delivered management services in Commonwealth marine parks around WA.

Marine reporting

The Department provided formal presentations to the Conservation and Parks Commission on Ningaloo, Shark Bay, Jurien Bay and Lalang-garram / Camden Sound marine parks, as part of the 2019 Marine Park Management Workshop. Annual reports on management activities were completed for all marine parks in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The Department was represented at the UNESCO Marine Managers Conference in Alaska. Officers from Shark Bay Marine Park and Ningaloo Marine Park attended to conference and provided a review of the conference as part of the annual Marine Reporting Workshop.

Vessels

The Department participated in a whole-of-Government review of all vessels held across agencies. The review will help ensure the Government's on-water assets are used efficiently.

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, 13 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 and occurred during commercial tours. Four deaths occurred from drowning while undertaking rock-fishing related activities, two deaths occurred from drowning while swimming or snorkelling, two deaths occurred as a result of cliff falls and two deaths were caused by dehydration.

During 2019–20:

- 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-one staff completed a nationally-accredited visitor risk management course provided by the Department.
- Seventy-seven staff completed refresher training on visitor risk management.
- The Department continued to support DPIRD with a trial of mandatory wearing of life jackets when on the rocks at Salmon Holes in Torndirrup National Park. The Department introduced a new CALM Regulation to enable the trial, developed signage and delivered joint education and enforcement activities with DPIRD.
- The Department continued to support DPIRD with the Beach Emergency Number (BEN) sign system and a total of 116 BEN signs have been installed on Department-managed lands.
- The Department provided advice on visitor risk management to Parks Victoria and the Department for Environment and Water in South Australia.



Sugar candy orchid. Photo – Andrew Brown

Disclosures and legal compliance



Marble gum at Matuwa (Lorna Glen former pastoral station). Photo – Judy Dunlop/DBCA

Financial statements

Certification of financial statements

For the reporting period ended 30 June 2020

The accompanying financial statements 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 2020 and the financial position as at 30 June 2020.

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

10 September 2020

Mark Webb
Accountable Authority

10 September 2020



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 2020, 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 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 2020 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 Responsibility 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 entity'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.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

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 2020.

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 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 non-compliance 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 2020. The key performance indicators are the Under Treasurer-approved key effectiveness indicators and 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 agency's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Matter of Significance

The Department received an exemption from the Under Treasurer from reporting the 'Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters' key performance indicator for the year ended 30 June 2020.

The exemption was approved because the survey data was deemed not to be representative of a statewide population. Face to face surveys were unable to be completed during the major sampling period due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Consequently, the indicator has not been reported. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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 Department 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 entity'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 2020 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 contact the entity to confirm the information contained in the website version of the financial statements and key performance indicators.



CAROLINE SPENCER
AUDITOR GENERAL
FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Perth, Western Australia
16 September 2020

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$'000	Restated 2019* \$'000
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	3.1(a)	175,133	168,040
Supplies and services	3.3	72,212	71,679
Depreciation expense	5.3	26,252	22,358
Accommodation expenses	3.3	3,417	3,041
Grants and subsidies	3.2	42,771	35,347
Other expenses	3.3	24,680	24,082
Finance costs	7.2	262	0
Total cost of services		344,727	324,547
Loss on revaluation of assets			
Loss on revaluation of land	5.1	251,400	106,416
Total loss on revaluation of assets		251,400	106,416
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	4.2	43,503	45,920
Commonwealth grants and contributions	4.4	2,255	1,260
Other grants and contributions	4.5	20,314	19,235
Interest revenue		781	1,946
Other revenue	4.3	13,980	11,569
Total Revenue		80,833	79,930
<i>Gains</i>			
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	342	766
Total Gains		342	766
Total income other than income from State Government		81,175	80,696
NET COST OF SERVICES		514,952	350,267
Income from State Government			
Service appropriation	4.1	254,292	233,712
Services received free of charge		1,384	2,060
Royalties for Regions Fund		17,098	11,759
Total income from State Government		272,774	247,531
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		(242,178)	(102,736)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit and loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		1,105	(151,813)
Total other comprehensive income		1,105	(151,813)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(241,073)	(254,549)

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

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

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$'000	Restated 2019* \$'000	Restated 2018* \$'000
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	7.3	16,437	13,425	15,046
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.3	63,787	60,169	74,662
Inventories	6.1	1,581	857	1,236
Receivables	6.2	11,348	12,161	8,671
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	9,782	8,717	8,859
Other current assets	6.4	2,935	3,029	6,869
Non-current assets held for sale		44	101	0
Total Current Assets		105,914	98,459	115,343
Non-Current Assets				
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.3	2,367	1,805	1,199
Receivables	6.2	2,408	0	0
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	208,648	184,266	163,809
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1	2,626,538	2,837,901	3,085,101
Right-of-use assets	5.2	10,154	0	0
Total Non-Current Assets		2,850,115	3,023,972	3,250,109
TOTAL ASSETS		2,956,029	3,122,431	3,365,452
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Payables	6.5	4,414	3,120	2,382
Lease liabilities	7.1	3,710	0	0
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	35,644	32,410	32,252
Other current liabilities	6.6	11,012	4,781	4,169
Total Current Liabilities		54,780	40,311	38,803
Non-Current Liabilities				
Lease liabilities	7.1	6,403	0	0
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	7,007	6,753	6,467
Other non-current liabilities	6.6	5,375	0	0
Total Non-Current Liabilities		18,785	6,753	6,467
TOTAL LIABILITIES		73,565	47,064	45,270
NET ASSETS		2,882,464	3,075,367	3,320,182
EQUITY				
	9.8			
Contributed equity		3,115,096	3,062,619	3,052,885
Reserves		41,302	40,197	192,010
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		(273,934)	(27,449)	75,287
TOTAL EQUITY		2,882,464	3,075,367	3,320,182

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

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

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	Note 9.8	Contributed equity \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2018		3,052,885	207,935	59,386	3,320,206
Changes in accounting policy or correction of prior period errors		0	(15,925)	15,901	(24)
Restated balance at 1 July 2018 *		<u>3,052,885</u>	<u>192,010</u>	<u>75,287</u>	<u>3,320,182</u>
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	(102,736)	(102,736)
Other comprehensive income		0	(151,813)	0	(151,813)
Total comprehensive income for the period		<u>0</u>	<u>(151,813)</u>	<u>(102,736)</u>	<u>(254,549)</u>
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		<u>9,734</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,734</u>
Restated balance at 30 June 2019*		<u>3,062,619</u>	<u>40,197</u>	<u>(27,449)</u>	<u>3,075,367</u>
Balance at 1 July 2019		3,062,619	40,197	(27,449)	3,075,367
Changes in accounting policy		0	0	(4,307)	(4,307)
Restated balance as at 1 July 2019		<u>3,062,619</u>	<u>40,197</u>	<u>(31,756)</u>	<u>3,071,060</u>
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	(242,178)	(242,178)
Other comprehensive income		0	1,105	0	1,105
Total comprehensive income for the period		<u>0</u>	<u>1,105</u>	<u>(242,178)</u>	<u>(241,073)</u>
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		10,778	0	0	10,778
Other contributions by owners		18,559	0	0	18,559
Transfer of net assets from other agencies		23,983	0	0	23,983
Distributions to owners		(843)	0	0	(843)
Total		<u>52,477</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>52,477</u>
Balance at 30 June 2020		<u>3,115,096</u>	<u>41,302</u>	<u>(273,934)</u>	<u>2,882,464</u>

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

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

Note	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT		
Service appropriation	220,128	204,538
Capital appropriations	10,778	3,762
Holding account drawdowns	8,717	8,859
Non-retained revenue distributed to owner	(843)	(735)
Royalties for Regions Fund	35,657	18,193
Net cash provided by State Government	274,437	234,617
Utilised as follows:		
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Payments		
Employee benefits	(171,619)	(167,556)
Supplies and services	(71,821)	(69,216)
Accommodation	(3,417)	(3,041)
Grants and subsidies	(42,771)	(35,347)
GST payments on purchases	(13,419)	(12,389)
GST payments to taxation authority	(207)	(60)
Other payments	(24,045)	(19,881)
Finance costs	(262)	0
Receipts		
User charges and fees	46,285	42,294
Commonwealth grants and contributions	3,138	1,260
Interest received	1,063	2,109
GST receipts on sales	5,410	5,498
GST receipts from taxation authority	8,476	7,040
Other receipts	35,902	31,147
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	7.3.2 (227,287)	(218,142)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payments		
Purchase of non-current physical assets	(36,294)	(32,971)
Receipts		
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets	990	988
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	(35,304)	(31,983)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payments		
Principal repayments of lease liabilities	(4,654)	0
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	(4,654)	0
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	7,192	(15,508)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	75,399	90,907
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	7.3 82,591	75,399

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
As at 30 June 2020

	2020 Estimate \$'000	2020 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2020 Actual \$'000	Restated 2019* Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
Delivery of Services						
Item 80 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	209,542	253,667	44,125	253,667	233,087	20,580
Royalties for Regions Fund	22,097	17,098	(4,999)	17,098	11,759	5,339
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes - <i>Salaries and Allowances Act 1975</i>	625	625	0	625	625	0
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	232,264	271,390	39,126	271,390	245,471	25,919
Capital						
Item 125 Capital appropriations	11,190	10,778	(412)	10,778	3,762	7,016
Royalties for Regions Fund	23,994	18,559	(5,435)	18,559	6,434	12,125
Total capital	35,184	29,337	(5,847)	29,337	10,196	19,141
GRAND TOTAL	267,448	300,727	33,279	300,727	255,667	45,060
Details of Expenses by Service						
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park	0	12,457	12,457	12,457	11,641	816
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island	0	12,647	12,647	12,647	4,729	7,918
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo	0	9,682	9,682	9,682	7,738	1,944
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	14,196	13,677	(519)	13,677	15,674	(1,997)
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	100,445	97,199	(3,246)	97,199	92,347	4,852
Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	63,543	60,268	(3,275)	60,268	63,641	(3,373)
Research and Conservation Partnerships	27,983	20,694	(7,289)	20,694	21,494	(800)
Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	19,271	18,437	(834)	18,437	19,801	(1,364)
Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	51,078	50,193	(885)	50,193	51,248	(1,055)
Bushfire Suppression	31,383	49,473	18,090	49,473	36,234	13,239
Total Cost of Services	307,899	344,727	36,828	344,727	324,547	20,180
Add Loss on Revaluation of Assets	0	251,400	251,400	251,400	106,416	144,984
Less Total Income	(77,180)	(81,175)	(3,995)	(81,175)	(80,696)	(479)
Net Cost of Services	230,719	514,952	284,233	514,952	350,267	164,685
Adjustments	1,545	(243,562)	(245,107)	(243,562)	(109,491)	(134,071)
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	232,264	271,390	39,126	271,390	240,776	30,614
Capital Expenditure						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	41,901	36,294	(5,607)	36,294	32,971	3,323
Adjustment for other funding sources	(6,717)	(6,957)	(240)	(6,957)	(22,775)	15,818
Capital appropriations	35,184	29,337	(5,847)	29,337	10,196	19,141
Details of Income Estimates						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	30	102	72	102	102	0
	30	102	72	102	102	0

"2020 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.

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

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 2020 and between the actual results for 2020 and 2019.

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.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Accountable Authority of the Department on 10 September 2020.

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.

Significant judgements and estimates have been made to meet the requirements of the new standards AASB 16, AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

AASB 16:

Key judgements to be made for AASB 16 include identifying leases within contracts, determination of whether there is reasonable certainty around exercising extension and termination options, identifying whether payments are variable or fixed in substance and determining the stand-alone selling prices for lease and non-lease components.

Estimation uncertainty that may arise is the estimation of the lease term, determination of the appropriate discount rate to discount the lease payments and assessing whether the right-of-use asset needs to be impaired.

AASB 15:

Key judgements include determining the timing of revenue from contracts with customers in terms of timing of satisfaction of performance obligations and determining the transaction price and the amounts allocated to performance obligations.

Estimation uncertainty include determining the transaction prices (estimating variable consideration, adjusting the consideration for the time value of money and measuring non-cash considerations), allocating the transaction price, including estimating stand-alone selling prices and allocating discounts and variable consideration.

AASB 1058:

Key judgements include determining whether funds are restricted and whether transferred funds represent a transfer of a non-financial asset.

Key judgements also include determining whether AASB 15, AASB 1058 or a combination of the two standards apply to a contract with a funding provider. This requires an assessment of whether there are specific performance obligations present in the contract.

Refer to Note 9.1.1 for the impact of the initial adoption and the practical expedients applied in the initial recognition.

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.

The Department administers assets, liabilities, income and expenses on behalf of Government which are not controlled by, nor integral to, the function of the Department. These administered balances and transactions are not recognised in the principal financial statements of the Department but schedules are prepared using the same basis as the financial statements and are presented at Note 10.1 'Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service' and Note 10.3 'Administered assets and liabilities'.

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, their 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 2020

	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	
	Restated 2020	2019*	Restated 2020	2019*	Restated 2020	2019*	Restated 2020	2019*	Restated 2020	2019*	Restated 2020	2019*	Restated 2020	2019*	Restated 2020	2019*	Restated 2020	2019*	Restated 2020	2019*	Restated 2020	2019*
	\$'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	6,890	5,472	51,247	47,852	42,080	45,386	11,363	10,076	11,981	12,674	33,925	34,955	17,647	11,625	175,133	168,040
Supplies and services	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,348	1,797	24,310	24,533	11,149	12,231	6,897	8,504	4,452	4,495	10,164	9,605	12,892	10,514	72,212	71,679
Depreciation expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	246	244	13,383	12,200	2,679	1,876	757	519	1,155	1,093	4,662	3,986	3,370	2,440	26,252	22,358
Accommodation expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	56	1,470	1,267	820	738	237	185	137	165	393	414	290	216	3,417	3,041
Grants and subsidies	12,457	11,641	12,647	4,729	9,682	7,738	3,928	7,903	3,071	1,754	205	152	724	1,353	9	33	25	27	23	17	42,771	35,347
Other expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	193	202	3,614	4,741	3,284	3,258	705	857	688	1,341	971	2,261	15,225	11,422	24,680	24,082
Finance costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	104	0	51	0	11	0	15	0	53	0	26	0	262	0
Total cost of services	12,457	11,641	12,647	4,729	9,682	7,738	13,677	15,674	97,199	92,347	60,268	63,641	20,694	21,494	18,437	19,801	50,193	51,248	49,473	36,234	344,727	324,547
Loss on revaluation of assets																						
Loss on revaluation of land	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,710	724	72,404	30,648	63,630	26,934	0	0	113,656	48,110	0	0	0	0	251,400	106,416
Total loss on revaluation of assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,710	724	72,404	30,648	63,630	26,934	0	0	113,656	48,110	0	0	0	0	251,400	106,416
Income																						
User charges and fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	251	156	24,368	26,361	5,320	4,911	1,794	2,583	3,952	5,968	1,604	1,911	6,214	4,030	43,503	45,920
Commonwealth grants and contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	168	0	0	9	2,087	1,252	0	0	0	(1)	0	0	2,255	1,260
Other grants and contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,613	3,640	2,582	2,605	526	761	12,040	11,486	200	259	1,353	484	0	0	20,314	19,235
Interest revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	315	80	351	565	1,078	44	184	11	18	0	0	781	1,946
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	299	6,715	5,024	3,628	3,387	108	107	3,088	2,226	165	319	264	207	13,980	11,569
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	14	(76)	131	(19)	(7)	7	(15)	40	57	164	298	219	288	342	766
Total income other than income from State Government	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,883	4,109	33,838	34,436	9,535	9,412	16,601	16,491	7,324	8,694	3,297	3,029	6,697	4,525	81,175	80,696
NET COST OF SERVICES	12,457	11,641	12,647	4,729	9,682	7,738	11,504	12,289	135,765	88,559	114,363	81,163	4,093	5,003	124,769	59,217	46,896	48,219	42,776	31,709	514,952	350,267
Income from State Government																						
Service appropriation	12,457	11,641	12,647	4,729	9,682	7,738	9,485	9,988	63,093	57,972	49,420	53,662	0	0	10,658	11,224	45,615	47,555	41,235	29,203	254,292	233,712
Services received free of charge	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	201	416	242	202	156	63	53	324	81	167	125	148	1,202	1,384	2,060
Royalties for Regions Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,161	5,944	437	425	0	0	0	5,500	5,390	0	0	0	17,098	11,759
Total income from State Government	12,457	11,641	12,647	4,729	9,682	7,738	9,549	10,189	74,670	64,158	50,059	54,243	63	53	10,982	11,305	51,282	53,070	41,383	30,405	272,774	247,531
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the period	0	0	0	0	0	0	(1,955)	(2,100)	(61,095)	(24,401)	(64,304)	(26,920)	(4,030)	(4,950)	(113,787)	(47,912)	4,386	4,851	(1,393)	(1,304)	(242,178)	(102,736)

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 result 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.

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement. Depreciation expense was restated in 2019.

2.3 Schedule of assets and liabilities by service

As at 30 June 2020

	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	
	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
ASSETS																						
Current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,901	626	20,563	19,053	60,945	3,284	7,253	62,712	4,033	6,267	5,559	3,839	5,660	2,678	105,914	98,459
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	27,411	23,310	973,183	1,002,836	712,794	689,702	18,477	15,911	977,289	1,168,379	82,150	71,074	58,811	52,760	2,850,115	3,023,972
Total assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	29,312	23,936	993,746	1,021,889	773,739	692,986	25,730	78,623	981,322	1,174,646	87,709	74,913	64,471	55,438	2,956,029	3,122,431
LIABILITIES																						
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,686	1,220	19,200	12,988	15,752	12,524	2,960	2,212	4,545	4,021	8,571	6,515	2,066	831	54,780	40,311
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	372	247	7,148	2,096	4,667	2,120	962	426	1,078	542	3,282	1,194	1,276	128	18,785	6,753
Total liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,058	1,467	26,348	15,084	20,419	14,644	3,922	2,638	5,623	4,563	11,853	7,709	3,342	959	73,565	47,064
NET ASSETS	0	0	0	0	0	0	27,254	22,469	967,398	1,006,805	753,320	678,342	21,808	75,985	975,699	1,170,083	75,856	67,204	61,129	54,479	2,882,464	3,075,367

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.

2019 figures are not restated, as they are in the Statement of Financial Position, as the correction resulted in a reclassification of equity between the revaluation reserve and accumulated surplus. Assets or liabilities were not impacted.

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	2020 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)
Employee benefits expense	3.1(a)	175,133	168,040
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	42,651	39,163
Grants and subsidies	3.2	42,771	35,347
Other expenses	3.3	100,309	98,802

3.1a) Employee benefits expense

Employee benefits	161,384	151,142
Termination benefits	0	3,206
Superannuation – defined contribution plans ^(a)	13,749	13,692
Total employee benefits expense	175,133	168,040
Add: AASB 16 non-monetary benefits	1,173	0
Less: Employee contributions	(601)	0
Net employee benefits	175,705	168,040

(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 \$11.79 million (2019: \$11.61 million).

Employee benefits: Includes wages, salaries and social contributions, paid annual leave entitlements and paid sick leave, profit-sharing and bonuses; and non-monetary benefits (such as medical care, housing, cars and free or subsidised goods or services) for current employees.

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.

AASB 16 Non-monetary benefits: Non-monetary employee benefits, that are employee benefits expenses, predominately relate to the provision of vehicles through State Fleet and housing benefits and are measured at the cost incurred by the Department. Depreciation and interest are apportioned based on the estimated business use percentage.

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.

	2020 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)
Current		
<u>Employee benefits provisions</u>		
Annual leave ^(a)	15,822	13,664
Long service leave ^(b)	19,414	18,375
	35,236	32,039
<u>Other provisions</u>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	408	371
Total current employee related provisions	35,644	32,410
Non-current		
<u>Employee benefits provisions</u>		
Long service leave ^(b)	6,925	6,674
<u>Other provisions</u>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	82	79
Total non-current employee related provisions	7,007	6,753
Total employee related provisions	42,651	39,163

(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:

	2020 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	10,669	9,336
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	5,153	4,328
	15,822	13,664

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:

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	7,381	7,244
More than 12 months after the reporting period	18,958	17,805
	26,339	25,049

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'.

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
<u>Employment on-costs provision</u>		
Carrying amount at start of period	450	446
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	186	180
Payments/other sacrifices of economic benefits	(151)	(185)
Unwinding of the discount	5	9
Carrying amount at end of period	490	450

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

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
3.2 Grants and subsidies		
<u>Recurrent</u>		
State Government ^(a)	37,470	26,289
Private organisations	4,486	4,664
Local Government	475	3,642
Federal Government	340	752
Total grants and subsidies	42,771	35,347

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

Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	12,457	11,641
Zoological Parks Authority	9,885	7,747
Rottneest Island Authority	12,647	4,729
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	2,204	1,387
Western Australian Museum	148	494

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	3,650	3,349
Consultants and contractors	5,717	4,172
Services and contracts	33,284	34,508
Materials	16,306	16,141
Repairs and maintenance	5,207	5,770
Travel	4,282	4,449
Staff Costs (including uniforms & protective clothing)	3,699	3,235
Other	67	55
Total supplies and services expenses	72,212	71,679

Accommodation expenses

Lease rentals ^(a)	1,381	1,037
Electricity, power and water	2,036	2,004
Total accommodation expenses	3,417	3,041

	2020 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)
Other expenses		
Employment on-costs	2,259	1,239
Operating lease – motor vehicle ^(b)	0	3,630
Light fleet management cost	3,566	3,606
Other lease, rental and hire expenses ^(a)	17,616	12,456
Software maintenance	1,239	3,151
Total other expenses	24,680	24,082
Total other expenditure	100,309	98,802

- (a) Included within lease rentals and other lease, rental and hire expenses are short-term and low value leases of up to \$5,000. This excludes leases with another wholly-owned public sector entity lessor agency. Refer to note 5.2a) for aggregate short-term and low value lease expense disclosures.
- (b) State fleet leases with the Department of Finance have been capitalised as lease assets and liabilities in the 2019-20 period. See note 5.2 for right of use assets and note 7.1 for lease liabilities.

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 \$6.57 million (2019: \$9.44 million).

Expected credit losses is an allowance of trade receivables, 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 in the allowance for impairment of receivables.

Accommodation expenses: Short-term and low value leases 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. Accommodation expense includes Government Office Accommodation, that falls outside the scope of AASB 16 Leases.

Transactions with the Department of Finance was \$1.15 million in 2020 (2019: \$1.02 million), and transactions with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development was \$0.07 million in 2020 (2019: \$0.79 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 lease – motor vehicle: In 2019 transactions with State Fleet amounted to \$3.63 million. In 2020 State Fleet transactions are presented as lease assets and liabilities with cash payments disclosed as finance costs and principal repayments of lease liabilities in the Statement of Cash Flows.

Light fleet management costs: Maintenance and running costs for the leased light vehicle fleet.

Other lease, rental and hire expenses include:

- i) Short-term leases with a lease term of 12 months or less;
- ii) Low-value leases with an underlying value of \$5,000 or less; and

- iii) Variable lease payments, recognised in the period in which the event or condition that triggers those payments occurs.

The Department holds short term and low-value aircraft, plant and equipment and other leases. 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 the Department of Fire and Emergency Services amounted to \$1.20 million (2019: \$0.81 million).

Software maintenance: Software licence assurance, upgrade and support costs incurred by the Department.

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:

		2020	2019
		(\$000)	(\$000)
Income from State Government	4.1	272,774	247,531
User charges and fees	4.2	43,503	45,920
Other revenue	4.3	13,980	11,569
Commonwealth grants and contributions	4.4	2,255	1,260
Other grants and contributions	4.5	20,314	19,235
Gains	4.6	342	766
4.1 Income from State Government			
Appropriation received during the period:			
Service appropriation ^(a)		254,292	233,712
		254,292	233,712
Assets transferred from/(to) other State government agencies during the period: ^(b)			
Inventories		0	0
		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		0	1,123
- Department of Justice		51	28
- Landgate		206	531
- Department of Finance		89	73
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development		53	53
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation		6	156
- Main Roads Western Australia		265	10
- State Solicitors Office		699	70
- Department of Health		15	16
Total services received		1,384	2,060

	2020 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)
Royalties for Regions Fund:		
Regional Community Services Account ^(c)	17,098	11,759
Total income from State Government	272,774	247,531

(a) **Service Appropriations** are recognised as revenue 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 and interpretation 1038. 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 income when the Department receives the funds. The Department has assessed Royalties for Regions agreements and concludes that they are not within the scope of AASB 15 as they do not meet the 'sufficiently specific' criterion.

The application of AASB 15 and AASB 1058 from 1 July 2019 has had no impact on the treatment of income from State Government.

4.2 User charges and fees

User charges	20,959	23,657
Fees	22,544	22,263
	43,503	45,920

4.2a) User charges

Entry fees	8,558	9,588
Camping	5,287	4,632
Park passes	1,724	1,676
Merchandise	2,213	2,915
Leases	1,928	2,201
Other	1,249	2,645
	20,959	23,657

During the financial year the Department's transactions with other government related entities on user charges and fees amounts to \$15.33 million (2019: \$15.70 million).

Until 30 June 2019, revenue was recognised and measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

From 1 July 2019, revenue is recognised in line with the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Department expects to be entitled in exchange for goods or services. Revenue is recorded and recognised in the accounting period in which the relevant performance obligations have been satisfied. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Entry Fees: Admission charges for national parks and attractions. Revenue is recognised at a point in time.

Camping: Hire fees for camp sites in national parks. Revenue is recognised over time with unearned revenue adjusted at year-end.

Park passes: Park passes sold by the Department entitle customers to entry to national parks over a designated time period. Revenue is recognised over time with unearned revenue adjusted at year-end.

Merchandise: 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.

Leases: Lease income from rental of land or facilities is recognised over the period of use under AASB 16 Leases.

Other: Other User Charges includes T class licence revenue and E class licence revenue. T class licences represent fees to conduct commercial operations within parks managed under the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984. The licences are considered low value and the fees are recognised at a point in time. E class licence revenue are issued to commercial providers to operate in national park and are variable. E class licence revenue is recognised over time.

Fees: Revenue is recognised in accordance with the satisfaction of performance obligations in accordance with the specific contract for service. Depending on the contract fees are recognised at a point in time or over time with 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.

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
4.2b) User charges by location/business unit		
Goldfields	10	17
Kimberley	1,569	2,263
Midwest	4,113	4,540
Parks and Visitor Services ^(a)	821	854
Pilbara	3,299	4,059
South Coast	1,760	1,793
South West	1,432	1,379
Swan	4,797	5,160
Warren	3,047	3,502
Wheatbelt	111	90
	20,959	23,657

(a) Parks and Visitor Services is a division which is primarily centrally located and operating from Kensington, WA.

4.2c) Fees by sector

State Government	15,212	15,358
Private organisations	6,414	6,457
Federal Government	543	413
Local Government	375	35
	22,544	22,263

4.3 Other revenue

Mining compensation	7,653	6,818
Insurance refunds ^(a)	223	263
Forest and beach shack leases	1,000	677
Other	1,526	1,280
Plant fund expenditure recoup	22	183
Communication sites	960	372
Workers compensation payroll recoup ^(a)	688	386
Publications	327	299
Apiary sites	377	233
Diesel fuel rebate	389	434
Sale of minor assets	97	158
Assets found during the period:		
-Buildings	618	466
-Infrastructure	100	0
	13,980	11,569

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

Mining compensation: Compensation for land cleared to conduct mining activities on Department land. Revenue is variable consideration under AASB 16 leases. Compensation provided to the Department is based on the expected hectares of land to be cleared with adjustment for actual land cleared. Revenue is recognised on a systematic basis with revenue received in advance held in unearned revenue.

Forest and beach shack leases, communication sites and apiary sites: Lease income from the rental of accommodation, telecommunication towers and land sites are recognised over a period of time on a systematic basis.

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
4.4 Commonwealth grants and contributions		
Recurrent	2,255	1,260
	2,255	1,260

The Department received revenue from the Commonwealth Government during the period in relation to 17 separate conservation projects.

4.5 Other grants and contributions

Capital	2,298	1,218
Recurrent	18,016	18,017
	20,314	19,235

The Department received revenue from a range of private and state granting entities in 2020 in relation to 149 separate conservation projects. The state grants revenue amounted to \$9.99 million (2019: \$8.00 million). Any unspent funds remaining at the conclusion of individual projects are returned to the relevant granting entity.

Until 30 June 2019

Income from Commonwealth grants is recognised at fair value when the grant is receivable.

From 1 July 2019

Recurrent grants: Revenue from grant contracts that contain sufficiently specific performance obligations are recognised over time or at a point in time when performance obligations are satisfied in line with AASB 15 Contracts with Customers. Where revenue is recognised over time revenue will be recognised in accordance with costs expended on the grant. Revenue and costs are allocated to specific purpose accounts that track the account balance of grants.

Where grant contracts do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations revenue is recognised when the Department is entitled to funding under AASB 1058.

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

Capital grants: Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received to the extent the obligations for asset acquisition or construction specified in the grant are satisfied. Unfulfilled obligations are carried as unearned revenue. Capital grants for land purchases are recognised at a point in time, when the land is purchased. For assets acquired or constructed over time income is recognised in line with the capitalisation of costs. See note 6.6b) for the Department's non-financial asset construction and acquisition liability.

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
4.6 Gains		
<u>Net proceeds from disposal of non-current assets</u>		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	965	1,088
Buildings	25	0
Trade-in	19	126
<u>Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed</u>		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	(505)	(274)
Buildings	(151)	(174)
<u>Retirement of Lease Asset and Liabilities</u>		
Net gain/(loss) on retirement of lease asset and liabilities	(11)	0
Net gain/(loss)	342	766

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:

		Restated
	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1 2,626,538	2,837,901
Right-of-use assets	5.2 10,154	0
Total key assets	2,636,692	2,837,901
Depreciation and impairment	5.3 26,252	22,358

5.1(a) Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

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,d)	(258,317)	88	0	0	0	0	0	(258,229)
Impairment losses(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation(d)	0	(6,217)	0	(9,236)	(2,980)	(3,925)	0	(22,358)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2019	2,555,314	112,476	43,852	69,588	18,434	37,668	569	2,837,901

- (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.
- (c) Information on fair value measurements is provided in Note 8.3.
- (d) The depreciation and revaluation increment for buildings was restated for the error set out in note 9.2. Depreciation and the revaluation of buildings was reduced by \$4.7 million in the restated presentation of Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

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

Year ended 30 June 2020	Land (\$'000)	Buildings (\$'000)	Assets under construction (\$'000)	Plant, equipment (\$'000)	Vehicles (\$'000)	Infrastructure (\$'000)	Works of art (\$'000)	Total (\$'000)
1 July 2019								
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
Carrying amount at start of period	2,555,314	112,476	43,852	69,588	18,434	37,668	569	2,837,901
Additions	4,069	1,509	16,475	3,755	2,862	7,790	0	36,460
Transfers(a)	20,342	3,641	0	0	0	0	0	23,983
Transfers between categories	0	3,523	(28,376)	11,944	1,662	11,007	93	(147)
Assets not previously identified	0	618	0	0	0	100	0	718
Assets classified as held for sale	0	0	0	(36)	(8)	0	0	(44)
Other disposals	0	(151)	0	(204)	(201)	0	0	(556)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)(c)	(251,400)	1,105	0	0	0	0	0	(250,295)
Impairment losses(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	(6,242)	0	(8,239)	(3,384)	(3,617)	0	(21,482)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2020	2,328,325	116,479	31,951	76,808	19,365	52,948	662	2,626,538
Gross carrying amount	2,328,325	116,479	31,951	174,567	43,403	108,112	662	2,803,499
Accumulated depreciation	0	0	0	(97,759)	(24,038)	(55,164)	0	(176,961)
Accumulated Impairment loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(a) The Department received \$23.98 million of assets in 2019-20 and \$0.40 million of assets in 2018-19 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.

(c) Information on fair value measurement is provided in Note 8.3.

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 2019 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuations and Property Analytics). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2020 and recognised at 30 June 2020. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$197,195,500 (2019: \$194,512,100) and buildings: \$2,360,000 (2019: \$2,308,500). 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 \$251.40 million was recognised at 30 June 2020 (2019: \$106.42 million). The decrement was recorded in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as a loss on revaluation of land as there is no remaining asset revaluation balance for land. The Department holds a significant amount of land parcels that are spread across the state. Market conditions vary depending on the region but, generally, there was a general reduction in the property values throughout the states with most areas featuring a 10% to 15% reduction, which has been factored into the valuation. In future financial periods increases in the value of land resulting from the revaluation process will be reported as a gain in the statement of comprehensive income to the extent it reverses previously recognised decrements which is \$357.82 million.

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.

5.2 Right-of-use assets

Year ended 30 June 2020	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)	Accommodation ^(b) (\$000)	Plant, equipment (\$000)	Vehicles ^(a) (\$000)	Total (\$000)
At 1 July 2019						
Recognition of right-of-use assets on initial application of AASB 16	0	5	1,071	59	8,653	9,788
Carrying amount at start of period	0	5	1,071	59	8,653	9,788
Additions	15	154	1,223	29	3,773	5,194
Disposals	0	0	(11)	0	(47)	(58)
Depreciation	(1)	(31)	(1,056)	(18)	(3,664)	(4,770)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2020	14	128	1,227	70	8,715	10,154
Gross carrying amount	15	159	2,240	88	12,108	14,610
Accumulated depreciation	(1)	(31)	(1,013)	(18)	(3,393)	(4,456)

(a) Right of use assets represent leases with State Fleet.

(b) In 2020 \$0.57 million (carrying amount) right of use assets from Department of Communities.

The Department's leasing activities and how these are accounted for:

The Department has leases for vehicles, office and residential accommodation.

The Department has also entered into several Memorandum of Understanding Agreements (MOUs) with the Department of Finance for the leasing of office accommodation. These are not recognised under AASB 16 because of substitution rights held by the Department of Finance and are accounted for as an expense as incurred.

Up to 30 June 2019, the Department classified leases as either finance leases or operating leases. From 1 July 2019, the Department recognises leases as right-of-use assets and associated liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position. The corresponding lease liabilities in relation to these right-of-use assets have been disclosed in note 7.1.

Initial Recognition

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost including the following:

- The amount of initial measurement of lease liability,
- Any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received,
- Any initial direct costs, and
- Restoration costs, including dismantling and removing the underlying asset.

This includes all leased assets other than investment property ROU assets, which are measured in accordance with AASB 140 'Investment Property'.

The Department has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases (with a lease term of 12 months or less) and low value leases (with an underlying value of \$5,000 or less). Lease payments associated with these leases are expensed over a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Subsequent Measurement

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets, requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liability.

	2020 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)
The following amounts relating to leases have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.		
5.2(a) Lease disclosures		
Interest expense	262	0
Short-term leases (included in other expenditure and employee benefits expenditure) ^(b)	19,959	0
Low-value leases (included in other expenditure)	35	0
Income from subleasing right-of-use assets	(601)	0
Total amount recognised in the statement of comprehensive income (net)	19,655	0
Total lease cash outflow ^(a)	24,571	0

(a) Total lease cash outflow includes short-term leases, low-value leases and leases that meet the AASB 16 Leases criteria.

(b) Low-value leases included in employee benefits expenditure relates to periodic Government Regional Officer Housing accommodation utilised by Department staff. \$13.2 million in short-term leases relate to aircraft hire and aircraft standby charges.

	2020 (\$000)	Restated 2019 (\$000)
5.3 Depreciation and impairment		
<u>Property, plant and equipment</u>		
Plant, equipment	8,239	9,236
Vehicles	3,384	2,980
Buildings	6,242	6,217
Infrastructure	3,617	3,925
Total depreciation property, plant and equipment	21,482	22,358
<u>Right-of-use assets</u>		
Vehicles	3,664	0
Accommodation	1,056	0
Buildings	31	0
Plant & equipment	18	0
Land	1	0
Total depreciation for right-of-use assets	4,770	0
Total depreciation for the period	26,252	22,358

As at 30 June 2020 there were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment or infrastructure or lease assets.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2020 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.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated on a straight line basis over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. If the Department is reasonably certain to exercise a purchase option, the right-of-use asset is depreciated over the underlying asset's useful life.

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Department at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

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.

Right-of-use assets are tested for impairment when an indication of impairment is identified.

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	2020 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)
Inventories	6.1	1,581	857
Receivables	6.2	13,756	12,161
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	218,430	192,983
Other assets	6.4	2,935	3,029
Payables	6.5	(4,414)	(3,120)
Other liabilities	6.6	(16,387)	(4,781)

6.1 Inventories

Inventories held for resale:

Souvenirs	1,153	346
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Inventories held for distribution:

Publications	428	511
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Total inventories	1,581	857
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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

Current

Trade receivables ^(b)	7,446	9,548
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(129)	(74)
GST receivable	1,407	1,668
Accrued revenue ^(a)	2,624	1,019
Total current receivables	11,348	12,161

Non-current

Accrued revenue ^(a)	2,408	0
Total non-current receivables	2,408	0
Total receivables	13,756	12,161

(a) Accrued revenue current and non-current includes financial assets linked to asset construction obligations disclosed in other current liabilities at note 6.6b). The opening balance was \$6.75 million at the initial application of AASB 1058 at 1st July 2019 and the closing balance was \$4.69 million.

(b) 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.

As at 30 June 2020 receivables from other government related entities amounted to \$4.41 million (2019: \$5.93 million).

	2020 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)
6.2.1 Movement in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables		
Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of trade receivables:		
Opening balance	74	30
Expected credit losses expense	66	56
Amounts written off during the period	(11)	(12)
Balance at end of period	129	74

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	9,782	8,717
Non-current	208,648	184,266
Balance at end of period	218,430	192,983

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	2,935	3,029
Total current	2,935	3,029

Prepayments 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.

6.5 Payables

<u>Current</u>		
Trade payables	540	183
Accrued expenses	1,995	2,241
Accrued salaries	1,709	544
Accrued superannuation	75	50
Parental payment	95	102
Total current	4,414	3,120

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 7.3.1 '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.

	Note	2020 (\$000)	2019 (\$000)
6.6 Other liabilities			
<u>Current</u>			
Unearned revenue	6.6a)	9,752	4,781
Asset construction/acquisition obligation	6.6b)	1,260	0
Total current		11,012	4,781
<u>Non-current</u>			
Unearned revenue	6.6a)	4,877	0
Asset construction/acquisition obligation	6.6b)	498	0
Total non-current		5,375	0
Balance at end of period		16,387	4,781

6.6a) Unearned revenue

Opening balance ^(a)	14,899	0
Additions	6,914	0
Income recognised during the current financial year	(7,184)	0
Closing balance	14,629	0

Unearned revenue includes performance obligations that are yet to be satisfied as at the end of the reporting period under AASB 15 Contracts with Customers. For the Department this includes grant or funding agreements that are non-capital in nature which feature performance obligations that impact the recognition and timing of revenue. Unearned revenue also includes mining compensation for land cleared as variable consideration under AASB 16 Leases.

6.6b) Asset construction/acquisition obligation

Opening balance ^(a)	936	0
Additions	1,164	0
Income recognised during the current financial year ^(b)	(342)	0
Closing balance	1,758	0

(a) The effect of the application of AASB 1058 is disclosed at note 9.1.1.

(b) Income is disclosed as part of capital grants at note 4.4 and 4.5.

Asset construction/acquisition obligations represent the Department's obligation to acquire or construct non-financial assets that are transferred to the Department through grant or funding agreements. The obligation is satisfied as the asset is constructed or as it is purchased, depending on the asset type. For assets constructed over a period of time income is recognised and the obligation is reduced in line with the capitalisation of costs assigned to the specific job for the grant agreement. Job codes have been historically setup by the Department for specific purpose accounts and utilised to track costs and income. Obligations satisfied at a point in time, for the Department, typically relate to land purchases and it is assumed there is no remaining obligation after purchase.

7. Financing

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

	Notes	
Lease liabilities		7.1
Finance costs		7.2
Cash and cash equivalents		7.3
Reconciliation of cash		7.3.1
Reconciliation of operating activities		7.3.2
Commitments		7.4
Non-cancellable operating lease commitments		7.4.1
Capital commitments		7.4.2
Other expenditure commitments		7.4.3
	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
7.1 Lease liabilities		
Current	3,710	0
Non-current	6,403	0
	10,113	0

The Department measures a lease liability, at the commencement date, at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at that date. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the Department uses the incremental borrowing rate provided by Western Australia Treasury Corporation.

Lease payments included by the Department as part of the present value calculation of lease liability include:

- Fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable;
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- Amounts expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- The exercise price of purchase options (where these are reasonably certain to be exercised);
- Payments for penalties for terminating a lease, where the lease term reflects the Department exercising an option to terminate the lease.

The interest on the lease liability is recognised in profit or loss over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period. Lease liabilities do not include any future changes in variable lease payments (that depend on an index or rate) until they take effect, in which case the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset.

Periods covered by extension or termination options are only included in the lease term by the Department if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated). Variable lease payments, not included in the measurement of lease liability, that are dependant on sales are recognised by the Department in profit or loss in the period in which the condition that triggers those payment occurs.

When a lease contract contains a lease component and a non-lease component, and if the non-lease component is material, the Department accounts for the amount of the non-lease

component separately, where practicable, from the lease amount by applying other applicable Standards. Immaterial non-lease component(s) may be included in the lease amount, and accounted for as a single lease, by asset class.

This section should be read in conjunction with note 5.2.

Subsequent measurement

Lease liabilities are measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liabilities; reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made; and remeasuring the carrying amount at amortised cost, subject to adjustments to reflect any reassessment or lease modifications.

The Department's leasing activities

The Department's light vehicle fleet is leased through the Department of Finance and represents a liability of \$8.71 million in 2020. Accommodation for regional staff is leased through a mixture of private realtors and Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) properties leased from private real estate agencies. Accommodation leased through GROH represented a liability of \$0.57 million in 2020. Leases are also arranged for office space, computer equipment and other plant and equipment.

Short-term and low-value leases

Payments associated with short-term and low-value leases are recognised as an expense in the statement of comprehensive income. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less. Low-value assets are assets that are individually valued less than \$5,000 at cost. This excludes leases with another wholly-owned public sector entity lessor agency. These expenses are included within note 3.3 Other Expenditure.

Potential future cash outflow exposure for leases

The Department's material lease liabilities are with the Department of Finance for light fleet vehicles. The potential exposure for future cash outflows for extension options and termination options not taken into account for lease liabilities is minimal.

Leases with below market terms and conditions

The Department has elected to measure leases at below market terms and conditions at cost. Qualitative information is provided for the Department peppercorn leases as the leases individually do not meet the the material threshold for disclosure.

Below Market Leases – Land

The Department has a below market lease for land as part of a joint management arrangement.

Below Market Leases – Airport Hangars

The Department has several below market leases for land and premises for aircraft and operations typically used for firefighting.

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
7.2 Finance costs		
Lease interest expense	262	0
Finance costs expensed	262	0

'Finance cost' includes the interest component of lease liability repayments, and the increase in financial liabilities and non-employee provisions due to the unwinding of discounts to reflect the passage of time.

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
7.3 Cash and cash equivalents		
7.3.1 Reconciliation of cash		
<i>Current</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	16,437	13,425
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
– Cash amounts in Special Purpose account ^(a)	63,787	60,169
	80,224	73,594
<i>Non-Current</i>		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
– Accrued salaries suspense account ^(b)	2,367	1,805
	2,367	1,805
Balance at end of period	82,591	75,399

(a) Cash held in the account is to fund the three special purpose accounts disclosed at note 9.6 '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.

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

		2020	Restated
	Notes	(\$000)	2019
		(\$000)	(\$000)
Net cost of services		(514,952)	(350,267)
Non-cash items			
Loss on revaluation of land	5.1	251,400	106,416
Depreciation expense	5.3	26,252	22,358
Services received free of charge	4.1	1,384	2,060
Adjustments for other non cash items		(717)	(490)
(Gain)/Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	4.6	(342)	(766)
(Increase)/decrease in assets			
Current receivables ^(a)		2,101	(3,694)
Inventories		(723)	379
Other current assets		3,674	3,979
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities			
Current payables and other current liabilities ^(a)		888	1,350
Provisions		3,488	444
Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(b)		260	89
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(227,287)	(218,142)

- (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.

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
7.4 Commitments		
7.4.1 Non-cancellable operating lease commitments		
Commitments for minimum lease payments are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	0	4,917
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	0	8,784
Later than 5 years	0	2,299
Balance at end of period	0	16,000

From 1 July 2019 the Department has recognised right-of-use assets and corresponding lease liability for these leases, excluding short term and low-value leases. Refer to note 7.1.

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

7.4.2 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	2,188	1,305
	2,188	1,305

The totals presented for capital commitments are GST inclusive.

7.4.3 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	12,729	7,988
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	2,353	1,904
	15,082	9,892

The totals presented for capital 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:

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Financial assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	16,437	13,425
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	66,154	61,974
Financial assets at amortised cost ^(a)	228,371	203,476
Total financial assets	310,962	278,875
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	14,527	3,120
Total financial liability	14,527	3,120

(a) The amount of 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 (\$000)	Current (\$000)	<30 days (\$000)	31-60 days (\$000)	61-90 days (\$000)	>91 days (\$000)
30 June 2020						
Expected credit loss rate		0.66%	1.21%	3.20%	6.82%	7.08%
Estimated total gross carrying amount at default	7,446	5,334	514	649	108	841
Expected credit losses	129	35	6	21	7	60
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

(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)
2020											
<u>Financial assets</u>											
Cash and cash equivalents	0.92	16,437	0	16,437	0	16,437	16,437	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	0.92	66,154	0	66,154	0	66,154	66,154	0	0	0	0
Receivables ^(a)		9,941	0	0	9,941	9,941	9,941	0	0	0	0
Amounts receivable for services		218,430	0	0	218,430	218,430	927	1,263	7,619	44,360	164,288
		310,962	0	82,591	228,371	310,962	93,459	1,263	7,619	44,360	164,288
<u>Financial liabilities</u>											
Payables		4,414	0	0	4,414	4,414	4,414	0	0	0	0
Lease liabilities	2.77	10,113	10,113	0	0	10,113	358	686	2,666	6,278	125
		14,527	10,113	0	4,414	14,527	4,772	686	2,666	6,278	125

(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)
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	0	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).

(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.

		-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
	Carrying amount (\$000)	Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)	Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)
2020					
<u>Financial assets</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents	16,437	(164)	(164)	164	164
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	66,154	(662)	(662)	662	662
Total increase/(decrease)		(826)	(826)	826	826
	Carrying amount (\$000)	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
	Carrying amount (\$000)	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

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 (2019: 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 4 litigation claims against it amounting to \$1,121,784 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 \$163,139 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 8 sites classified as *contaminated – remediation required*, 4 sites classified as *contaminated – restricted use* and 78 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.

Long service leave entitlements for casual employees

Casual employees are entitled to long service leave under the *Long Service Leave Act 1958* at a minimum, where it is not covered by a specific industry award. Under the Act casual employees are entitled to 8^{2/3} weeks paid leave after 10 years of continuous service. Long service leave entitlements for casual employees have not been recognised as at 30 June 2020 due to the complexity and reliability of calculating the entitlement and interpreting the legislation. The term of each employee's employment requires analysis to ensure the period was continuous and eligible for counting towards their long service leave entitlement. It is disclosed as a contingent liability as a sufficiently reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation cannot be made as at 30 June 2020.

8.3 Fair value measurement

Assets measured at fair value:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair value at end of period
2020	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
Land (Note 5.1)	0	197,196	2,131,129	2,328,325
Buildings (Note 5.1)	0	2,360	114,119	116,479
	0	199,556	2,245,248	2,444,804

Assets measured at fair value:	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Fair Value at end of period
Restated 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

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)

2020	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)
Fair Value at start of period	2,360,802	110,167
Additions	24,410	9,291
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Profit or Loss	(254,083)	0
Revaluation increments/(decrements) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	0	918
Transfers from/(to) Level 2	0	0
Disposals	0	(151)
Depreciation Expense	0	(6,106)
Fair Value at end of period	2,131,129	114,119
Total gains or losses for the period included in profit or loss, under 'Other Gains'		

Restated 2019	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)
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)	(229)
Transfers from/(to) Level 2	0	0
Disposals	0	(174)
Depreciation Expense	0	(6,083)
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'		

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
AASB 15 Revenue from Contract with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities	9.1.1a)
AASB 16 Leases	9.1.1b)
Future impact of Australian standards issued not yet operative	9.1.2
Correction of prior period errors	9.2
Key management personnel	9.3
Related party transactions	9.4
Affiliated bodies	9.5
Special purpose accounts	9.6
Remuneration of auditors	9.7
Equity	9.8
Supplementary financial information	9.9
Explanatory statement (Controlled Operations)	9.10
Statement of comprehensive income variances	9.10.1
Statement of financial position variances	9.10.2
Statement of cash flows variances	9.10.3

9.1 Impact of Australian standards

9.1.1 Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards

9.1.1a) AASB 15 Revenue from Contract with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers replaces AASB 118 Revenue and AASB 111 Construction Contracts for annual reporting periods on or after 1 January 2019. Under the new model, an entity shall recognise revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service and is based upon the transfer of control rather than transfer of risks and rewards.

AASB15 focuses on providing sufficient information to the users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from the contracts with customers. Revenue is recognised by applying the following five steps:

- Identifying contracts with customers
- Identifying separate performance obligations
- Determining the transaction price of the contract
- Allocating the transaction price to each of the performance obligations
- Recognising revenue as each performance obligation is satisfied.

Revenue is recognised either over time or at a point in time. Any distinct goods or services are separately identified and any discounts or rebates in the contract price are allocated to the separate elements.

In addition, the Department derives income from appropriations which are recognised under AASB 1058. AASB 1058 is applied to Not-for-Profit Entities for recognising income that is not revenue from contracts with customers. Timing of income recognition under AASB 1058 depends 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) recognised by the Department.

The Department adopts the modified retrospective approach on transition to AASB 15 and AASB 1058. No comparative information is restated under this approach, and the Department recognises 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 (1 July 2019).

Under this transition method, the Department elects not to apply the Standard retrospectively to contracts and transactions that are not completed contracts at the date of initial application. In respect of not-for-profit entities a completed contract is a contract where all revenue has been recognised in accordance with AASB 1004 *Contributions*.

Refer to Note 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 for the revenue and income accounting policies adopted from 1 July 2019.

The financial statement line items impacted by the adoption of AASB 15 and AASB 1058 are disclosed below. The current year financial amount is compared with what the total would have been if the standard had not been introduced and the former accounting treatment was maintained. Variance explanations for significant movements are provided.

	Variance note	Actual 2020 (\$000)	30 June 2020 under AASB 118 and 1004 (\$000)	Variance (\$000)
Statement of Comprehensive Income				
<u>Income</u>				
Commonwealth grants and contributions	1	2,255	3,178	(923)
Other grants and contributions	1	20,314	22,404	(2,090)
Statement of Financial Position				
<u>Assets</u>				
Receivables – current	2	11,348	9,066	2,282
Receivables – non-current	2	2,408	0	2,408
<u>Liabilities</u>				
Other current liabilities	3	11,012	4,375	6,637
Other non-current liabilities	3	5,375	0	5,375

Deficit for the period would have been \$239.17 million without the adoption of AASB 15 or 1058. Variance of \$3.013 million from reported loss of \$242.18 million in 2019-20.

Explanation for variances

1. Revenue recognition for 44 grant projects impacted by the introduction of new revenue recognition standards. Upfront recognition of revenue on transition for projects recognised under AASB 1058 reduced revenue recognition by approximately \$2.53 million. Impacted projects typically relate to environmental offsets where funds are granted for rehabilitation.
2. Receivables recognised under AASB 1058 for environmental offset funding arrangements with mining companies or developers.
3. Deferred funding for the Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program and other grants and funding agreements.

9.1.1b) AASB 16 Leases

AASB 16 Leases supersedes AASB 117 Leases and related Interpretations. AASB 16 primarily affects lessee accounting and provides a comprehensive model for the identification of lease arrangements and their treatment in the financial statements of both lessees and lessors.

The Department applies AASB 16 Leases from 1 July 2019 using the modified retrospective approach. As permitted under the specific transition provisions, comparatives are not restated. The cumulative effect of initially applying this Standard is recognised as an adjustment to the opening balance of accumulated surplus/(deficit).

The main changes introduced by this Standard include identification of lease within a contract and a new lease accounting model for lessees that require lessees to recognise all leases (operating and finance leases) on the Statement of Financial Position as right-of-use assets and lease liabilities, except for short term leases (lease terms of 12 months or less at commencement date) and low-value assets (where the underlying asset is valued less than \$5,000). The operating lease and finance lease distinction for lessees no longer exists.

Under AASB 16, the Department takes into consideration all operating leases that were off balance sheet under AASB 117 and recognises:

- (a) right of use assets and lease liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position, initially measured at the present value of future lease payments, discounted using the appropriate incremental borrowing rate on 1 July 2019 based on the term of the lease. Incremental borrowing rates were sourced from the West Australian Treasury Corporation;
- (b) depreciation of right-of-use assets and interest on lease liabilities in the Statement of Comprehensive Income; and
- (c) the total amount of cash paid as principal amount, which is presented in the cash flows from financing activities, and interest paid, which is presented in the cash flows from operating activities, in the Statement of Cash Flows.

The Department measures concessionary leases that are of low value terms and conditions at cost at inception. There is no financial impact for the Department. Qualitative notes about the concessionary leases the Department has is disclosed at 7.1.

The right-of-use assets are assessed for impairment at the date of transition and the Department has not identified any impairments to its right-of-use assets.

On transition, the Department has elected to apply the following practical expedients in the assessment of their leases that were previously classified as operating leases under AASB 117:

- (a) A single discount rate has been applied to a portfolio of leases with reasonably similar characteristics;
- (b) Where the lease term at initial application ended within 12 months, the Department has accounted for these as short-term leases;
- (c) Initial direct costs have been excluded from the measurement of the right-of-use asset;

The Department has not reassessed whether existing contracts are, or contained a lease at 1 July 2019. The requirements of paragraphs 9-11 of AASB 16 are applied to contracts that came into existence post 1 July 2019.

	Actual (\$000)
Measurement of lease liabilities	
Operating Lease Commitments disclosed as at 30 June 2019	16,000
Discounted using incremental borrowing rate at date of initial application ¹	15,087
Add: Additional lease liabilities recognised as at 1 July 2019	1,038
(Less): Short term leases not recognised as liability	(489)
(Less): Low value leases not recognised as liability	(22)
(Less):GOA leases not recognised as right-of-use assets	(5,992)
Lease liability at recognition calculation	<u>9,622</u>
Lease liability recognised at 1 July 2019	<u>9,622</u>
Current lease liabilities	3,800
Non-current lease liabilities	5,822

¹The WATC incremental borrowing rate was used for the purposes of calculating the lease transition opening balance.

The effect of adopting AASB 15, AASB 1058 and AASB 16 as at 1 July 2019 was, as follows:

	Adjustments	1 July 2019 (\$000)
Assets		
Receivables	(a)	6,746
Other current assets	(b)	(166)
Right-of-use assets	(b)	9,788
Total Assets		16,368
Liabilities		
Other current liabilities	(a)	11,053
Lease liabilities	(b)	9,622
Total Liabilities		20,675
Total adjustments on Equity		
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	(a),(b)	(4,307)
		(4,307)

With these changes, the net impact on retained earnings on 1st July 2019 was a decrease of \$4.31 million.

9.1.2 Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards issued 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 1059	<i>Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors</i>	1 Jan 2020
	This Standard addresses the accounting for a service concession arrangement (a type of public private partnership) by a grantor that is a public sector agency 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.	
	(The Department has not identified any public private partnerships within scope of the Standard).	
AASB 2018-6	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of a Business</i>	1 Jan 2020
	The Standard amends AASB 3 to clarify the definition of a business, assisting entities to determine whether a transaction should be accounted for as a business combination or as an asset acquisition.	
	There is no financial impact.	

<i>AASB 2018-7</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of Material</i>	1 Jan 2020
	<p>The Standard principally amends AASB 101 and AASB 108. The amendments refine the definition of material in AASB 101. The amendments clarify the definition of material and its application by improving the wording and aligning the definition across AASB Standards and other publications. The amendment also includes some supporting requirements in AASB 101 in the definition to give it more prominence and clarifies the <i>explanation</i> accompanying the definition of material.</p> <p>There is no financial impact.</p>	
<i>AASB 2019-1</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – References to the Conceptual Framework</i>	1 Jan 2020
	<p>This Standard sets out amendments to Australian Accounting Standards, Interpretations and other pronouncements to reflect the issuance of the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting (Conceptual Framework) by the AASB.</p> <p>There is no financial impact.</p>	
<i>AASB 2019-2</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Implementation of AASB 1059</i>	1 Jan 2020
	<p>This Standard makes amendments to AASB 16 and AASB 1059 to: (a) amend the modified retrospective method set out in paragraph C4 of AASB 1059; (b) modify AASB 16 to provide a practical expedient to grantors of service concession arrangements so that AASB 16 would not need to be applied to assets that would be recognised as service concession assets under AASB 1059; and (c) include editorial amendments to the application guidance and implementation guidance accompanying AASB 1059.</p> <p>The Department does not maintain any public private partnership that is within the scope of the Standard.</p>	
<i>AASB 2020-1</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current</i>	1 Jan 2020
	<p>This Standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non current.</p> <p>There is no financial impact.</p>	

9.2 Correction of prior period errors

In the 2019-20 period it was identified that depreciation for buildings had been overstated in previous financial periods. When revaluations were processed the revaluation increment/decrement and the write back of accumulated depreciation was accounted for on a batch/group basis. Depreciation was overstated as individual building assets depreciated on the basis of their gross historical cost in the accounting system rather than at a restated fair value.

The correction for the over-depreciation of buildings was calculated from and including the 2013-14 period with the cumulative impact presented in the restated 2017-18 Statement of Financial Position. The net cumulative impact is a reduction in revaluation reserves for buildings and an increase in accumulated surplus with the balance of buildings being unaffected. Correcting entries were based on the batch write backs of accumulated depreciation processed during revaluation.

The correction of the prior period error has been applied retrospectively and the amount of the adjustment relating to each of the prior periods is presented below.

a) Restatement of prior year balances and transactions

	As previously reported 2019 (\$000)	Adjustments 2019 (\$000)	Restated 2019 (\$000)
Statement of Comprehensive Income			
Depreciation	27,053	(4,695)	22,358
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	(147,118)	(4,695)	(151,813)
	Contributed Equity 2018 (\$000)	Reserves 2018 (\$000)	Accumulated Surplus 2018 (\$000)
Statement of Changes in Equity			
Balance as at 1 July 2018	3,052,885	207,935	59,386
Changes in accounting policy*	0	0	(24)
Correction of prior period errors	0	(15,925)	15,925
Balance as at 1 July 2018 - restated	3,052,885	192,010	75,287

*Relates to the implementation of AASB 9 Financial Instruments in a prior period. Previously disclosed as an amendment to the opening balance of accumulated surplus in the 2018-19 financial statements.

b) Restatement of prior year income and expense by service

Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service - Depreciation Expense	As previously reported 2019 (\$000)	Adjustments 2019 (\$000)	Restated 2019 (\$000)
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	338	(94)	244
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	13,843	(1,643)	12,200
Research and Conservation Partnerships	2,674	(798)	1,876
Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	754	(235)	519
Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	1,469	(376)	1,093
Bushfire Suppression	4,878	(892)	3,986
	3,097	(657)	2,440
Total	27,053	(4,695)	22,358

9.3 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 (\$)	2020	2019
410,001 – 420,000	1	0
400,001 – 410,000	0	0
390,001 – 400,000	0	1
380,001 – 390,000	0	0
270,001 – 280,000	1	1
260,001 – 270,000	0	0
220,001 – 230,000	3	1
210,001 – 220,000	1	2
200,001 – 210,000	1	2
	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Short term employee benefits	1,423	1,368
Post employment benefits	198	193
Other long term benefits	164	163
Termination benefits	0	0
Total compensation of senior officers	1,785	1,724

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

9.4 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:

- superannuation payments to GESB (Note 3.1(a));
- 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);
- supplies and services transactions with government related entities (Note 3.3);
- operating leases on motor vehicles, other lease, rental and hire expense transactions with State Fleet and Department of Fire and Emergency (Note 3.3);
- accommodation expense transactions with the Department of Finance and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Note 3.3);
- income from State Government (Note 4.1);
- services received free of charge from other State government agencies (Note 4.1);
- services rendered and user fees charged by the Department to other government agencies (Note 4.2);
- insurance payments from the Insurance Commission and Riskcover fund (Note 4.3);
- other grants and contributions received from other state government agencies (Note 4.5);
- right-of-use assets representing State Fleet leases for motor vehicles and accommodation leased through the Department of Communities (Note 5.2);
- lease liabilities with Department of Communities and State Fleet (Note 7.1);
- equity contribution (Note 9.8);
- Royalties for Regions Fund (Note 4.1) and equity injections from Royalties for Regions Funds (Note 9.8); and
- remuneration for services provided by the Auditor General (Note 9.7).

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 7.4.1).

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.

9.5 Affiliated bodies

The following government affiliated body received more than half its funding and resources from the Department but is not subject to operational control by the Department.

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Conservation and Parks Commission	509	683
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority ^(a)		
Recurrent	12,457	11,641
Capital	1,085	1,000
	13,452	12,641
Balance at end of period	14,051	13,324

^(a)As explained at Note 2.1 the Department provides funding, via a grant payment, to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, the Rottneest 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 2019-20 and the 2018-19 financial year.

9.6 Special purpose accounts

Biodiversity Conservation Account ^(a)

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

Balance at start of period	422	358
Receipts	174	102
Payments	0	(38)
Balance at end of period	596	422

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.

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Balance at start of period	1,873	2,564
Receipts	2,437	2,456
Payments	(1,957)	(3,147)
Balance at end of period	2,353	1,873

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.

(b) Established under section 16(1)(b) of Financial Management Act 2006.

(c) Established under section 69(2) of the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

9.7 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	237
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	2020 (\$000)	Restated 2019 (\$000)
9.8 Equity		
<u>Contributed equity</u>		
Balance at start of period	3,062,619	3,052,885
<i>Contributions by owners</i>		
Capital appropriation	10,778	3,762
<i>Other contributions by owners</i>		
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	17,286	4,412
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Community Services Account	1,273	2,022
<i>Transfer of net assets from other agencies</i>		
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	20,342	0
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	3,641	0
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	0	399
Total contributions by owners	3,115,939	3,063,480
<i>Distributions to owners</i>		
Transfer of net assets to other agencies:		
Zoological Parks Authority	(758)	(735)
Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	0	(126)
Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority	(85)	0
Total distributions to owners	(843)	(861)
Balance at end of period	3,115,096	3,062,619
<u>Asset revaluation surplus</u>		
Balance at start of period	40,197	207,935
Correction of a prior period error	0	(15,925)
Restated balance at the start of period	40,197	192,010
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	0	(151,901)
Buildings	1,105	88
Balance at end of period	41,302	40,197
<u>Accumulated surplus</u>		
Balance at start of period	(27,449)	59,386
Correction of a prior period error ^(a)	0	15,925
Changes in accounting policy ^(b)	(4,307)	(24)
Restated balance at the start of period	(31,756)	75,287
Result for the period	(242,178)	(102,736)
Balance at end of period	(273,934)	(27,449)

(a) As explained at Note 9.2 the over-depreciation of buildings was identified as a prior period error in the 2019-20 financial period. Accumulated surplus and revaluation reserve were restated to rectify the identified error.

(b) As explained at Note 9.1.1 the Department applied AASB 16, AASB 15 and AASB 1058 prospectively with an initial application date of 1 July 2019. An adjustment was recorded against the opening balance of receivables, other current assets, right-of-use assets, lease liabilities and other liabilities.

9.9 Supplementary financial information

(a) Write-offs

During the financial year \$11,151 (2019: \$12,009) was written off as bad debts and \$170,832 (2019: \$44,803) of the Department's asset and public property register under the authority of:

	2020	2019
	(\$000)	(\$000)
The Accountable Authority	69	57
The Minister	113	0
Executive Council	0	0
Balance at end of period	182	57

The amount approved for write off during the year of \$56,072 (2019: \$45,670) relates to losses through theft, defaults and other causes disclosed at note 9.9 (b) below.

(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

Losses of public money and other property through theft or default	56	46
Amounts recovered	0	0
Balance at end of period	56	46

9.10 Explanatory statement (Controlled Operations)

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2020, and between the actual results for 2020 and 2019 are shown below. "2020 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:

- 10% and \$1 million for the Statements of Comprehensive Income, Cash Flows, and the Statement of Financial Position.

9.10.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income Variances

	Variance note	Estimate 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2020 (\$000)	Restated Actual 2019 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2020 and 2019 (\$000)
<u>Expenses</u>						
Employee benefits expense	1,A	167,317	175,133	168,040	7,816	7,093
Supplies and services		71,910	72,212	71,679	302	533
Depreciation expense	2,B	34,401	26,252	22,358	(8,149)	3,894
Accommodation expenses		2,836	3,417	3,041	581	376
Grants and subsidies	3,C	4,250	42,771	35,347	38,521	7,424
Other expenses		26,020	24,680	24,082	(1,340)	598
Finance costs		1,165	262	0	(903)	262
Total cost of services		307,899	344,727	324,547	36,828	20,180
<u>Loss on revaluation of assets</u>						
Loss on revaluation of land	4,D	0	251,400	106,416	251,400	144,984
Total loss on revaluation of land		0	251,400	106,416	251,400	144,984
<u>Income</u>						
<u>Revenue</u>						
User charges and fees	5	37,843	43,503	45,920	5,660	(2,417)
Commonwealth grants and contributions	6	750	2,255	1,260	1,505	995
Other grants and contributions	7	26,279	20,314	19,235	(5,965)	1,079
Interest revenue	8,E	1,988	781	1,946	(1,207)	(1,165)
Other revenue	9,F	10,320	13,980	11,569	3,660	2,411
Total Revenue		77,180	80,833	79,930	3,653	903

	Variance note	Estimate 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2020 (\$000)	Restated Actual 2019 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2020 and 2019 (\$000)
<i>Gains</i>						
Gain on disposal of non-current assets		0	342	766	342	(424)
Total Gains		0	342	766	342	(424)
Total income other than income from State Government		77,180	81,175	80,696	3,995	479
NET COST OF SERVICES		230,719	514,952	350,267	284,233	164,685
Income from State Government						
Service appropriation	10	210,167	254,292	233,712	44,125	20,580
Services received free of charge		1,493	1,384	2,060	(109)	(676)
Royalties for Regions Fund	11,G	22,097	17,098	11,759	(4,999)	5,339
Total income from State Government		233,757	272,774	247,531	39,017	25,243
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		3,038	(242,178)	(102,736)	(245,216)	(139,442)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME						
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss						
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		0	1,105	(151,813)	1,105	152,918
Total other comprehensive income		3,038	1,105	(151,813)	1,105	152,198
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		3,038	(241,073)	(254,549)	(244,111)	13,476

Major Estimate and Actual (2020) Variance Narratives

1. Employee benefits expense exceeded estimates by \$7.82 million (4.67%) due to increased bushfire suppression activity in the 2019-20 fire season resulting in increased overtime, accommodation and meal costs to support suppression efforts. Leave provisions also increased in the 2019-20 period.
2. Depreciation is under estimates by \$8.15 million (23.69%). As discussed at note 9.2 it was discovered in the 2019-20 period that buildings was over-depreciating and an adjustment was made to ensure depreciation was in line with the expected rate for the asset class.

3. Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by \$38.52 million (906.38%) mainly due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority which is not anticipated in the budget.
4. Loss on revaluation of assets exceeded estimates by \$251.4 million due to the decline in the value of land assessed by the Valuer General. There was a general 10 to 15% reduction in property values throughout the state. The Department holds a large portfolio of land parcels spread across the state.
5. User charges and fees exceeds estimates by \$5.66 million (14.96%) mainly due to payment for corporate services (payroll and IT) from Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
6. Commonwealth grants and contributions exceeded estimates by \$1.51 million (200.67%) due to additional Commonwealth funding for emergency interventions to protect threatened plants and animals, their habitats and other natural assets. Funding was provided in response to the 2019-20 bushfire season and its impact on Australian threatened flora and fauna.
7. Other grants and contributions is under estimates by \$5.97 million (22.7%) due to a lower level of grant funding received from state entities, in particular, less capital grants received for environmental offset land purchases. The application of new revenue accounting standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058 also resulted in the deferral of recognition of revenue that would have normally been recognised under AASB 1004 Contributions.
8. Interest revenue is under estimates by \$1.21 million (60.71%) due to the general decline in interest rates following the impact of COVID-19.
9. Other revenue exceeded estimates by \$3.66 million (35.47%) due to higher than expected fees from apiary sites, communication sites, mining compensation and moorings.
10. Service appropriation exceeded estimates by \$44.13 million (21%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority. Additional appropriation was received by the Department as part of supplementary funding for 2019-20 received to minimise the disruption of COVID-19 on own-source revenue. Additional appropriation was also received by the Department to cover additional bushfire suppression costs.
11. Royalties for Regions Fund is under estimates by \$5 million (22.62%) due to less funds being drawn down than expected.

Major Actual (2020) and Comparative (2019) Variance Narratives

- A. Employee benefits expense increased by \$7.09 million (4.22%) due to increased bushfire suppression activity in the 2019-20 fire season resulting in increased overtime, accommodation and meal costs to support suppression efforts. Leave provisions also increased in the 2019-20 period.
- B. Depreciation and amortisation expense increased by \$3.89 million (17.42%) due to the capitalisation of right-of-use assets from 1 July 2019 with the application of AASB 16 Leases.
- C. Grants and subsidies expenses increased \$7.42 million (21%) due to increased appropriation funding provided to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority through the 2019-20 supplementary funding budget process administered by Treasury. Supplementary funding was available to entities that had experienced a decline in own-sourced revenue due to restrictions implemented to combat COVID-19.
- D. Loss on revaluation of assets increased by \$144.98 million (136.24%) due to the decline in the value of land assessed by the Valuer General. There was a general 10 to 15% reduction in property values throughout the state.
- E. Interest revenue decreased by \$1.17 million (59.87%) due to the general decline in interest rates following the impact of COVID-19.
- F. Other revenue increased by \$2.41 million (20.84%) due to higher than expected fees from apiary sites, communication sites, mining compensation and moorings.
- G. Royalties for Regions Fund increased by \$5.34 million (45.4%) partly due to a higher drawdown of funds for the Aboriginal Ranger Program.

**9.10.2 Statement of Financial Position
Variances**

	Variance note	Estimate 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2020 (\$000)	Restated Actual 2019 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2020 and 2019 (\$000)
ASSETS						
<u>Current Assets</u>						
Cash and cash equivalents		18,159	16,437	13,425	(1,722)	3,012
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		64,288	63,787	60,169	(501)	3,618
Inventories		1,236	1,581	857	345	724
Receivables		8,152	11,348	12,161	3,196	(813)
Amounts receivable for services	A	9,782	9,782	8,717	0	1,065
Other current assets	1	7,411	2,935	3,029	(4,476)	(94)
Non current assets held for sale		0	44	101	44	(57)
Total Current Assets		109,028	105,914	98,459	(3,114)	7,455
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		2,999	2,367	1,805	(632)	562
Receivables	2,B	0	2,408	0	2,408	2,408
Amounts receivable for services	C	209,736	208,648	184,266	(1,088)	24,382
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	3, D	3,100,305	2,626,538	2,837,901	(473,767)	(211,363)
Right-of-use assets	4,E	33,398	10,154	0	(23,244)	10,154
Total Non-Current Assets		3,346,438	2,850,115	3,023,972	(496,323)	(173,857)
TOTAL ASSETS		3,455,466	2,956,029	3,122,431	(499,437)	(166,402)
LIABILITIES						
<u>Current Liabilities</u>						
Payables		248	4,414	3,120	4,166	1,294
Lease liabilities	F	3,971	3,710	0	(261)	3,710
Employee related provisions		33,331	35,644	32,410	2,313	3,234
Other current liabilities	5,G	5,750	11,012	4,781	5,262	6,231
Total Current Liabilities		43,300	54,780	40,311	11,480	14,469

	Variance note	Estimate 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2020 (\$000)	Restated Actual 2019 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2020 and 2019 (\$000)
<u>Non-Current Liabilities</u>						
Lease liabilities	6,H	29,604	6,403	0	(23,201)	6,403
Employee related provisions		6,466	7,007	6,753	541	254
Other non-current liabilities	7,I	94	5,375	0	5,281	5,375
Total Non-Current Liabilities		36,164	18,785	6,753	(17,379)	12,032
TOTAL LIABILITIES		79,464	73,565	47,064	(5,899)	26,501
NET ASSETS		3,376,002	2,882,464	3,075,367	(493,538)	(192,903)
<u>EQUITY</u>						
Contributed equity		3,103,229	3,115,096	3,062,619	11,867	52,477
Reserves	8	207,935	41,302	40,197	(166,633)	1,105
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		64,838	(273,934)	(27,449)	(338,772)	(246,485)
TOTAL EQUITY		3,376,002	2,882,464	3,075,367	(493,538)	(192,903)

Major Estimate and Actual (2020) Variance Narratives

1. Other current assets is under estimates by \$4.48 million (60.40%) due to grants being held as prepayments in the prior annual reporting periods.
2. Non-current receivables exceeded estimates by \$2.41 million due to the upfront recognition of revenue for some funding agreements with the implementation of AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities.
3. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment is under estimates by \$473.77 million (15.28%) due to the loss on revaluation of assets in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 financial periods. The 2019-20 estimates were set before the 2018-19 actuals.
4. Right-of-use assets were under estimates by \$23.24 million (69.60%) as Treasury policies on the recognition of periodic Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) leases and Government Office Accommodation (GOA) leases changed to recognising the leases as operating leases and expensing them on a straight-line basis.
5. Other current liabilities exceeded estimates by \$5.26 million (91.51%) as the implementation of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities resulted in an increase in unearned revenue associated with grants and funding agreements.

6. Non-current lease liabilities is under estimates by \$23.20 million (78.37%) as Treasury policies on the recognition of periodic Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) leases and Government Office Accommodation (GOA) leases changed to recognising the leases as operating leases and expensing them on a straight-line basis.
7. Other non-current liabilities exceeded estimates by \$5.28 million as the implementation of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities resulted in an increase in unearned revenue associated with grants and funding agreements. Funds associated with the Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program have been deferred.
8. Reserves are under estimates by \$166.63 million (80.14%) due to the loss on revaluation in the 2018-19 period being incurred after the 2019-20 budget figure was set.

Major Actual (2020) and Comparative (2019) Variance Narratives

- A. Current amounts receivable for services increased by \$1.07 million (12.22%) with accrual appropriation received for future asset replacement.
- B. Non-current receivables increased by \$2.41 million due to the upfront recognition of revenue for some funding agreements with the implementation of AASB 1058.
- C. Non-current amounts receivable for services increased by \$24.38 million (13.23%) in line with the accrual appropriation provided by Treasury net off funds drawn down to replace Department assets.
- D. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment decreased by \$211.36 million (7.45%) due to the \$251.4 million loss on revaluation of land per the Landgate valuation of land parcels held by the Department.
- E. Right of use assets increased by \$10.15 million due to the implementation of AASB 16 leases in the 2019-20 period.
- F. Current lease liabilities increased by \$3.71 million due to the implementation of AASB 16 Leases in the 2019-20 period.
- G. Other current liabilities increased by \$6.23 million (130.33%) due to the implementation of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities that resulted in the additional recognition of unearned revenue associated with grants and funding agreements.
- H. Non-current lease liabilities increased by \$6.4 million due to the implementation of AASB 16 Leases in the 2019-20 period.
- I. Other non-current liabilities increased by \$5.38 million due to deferred revenue recognised for funding agreements linked to the Gorgon Processing Agreement such as the Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program. The deferred revenue recognition is linked to the implementation of AASB 15 Contracts with Customers.

**9.10.3 Statement of Cash Flows
Variances**

	Variance note	Estimate 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2020 and 2019 (\$000)
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT						
Service appropriation	1	174,915	220,128	204,538	45,213	15,590
Capital appropriations	A	11,190	10,778	3,762	(412)	7,016
Holding account drawdown		8,717	8,717	8,859	0	(142)
Cash and cash equivalents transferred from / (to) owner		0	(843)	(735)	(843)	(108)
Royalties for Regions Fund	2,B	46,091	35,657	18,193	(10,434)	17,464
Net cash provided by State Government		240,913	274,437	234,617	33,524	39,820
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
<u>Payments</u>						
Employee benefits		(167,045)	(171,619)	(167,556)	(4,574)	(4,063)
Supplies and services		(70,426)	(71,821)	(69,216)	(1,395)	(2,605)
Accommodation		(2,834)	(3,417)	(3,041)	(583)	(376)
Grants and subsidies	3,C	(4,250)	(42,771)	(35,347)	(38,521)	(7,424)
GST payments on purchases	4	(11,322)	(13,419)	(12,389)	(2,097)	(1,030)
GST payments to taxation authority		0	(207)	(60)	(207)	(147)
Other payments	D	(26,018)	(24,045)	(19,881)	1,973	(4,164)
Finance costs		(1,165)	(262)	0	903	(262)
<u>Receipts</u>						
User charges and fees	5	38,355	46,285	42,294	7,930	3,991
Commonwealth grants and contributions	6	749	3,138	1,260	2,389	1,878
Interest received		1,988	1,063	2,109	(925)	(1,046)
GST receipts on sales		5,500	5,410	5,498	(90)	(88)

	Variance Note	Estimate 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2020 and 2019 (\$000)
GST receipts from taxation authority	7,E	5,827	8,476	7,040	2,649	1,436
Other receipts	F	36,088	35,902	31,147	(186)	4,755
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(194,553)	(227,287)	(218,142)	(32,734)	(9,145)
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</u>						
<u>Payments</u>						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	8,G	(41,901)	(36,294)	(32,971)	5,607	(3,323)
<u>Receipts</u>						
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		500	990	988	490	2
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(41,401)	(35,304)	(31,983)	6,097	(3,321)
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</u>						
<u>Payments</u>						
Principal repayments of lease liabilities		(4,949)	(4,654)	0	295	(4,654)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		(4,949)	(4,654)	0	295	(4,654)

	Variance Note	Estimate 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2020 and 2019 (\$000)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		10	7,192	(15,508)	7,182	22,700
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		85,436	75,399	90,907	(10,037)	(15,508)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD		85,446	82,591	75,399	(2,855)	7,192

Major Estimate and Actual (2020) Variance Narratives

1. Service appropriation exceeded estimates by \$45.21 million (25.85%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority. Additional appropriation was received by the Department as part of supplementary funding for 2019-20 received to minimise the disruption of COVID-19 on own-source revenue. Additional appropriation was also received by the Department to cover additional bushfire suppression costs incurred in the 2019-20 period.
2. Royalties for Regions Fund is under estimates by \$10.43 million (22.64%) due to lower drawdowns than expected and a review of RfR projects resulting in less appropriation provided.
3. Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by \$38.52 million (906.38%) due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority. More grants were also expensed to private and local government entities to further conservation objectives.
4. GST payments on purchases exceeded estimates by \$2.10 million (18.52%) due to higher expenditure than predicted in the 2019-20 period.
5. User charges and fees exceeded estimates by \$7.93 million (20.68%) mainly due to payment for corporate services (payroll and IT) from Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
6. Commonwealth grants and contributions exceeded estimates by \$2.39 million (318.96%) due to additional Commonwealth funding for emergency interventions to protect threatened plants and animals, their habitats and other natural assets. Funding was provided in response to the 2019-20 bushfire season and its impact on Australian threatened flora and fauna.
7. GST receipts from taxation authority exceeded estimates by \$2.65 million (45.46%) in line with increased purchases against estimates.
8. Purchase of non-current physical assets is under estimates by \$5.61 million (13.38%) due to lower Royalties for Regions Expenditure on capital projects.

Major Actual (2020) and Comparative (2019) Variance Narratives

- A. Capital appropriations increased by 7.02 million (186.5%) due to payment of lease principal via capital appropriation in the 2019-20 period to coincide with the implementation of AASB 16 Leases.
- B. Royalties for Regions Fund increased by \$17.46 million (96%) mainly due to receipt of funding for the Aboriginal Ranger Program, Collie Preston Region road upgrades, the Kalbarri Skywalk and the Lake Kepwari projects.
- C. Grants and subsidies increased by \$7.42 million (21%) due to increased appropriation funding provided to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority through the 2019-20 supplementary funding budget process administered by Treasury. Supplementary funding was available to entities that had experienced a decline in own-sourced revenue due to restrictions implemented to combat COVID-19.
- D. Other payments increased by \$4.16 million (20.94%) due to the change in grant prepayments in the 2018-19 period.
- E. GST receipts from taxation authority increased by \$1.44 million (20.4%) in line with increased purchases in comparison to the prior year.
- F. Other receipts increased by \$4.76 million (15.27%) due to higher than expected fees from apiary sites, communication sites, mining compensation and moorings.
- G. Purchases of non-current physical assets increased by \$3.32 million (10.08%) due to higher capital expenditure on Royalties for Regions (RfR) projects.

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
Administered assets and liabilities	10.3

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 Rottneest 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
	2020 (\$000)	2020 (\$000)	2020 (\$000)	2020 (\$000)	2020 (\$000)	2020 (\$000)	2020 (\$000)	2020 (\$000)	2020 (\$000)	2020 (\$000)	2020 (\$000)
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS											
<u>Income</u>											
For transfer:											
Regulatory fees and other charges	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	63
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total administered income	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	63
<u>Expenses</u>											
Transfer payments ^(a)	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	63
Loss on valuation of biological assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28,762	0	0	28,762
Total administered expenses	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	28,762	0	0	28,825
Net income from Administered Items	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(28,762)	0	0	(28,762)

^(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
	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.

10.2. Explanatory statement for administered income and expenses

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2020, and between the actual results for 2020 and 2019 are shown below. Narratives are provided for key major variances, which are generally greater than 10% and \$1 million.

	Variance note	Estimate 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2020 (\$000)	Actual 2019 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2020 and 2019 (\$000)
INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS						
<u>Income</u>						
For transfer:						
Regulatory fees and other charges		30	63	49	33	14
Other revenue	1,A	0	0	53	0	(53)
Total administered income		30	63	102	33	(39)
<u>Expenses</u>						
Loss on valuation of biological assets	2,B	0	28,762	0	28,762	28,762
Transfer payments ^(b)		30	63	102	33	(39)
Total administered expenses		30	28,825	102	28,795	28,723
Net income from Administered Items		0	(28,762)	0	(28,762)	(28,762)

^(a) Biological assets represent native forest and wild sandalwood.

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

Major estimate and actual (2020) variance narratives

- 1) Under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 revenue collected from the issue of kangaroo shooter tags, for example, are retained by the Department rather than transferred to the consolidated account.
- 2) Native forest and sandalwood biological assets were transferred to the Department as at 1 July as contributed equity designated as a contribution by owners. The assets were revalued in the 2019-20 period.

Major actual (2020) and comparative (2019) variance narratives

- A. Under the *Biodiversity, Conservation Act 2016* and the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018 revenue collected from the issue of kangaroo shooter tags, for example, are retained by the Department rather than transferred to the consolidated account.
- B. Native forest and sandalwood biological assets were transferred to the Department as at 1 July as contributed equity designated as a contribution by owners. The assets were revalued in the 2019-20 period.

10.3 Administered assets and liabilities

	2020
	(\$000)
<u>Current assets</u>	
Native forest	0
Sandalwood	3,576
Total administered current assets	3,576
<u>Non-current assets</u>	
Native forest	75,220
Sandalwood	26,501
Total administered non-current assets	101,721
TOTAL ADMINISTERED ASSETS	105,297

Native forest assets refers to trees available for harvest in the State forest and timber reserves in the South West of Western Australia that are covered by the *Forest Management Plan*. Sandalwood assets refers to wild sandalwood that grows on Department land. The licensing for the harvest of sandalwood is managed by the Department with the annual harvest limit for wild sandalwood determined by the *Sandalwood (Limitation of Removal of Sandalwood) Order 2015*.

Native forest and sandalwood biological assets were transferred to the Department as at 1 July as contributed equity designated as a contribution by owners. The assets were subsequently revalued in the 2019-20 period on a fair value basis based on projected net cashflows discounted to a net present value.



Patrol vessel at Marmion Marine Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

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 2020.

Mark Webb
Accountable Authority

10 September 2020

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Outcome-Based Management Structure

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services and performance indicators*
Better Places: 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 indicator 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 indicator 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 indicators: 1. Proportion of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities that have a recovery plan 2. Area of land baited for introduced predators</p> <p>Key efficiency indicator KPI 6.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>7. Research and Conservation Partnerships</p> <p>Key efficiency indicator 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 indicator 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 indicator 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 indicator 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	2019–20
Target	95.00%	90.00%	85.00%
Actual	86.80%	83.10%	90.90%

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 234 intercept surveys conducted. 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 its 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 85. The confidence level was 95% with a margin of error for the average satisfaction of 90.9% being 3.7%.

The reasons for the increase in satisfaction is likely due to the timing of the survey – in both 2018-19 and in 2019-20 it was during 11-18 December. However, in 2018-19 it was partly in the school holidays whereas in 2019-20 it was entirely during the school term. Therefore 2019-20 was more representative of locals and local demographics who were more satisfied with local parks than in 2018-19 when the respondents were visitors. In 2019-20 the sample had greater ethnic diversity and there was a larger representation in the 35 to 49 age group.

The Department reports a separate visitor satisfaction survey for Swan and Canning Riverpark as the Department manages Swan Canning Riverpark under *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*, as disclosed further in Efficiency 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.

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Target	85.00%	85.00%	95.00%	90.00%	90.00%
Actual	91.40%	92.50%	92.50%	94.80%	NR

*NR = Not reported. Exemption provided by the Under Treasurer.

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 to the Statewide visitor survey conducted at selected parks, reserves, and forest areas around the state. The survey sample is stratified across the state by visitation distribution and collected in both peak and off-peak periods that includes 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 Service-managed land and waters of a park or protected area for purposes mandated for the area. The Statewide surveys are typically administered via a structured interview via department staff and volunteers where respondents 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. Some samples may also be collected via on-line collection methods such as on-line surveys, where compatible with the sample stratification. These responses are anonymous.

In 2019-20 an exemption from reporting 'Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters' was granted, upon request to the Under Treasurer. A representative sample was unable to be collected in 2019-20 due to the impact of government restrictions on international, inter-state and inter-regional travel implemented in response to COVID-19. Data collection via face-to-face survey was also not possible with the precautionary 'social distancing' guidelines prescribed by government. The sample collected, up to the point before precautionary measures restricted visitation, was not deemed representative of a Statewide sample and would not be consistent with the methodology set for the indicator. With the granting of the exemption no data will be reported for the 2019-20 actuals in the annual report or subsequent budget statements.

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

Biodiversity refers to the variety of plant and animal life in our world and the ecosystems they inhabit. Conservation of plants, animals and ecosystems is implemented through a range of scientifically informed actions to ensure it is evidence based and effective. Protection of threatened species and ecological communities, and management of threats at a landscape scale, are key representative approaches to conservation. The measures identified represent key indicators of the Department's effectiveness in conservation of biodiversity in the natural environment.

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

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Target	69.00%	71.00%	73.00%	72.00%	73.50%
Actual	69.40%	72.90%	72.36%	73.20%	73.70%

Note to indicator: Species and ecological communities listed as critically endangered and endangered are those most at risk of extinction and are a focus for conservation actions in the Department. Recovery plans provide guidance for conservation of threatened plants, animals and ecological communities, and are a basis for delivery of conservation actions. The proportion of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities that have a recovery plan is representative of the Department's effectiveness in conservation of threatened plants, animals and ecological communities, and is a key performance indicator for biodiversity conservation.

The number of critically endangered and endangered plants, animals and ecological communities varies each year due to addition or removal of species and ecological communities on the threatened list, as well as changes in categories. The outcome for the KPI is contingent on the number of plans prepared and the change in species and ecological communities on the threatened list. In 2019-20 there were two additional species with recovery plans, resulting in an increase in the indicator.

2. Area of land baited for introduced predators

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Target	4,404,138 ha	4,347,107 ha	4,082,563 ha
Actual	4,404,138 ha	4,110,063 ha	3,988,246 ha

Note to indicator: Introduced predators have greatly contributed to the extinction and decline of many native animal species across Australia. Scientific research and monitoring have demonstrated that control of introduced predators, through baiting and other actions, is a key factor in protecting native animal populations. Broad-scale baiting is conducted by DBCA on a routine basis to reduce the threat of foxes and feral cats to Western Australia's native animals, and is representative of the Department's effectiveness in conserving these species. The area baited by DBCA is a key performance indicator for biodiversity conservation.

The annual baiting program occurs between 1 September and 31 August of a given year (i.e. spring baiting round through to the end of winter baiting round). The area baited is calculated to the boundary of a parcel of land noting that non-baiting buffers are in place for all baiting cells to comply with State legislative requirements for use of 1080. The difference between target and actual area of land baited for introduced predators in 2019–20 was due to amendments to cell boundaries and one cell not being baited in winter 2020.

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

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Target	382,000 m ³	573,000 m ³	764,000 m ³	955,000 m ³	1,146,000 m ³
Actual	253,850 m ³	381,941 m ³	497,503 m ³	695,767 m ³	777,430 m ³

Note to indicator: The 2014-2023 Forest Management Plan commenced on 1 January 2014. From 2014-15 and successive years, the target figure is the cumulative total of the average annual allowable cut (132,000 m³ of Jarrah and 59,000m³ of Karri) for the 10-year life of the plan. The actual cumulative removal figure for 2019-20 carries forward adjustments made in the 2019 mid-term review of the performance of the plan. Adjustments to the raw data reflected variations in log products accepted by customers and off-cuts retained in the forest. Similar adjustments for the 2018-2022 period will be incorporated in the 2022 end-of-term performance review of the plan. 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.

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

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Target	50%	55%	55%	55%	55%
Actual	64%	49%	67%	48%	42%

Note to indicator: Priority 1 prescribed burns cannot constitute more than one third of planned prescribed burns, and providing enhanced criteria for prioritisation decisions, resulted in less Priority 1 prescribed burns as a proportion of the total program. Conditions for prescribed burning were limited by a drier than normal spring and the impact of COVID-19 on regional boundaries which influenced the movement of resources across the South West to implement planned burns during autumn.

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

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Target	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
Actual	75%	83%	82%	81%	84%

Note to indicator: This indicator relates to bushfires in the South West where the Department is the initial attack agency. As in previous financial years the fire season was relatively mild, and conditions were generally conducive to the success of rapid initial attack.

Key Efficiency Indicators

Correction of prior period accounting error

In the 2019-20 period it was identified that buildings had been historically over depreciated. See note 9.2 in the 'Notes to the Financial Statements' for more information. Prior year key efficiency indicators have been restated based on the reduction of depreciation across each service.

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 (SCRM) 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.

	Restated 2016–17*	Restated 2017–18*	Restated 2018–19*	2019–20
Target	\$2,310	\$2,052	\$1,897	\$1,939
Actual	\$2,148	\$2,152	\$2,141	\$1,868
Actual - as previously reported	\$2,158	\$2,158	\$2,154	

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Note to indicator: Actual average cost per hectare was lower than the target in the 2019-20 Budget Statements mainly due to the actual expenditure on grants and subsidies for projects such as the Riverbank Program being lower in the 2019-20 period. 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.

	Restated 2016–17*	Restated 2017–18*	Restated 2018–19*	2019–20
Target	\$2.99	\$3.40	\$2.92	\$3.24
Actual	\$2.70	\$3.16	\$2.92	\$3.08
Actual - as previously reported	\$2.73	\$3.18	\$2.97	

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Note to indicator: The actual average cost per hectare to manage national parks and other lands and waters is lower than the 2019-20 target budget. Depreciation for buildings was

adjusted, as discussed in note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors'. The actual average cost per hectare for 2019-20 was higher compared to 2018-19 mainly due to higher expenditure on various Royalties for Regions projects.

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.

	Restated 2016–17*	Restated 2017–18*	Restated 2018–19*	2019–20
Target	\$2.55	\$2.21	\$2.08	\$2.00
Actual	\$2.12	\$1.89	\$2.01	\$1.91
Actual - as previously reported	\$2.14	\$1.90	\$2.04	

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Note to indicator: The actual average cost per hectare of conserving wildlife habitat, species and ecological communities is consistent with the 2019-20 target budget and marginally decreased by 4.5 per cent.

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.

	Restated 2016–17*	Restated 2017–18*	Restated 2018–19*	2019–20
Target	\$1.04	\$0.91	\$1.02	\$0.88
Actual	\$0.78	\$0.68	\$0.68	\$0.65
Actual - as previously reported	\$0.78	\$0.69	\$0.69	

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Note to indicator: The efficiency measure for externally funded management has remained consistent with the previous years with only a slight increase in area managed. This measure had 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.

	Restated 2017-18*	Restated 2018-19*	2019-20
Target	\$18.65	\$16.98	\$14.92
Actual	\$12.68	\$15.33	\$14.28

Actual - as previously reported

\$12.91

\$15.62

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Note to indicator: The 2019-20 target cost per hectare included a budget component for external works program. The actual level of expenditure on the external works program was \$0.45 million less than the budget, therefore the 2019-20 actual cost per hectare was lower than budget.

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.

	Restated 2016-17*	Restated 2017-18*	Restated 2018-19*	2019-20
Target	\$15.69	\$15.70	\$16.57	\$16.01
Actual	\$15.52	\$10.71	\$14.38	\$14.13

Actual - as previously reported

\$15.70

\$10.89

\$14.63

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Note to indicator: Variable suitability of weather conditions and lower prescribed burning achievements, due primarily to COVID-19 restrictions on departmental resource movements across the South West forest regions, contributed to a 20 per cent decline in South West forest burn outcomes when compared to 2018-19.

Service 10: Bushfire Suppression

10.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt

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

	Restated 2016–17*	Restated 2017–18*	Restated 2018–19*	2019–20
Target	\$15.88	\$32.00	\$17.10	\$20.11
Actual	\$32.56	\$10.69	\$8.75	\$16.84
Actual - as previously reported	\$33.04	\$10.93	\$8.90	

*See note '9.2 Correction of prior period errors' for additional information on prior period restatement.

Note to indicator: The total area burnt by bushfire to which the Department contributed a suppression response in 2019-20 was 2,936,520 hectares. A significant and extensive contribution was made to assisting local government and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services management of a number of bushfires (1,141,702 hectares) that burnt through remote areas of unallocated Crown Land in the Goldfields, Wheatbelt and South Coast regions.

Ministerial directives

No Ministerial directives were received during the financial year.



Western grey kangaroo. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

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 the Department of Treasury. Fees are reviewed annually.

Capital works

The Department's planned capital works program of \$40.36 million for 2019–20 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
Collie Adventure Trails	2022–23	8650	9505
Election commitment – Collie Preston Region – upgrades to local roads	2020–21	1197	3300
Election commitment – Lake Kepwari	2020–21	2482	5166
Election commitment – Kalgulup Regional Park (formerly Preston River to Ocean and Leschenault regional parks)	2021–22	5274	5496
Helena and Aurora Range National Park	2020–21	493	570
Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park management	2020–21	9499	10,000
Koombana Park facilities	2020–21	2420	11,404
New Kimberley national parks	2020–21	973	1030
William Bay National Park tourism infrastructure	2020–21	2291	2500

Recurring capital programs	Expected year of completion	2019–20 expenditure \$'000
Conservation land acquisition	ongoing	4078
Fire-related bridge maintenance and replacement	ongoing	1576
Firefighting fleet replacement	ongoing	3853
Park improvement program	ongoing	4248
Plant and equipment purchases and replacement	ongoing	6064
Tourism road improvement program	ongoing	2140

Employment and industrial relations

Staff profile

Table 14: Staff numbers for DBCA excluding Statutory Authorities

	2018–19	2019–20
Full-time permanent	983.3	1034.5
Full-time contract	237.3	220.2
Part-time measured on an FTE basis	232.5	242.9
On secondment	3.0	4.2
Total	1456.1	1501.8

Calculated as four-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 2019–20, the *Rangers (National Parks) General Agreement 2020* and the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (Operations) Agreement 2020* were negotiated.

Staff development and training

The Department received 1963 enrolments for corporate training programs delivered in 2019–20, with 576 being for face-to-face or webinar training and 1387 for training delivered by e-learning.



Pink rice flowers at Fitzgerald River National Park. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

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 2020, there were 72 personal transactions charged to credit cards by 69 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 repaid the expenditure and provided written advice to their cost centre manager, the Chief Finance Officer and the accountable authority of the personal use of a Government credit card consistent with the requirements of *Treasurer's Instruction 321-2*.

Table 15: Unauthorised use of credit cards

Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure for the reporting period	\$4542.78
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by the due date (within five working days)	\$1193.89
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after the period (after five working days)	\$3348.89
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure outstanding at balance date	\$0.00

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 remuneration rates for boards and committees that assist DBCA are disclosed below.

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	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Category A	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1750
Member	Category A	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1750
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Category C	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1750
Member	Category C	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	2100
Member	Category D	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	2100
Member	Category D	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1750

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Total (Members not identified by name due to privacy reasons) Categories: A Veterinarian B Scientist C Animal Welfare D Independent Community representative E Other				11,200

Conservation and Parks Commission

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Christopher Doepel	Fortnightly	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	40,570.15
Deputy Chair	Jo-anne Lanagan	Fortnightly	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	25,538.16
Member	Penny Bond	Fortnightly	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	19,426.94
Member	Tahn Donovan	Fortnightly	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	19,426.94
Member	Ross Dowling	Fortnightly	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	19,426.94
Member	Kim Eckert	Fortnightly	6/5/2020 to 30/6/2020	2764.60
Member	Fiona Valesini	Fortnightly	1/7/2019 to 5/5/2020	16,438.18
Member	Alan Walker	Fortnightly	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	19,426.94
Total				163,018.85

Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Regina Flugge	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Russell Babcock	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Nerreda Hillier	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Jacqueline Hine	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	William Humphreys	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Vicki Long	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Frazer McGregor	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Kane Simpson	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Hazel Walgar	Sessional	1/8/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Total				0

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

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Former Chair	Simon Woodley	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1826
Current Chair	Lyn Beazley	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Fiona Bartlett	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Lyndon Brooks	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	7852.79
Member	Col Limpus	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Member	Kellie Pendoley	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1188.00
Member	Juanita Renwick	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Abbie Rogers	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Andrew Smith	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Total				10,866.79

Purnululu World Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Christopher Done	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	3945.54
Member	Tanba Banks	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1424
Member	Paul Butters	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1141
Member	Glen Chidlow	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Jose Drill	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1424
Member	Vincent Edwards	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Matthew Hobson	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Sarah Legge	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1141
Member	Cherylene Nocketta	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1424
Member	Virginia O'Neil	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Total				10,499.54

Roadside Conservation Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Current Chair	Ruth Harvey	Not eligible for remuneration	16/8/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Chair	Ken Atkins	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 16/8/2019	0
Member	Jeff Anderton	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Glenice Batchelor*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Brett Loney*	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Nicole Matthews*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	John Morrell*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Michael Norman	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 12/09/2020	0
Member	Rachael Parkes*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Martine Scheltema*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	James Widenbar*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Adrian Wiley*	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Total				0

*Memberships currently subject to endorsement by the Minister for Environment

Shark Bay World Heritage Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Thomas Day	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	1312
Member	Phillip Scott	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Diana Walker	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Libby Mattiske	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	858
Member	Grant Donald	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	858
Member	Elisabeth McLellan	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	858
Member	Julianne Bush	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Brendon Bellottie	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Laura Gray	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	858
Member	Carrissa Bellottie	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Geoffrey Wardle	Sessional	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Total				4744

Swan River Trust Board

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Hamish Beck	Fortnightly	1/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	15,560
Deputy Chair	Dr Joanna Pearce	Fortnightly	16/9/2019 to 30/6/2020	9153
Member	Vanessa Davies	Sessional	21/12/2019 to 30/6/2020	2421

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Member	Peter King	Sessional	25/10/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Sara Saberi	Sessional	16/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	2690
Member	Jacque Stone	Sessional	16/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	0
Member	Jo Wilkie	Sessional	16/7/2019 to 30/6/2020	2152
Member	Marenée Provost	Sessional	16/9/2019 to 30/6/2020	2690
Total				34,666



Elizabeth Quay bridge in the Swan Canning Riverpark. Photo – Dennis Wat

Other legal requirements

2020–21 annual estimates

The 2020–21 approved annual estimates are not available for publication in this year’s annual reports due to the postponement of the 2020–21 Budget in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with *Treasurer’s Instruction 953*, the 2020–21 estimates for DBCA will be published online following the approval of the annual estimates by the Minister. Actual results will be reported against these estimates in the *DBCA Annual Report 2020–21*.

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 2019–20 was: \$186,205.48

Expenditure was incurred in the following areas:

- Advertising agencies (Intiative Media Australia Limited): \$88,278.51
- Direct mail organisations: NIL
- Market research organisations: NIL
- Media advertising organisations: \$97,926.97

Table 16: Media advertising organisations

Albany and Great Southern Weekender	\$4512.75
Andimaps	\$1323.00
Aurora Magazine	\$1037.50
Australia's South West Inc.	\$2236.00
Aviation Trader	\$506.00
Bremer Bay Community Resource and Visitor Centre Inc	\$100.40
Buggy Buddies	\$308.32
Carat Australia Media Services Pty Ltd	\$51,793.82
Collie Chamber of Commerce	\$3600.00
Concept Media	\$1173.48
Denmark Bulletin	\$1450.00
Executive Media Pty Ltd	\$950.00
Gnomedia Pty Ltd	\$500.00
Jurien Bay Community Resource Centre Inc	\$240.00
Facebook	\$389.11
Lizart Productions	\$80.00
Marsh Agencies	\$874.50

Neighbourhood Watch Gazette	\$695.00
On Duty Publications Pty Ltd	\$650.00
Pinnacles Express	\$5.00
Premium Publishers	\$2794.00
Southerly Magazine	\$1540.00
State Law Publisher	\$2309.23
Telstra - Sensis White Pages	\$10,387.30
VR Magazine Pty Ltd	\$540.00
WA Association of Caravan Clubs Inc	\$440.00
WA Holiday Guide	\$550.00
Walpole Community Resource Centre	\$2186.50
West Australian Newspapers	\$4755.05
Total	\$97,926.97

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.

In 2019–20, DBCA achieved the status of Disability Confident Recruiter from the Australian Network on Disability. The certification recognises the Department's commitment to inclusive recruitment.

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 *Corporate Policy Statement No 18 Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services*.

The 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.

During 2019–20, the construction of the universally accessible Kalbarri Skywalk was completed and provides visitors with great views of the Murchison River Gorge. The skywalk was opened on 12 June 2020.

A range of other accessible (including assist access) infrastructure projects began or continued in 2019–20, including the development of an accessible boardwalk for Ngajarli (Deep Gorge) in Murujuga National Park, allowing close access to the rock art that the site is known for, an accessible walkway, floating dock and jetty at Danggu National Park (formerly Geikie Gorge), accessible building and paths at Monkey Mia Conservation Park’s Dolphin Experience and more accessible boardwalks for Beedelup Falls Walk in Greater Beedelup National Park.

The Department continues to run numerous initiatives and activities in line with the DAIP. These include:

- where practical and appropriate, ensuring all-new recreation facilities are accessible to people with disability
- using a nationally agreed system of bushfire alerts and warnings
- partnering with National Disability Services WA to implement strategies to increase employment of people with disability, including establishing a five per cent employment target for people with disability and developing disability awareness training for all staff
- ensuring the Department has the capability to support candidates with a disability by working with the Australian Network on Disability as a Disability Confident Recruiter
- employing people with disability on fee-for-service contracts through Western Australian Disability Enterprises (WADEs) – 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 celebrate the International Day of People with Disability, and acknowledge the work provided by the WADEs engaged by the Department
- ensuring staff are aware of the *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan*, related resources and disability access issues via the Department's intranet, broadcast emails and the induction program
- ensuring events, building reception areas and parking facilities are accessible to people with disability
- ensuring the Department's website continues to meet contemporary best-practice and applicable legislative requirements for access for people with disability, and information is available in alternative formats
- monitoring and addressing complaints about disability access
- ensuring consultation with the public is held in an accessible manner.

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

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

Table 17: Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

Compliance issue	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
Public Sector Standards	

Compliance issue	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
<p>No breach claims were lodged in 2019–20.</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>
<p>Department's Code of Conduct and Public Sector Code of Ethics</p>	
<p>Of the 12 allegations of breaches of discipline across the Department in 2019–20 (excluding the three Statutory Authorities), 11 were suspected to have breached the Department's Code of Conduct, with eight 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. One matter only included allegations of breaching the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i>.</p>	<p>The Department updated its Code of Conduct to enable application across all entities of the Department. The Code has been drafted in line with the Public Sector Commission's conduct guide and with consideration to key risk areas. A number of information sessions were held to inform employees of the requirements of the Code of Conduct.</p>
<p>All allegations carried over from 2018–19 have been finalised.</p>	<p>The Public Sector Code of Ethics is currently 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 or when a significant review occurs. Further, the document includes a section on how employees can report breaches of the Code.</p>

Recordkeeping plans

As required under section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000* (the Act), 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.

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. In addition, all staff were enrolled in the online refresher course ensuring the Department's recordkeeping awareness program 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

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, 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.

During 2019–20, key achievements included:

- developing a commitment statement and inclusion of the term ‘wellbeing’ in policies, procedures, and committees
- documenting the components of health, safety, wellbeing and injury management system, which is designed to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to their management

- approving the *Fire Clothing Project Summary Report*, which summarises the process undertaken following the formal review of fire personal protective equipment in December 2017. It identifies nine recommendations, including details of the new garments which include a female fit
- implementing a process for investigating hazards, near-misses and incidents
- developing of a procedure for managing work and non-work related injuries and illness
- delivering revised mandatory training, including two additional courses
- completing audits and inspections of local work sites
- introducing a pre-start check as a tool to identify situational hazards
- addressing recommendations from an independent review of the injury management system.

Table 18: Health and safety performance indicators

Measure	Actual results			Results against target	
	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	Target	Comment on result
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	0	Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease incidence rate	2.1	2.67	3.0	0 or 10% reduction	Not achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate	0	2.5*	6.8	0 or 10% reduction	Not achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:					
(i) within 13 weeks	100%	97.4%	95%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Achieved
(ii) within 26 weeks	100%	100%	98%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Achieved
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	>80%	>80%	<80%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Not achieved

*Update to figure provided in the *DBCA Annual Report 2018–19* due to error in previous calculation.



Department of Biodiversity,
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