



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
*2017-18 Annual Report*



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



## Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the  
Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch  
of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

### For more information contact:

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

Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre Western Australia 6983

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

### The recommended reference for this publication is:

*Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2017–18 Annual Report*,  
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2018

ISSN 2203-9198 (Print)  
ISSN 2203-9201 (Online)

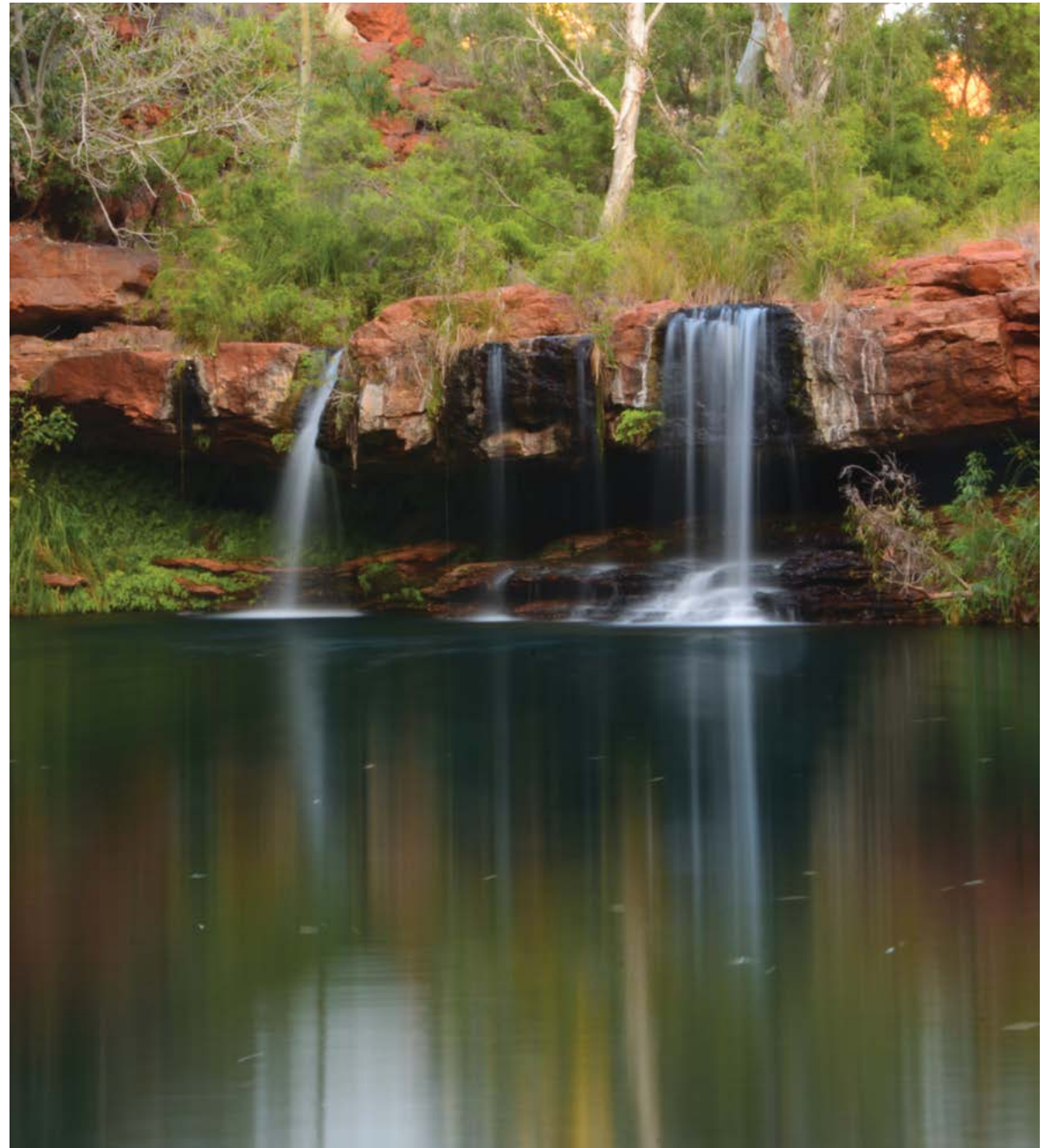
September 2018

**Back cover:** Prescribed burn in the Perth Hills. *Photo – DBCA*

Copies of this document are available  
in alternative formats on request.



Department of **Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions**



Fern Pool. *Photo – Mark Jekabson/DBCA*

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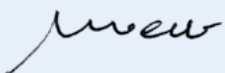
# Letter to the Minister

**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 2017 to 30 June 2018.

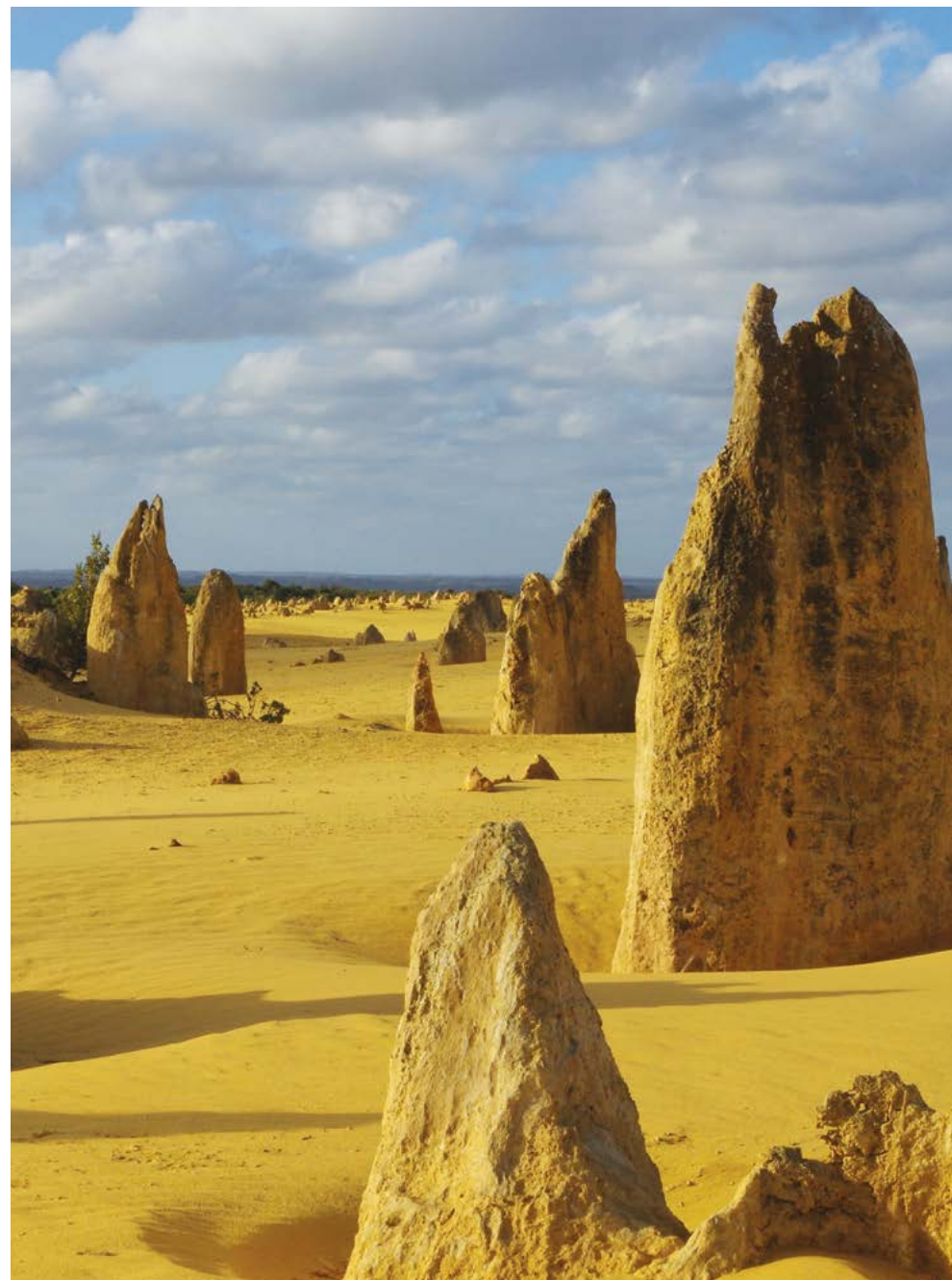
This report has been prepared in accordance with provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.



**Mark Webb PSM**

Director General

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



Pinnacles in Nambung National Park. Photo – Doug Coughran

# Foreword

This year has been one of change, with the creation of the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) on 1 July 2017.

Fitzroy River. Photo – Shem Bisluk/DBCA

Bringing together Western Australia's key conservation agencies – the former Department of Parks and Wildlife, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottne Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority – the new Department consolidates conservation science, creates new opportunities for partnerships and investment, and gives a renewed focus to promoting WA's outstanding natural attractions.

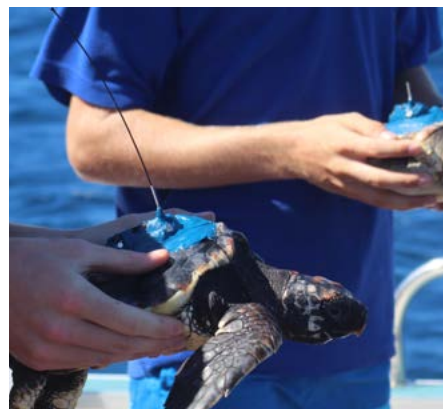
Although a new Department, DBCA is built upon a tradition of customer and community service that lies at the heart of some of the State's most recognised brands and destinations – Perth Zoo, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Rottne Island, and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

This has helped the Department – inclusive of its Statutory Authorities – make a strong start on delivering the Government's agenda in areas as diverse as the Aboriginal Ranger Program in regional and remote WA, through to new and expanded tourism ventures on Rottne Island.

As I look back on the challenges and achievements of this journey, I am struck by the passion, commitment and resilience of our staff. These strengths are also the hallmark of our Department and the way we do business. I want to celebrate our great work and the meaningful difference we are making to the community we serve and the lands and waters we manage.

This year, we consolidated conservation science to build and share knowledge of the State's biodiversity. The creation of Biodiversity and Conservation Science has brought together scientists from across the Department and its Statutory Authorities. Their activities will be guided by a *Science Strategic Plan*, which will be released early in the 2018–19 financial year.

Fire management continues to be a strong focus, and I want to recognise the outstanding work our people do in this sphere, working in often dangerous conditions to protect the community and natural areas from bushfires. More than 800 of our staff are involved in fire



Loggerhead turtles before release at Ningaloo Marine Park.  
Photo – Gill Morris

management operations and this year our prescribed burning program exceeded its 200,000 hectare target in the south-west forest regions for the second year in a row – the first time this has been achieved in consecutive years since 1996–97.

We also strengthened our partnerships with organisations and the community. The release in April 2018 of 33 post hatchling loggerhead turtles washed ashore along the south-west coast is an excellent example, with the turtles found by community members, taken by Parks and Wildlife Service staff to Perth Zoo for assessment before being transferred to rehabilitation centres at AQWA and Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre. In April, some of these turtles were fitted with radio trackers to allow scientists to learn more about their movements and behaviour before they were released into Ningaloo Marine Park.

I also want to celebrate the work of our volunteers, who provide crucial support to the Department's work. In 2017–18, 5657 volunteers contributed an extraordinary 781,766 hours to projects across the State. The Department strives to support our wonderful volunteers, for example with the launch of the new Community Rivercare Program which will provide \$900,000 over three years in grant funding to community volunteer groups for projects in the Swan Canning Catchment.

I would like to record my appreciation to the Minister for Environment Hon Stephen Dawson MLC and Minister for Tourism Hon Paul Papalia MLA and their staff for their valued advice and support.

Finally, readers will notice this Annual Report's focus on conservation actions and frontline service-delivery activities synonymous with WA's national and marine parks, reserves and State forests. This is consistent with reporting arrangements that will produce four separate annual reports across the DBCA 'portfolio': one for the Department and separate reports for each of the Statutory Authorities. I encourage readers to cross-reference the reports to get a better appreciation of the full suite of DBCA's programs and the many opportunities for increased future internal collaboration, which ultimately will benefit our community, tourists and lands and waters that we manage.

**Mark Webb PSM**  
Director General  
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation  
and Attractions  
September 2018

The year began with the creation of DBCA on 1 July 2017. The new Department brings together the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority, Zoological Parks Authority and the former Department of Parks and Wildlife, and provides a strong focus on science, partnerships and promoting Western Australia's natural attractions

## Swan Canning Riverpark

The first grant round of the new Community Rivercare Program awarded \$300,000 in funding to 17 community groups to deliver projects addressing water quality improvement, foreshore restoration and habitat creation in the Swan Canning Catchment. A further \$338,604 was provided to community groups to implement landcare projects in the catchment through the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program.

The Department, in conjunction with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, completed the upgrade of the Kent Street Weir in December 2017.

The *River Journeys* project develops interpretation nodes throughout the Swan Canning Riverpark. In 2017–18, the Australian Sikh Heritage Trail was completed at Adenia Park.

Development of the Perth Water Precinct Plan began in collaboration with Government agencies and local governments and will guide future improvement and development of Perth Water and its foreshores.

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

## Parks

WA national parks and reserves had 20.39 million visitors in 2017–18, with a visitor satisfaction level of 92.5 per cent.

Ten *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) management plans were in preparation, and the final Albany coast parks and reserves management plan was released.

Consultation began for the proposed Fitzroy River National Park and a proposed national park and marine park encompassing the islands and fringing reefs of the Buccaneer Archipelago. A technical assessment and indicative design were prepared to facilitate consultation on a proposed expansion of Wellington National Park.

The Department continued to work with key tourism stakeholders and the Aboriginal community to support *Culture in the Parks*, identifying and promoting opportunities for Aboriginal cultural tourism.

The Aboriginal Ranger Program was launched at 13 locations, providing 85 new jobs and 80 training opportunities. About 200 traditional owners were engaged in on-country land management works and training in the Kimberley.

A record 1742 tours were conducted by the whale shark industry in Ningaloo Marine Park and the second season of the in-water interaction with humpback whales trial was conducted.

Construction began on 6km of new dedicated mountain bike trail in Wooditjup National Park near Margaret River and 5km in the Murray Valley, Dwellingup. Work also began on a five-day, four-night 75km walking trail around Wellington Dam.

Bushfire recovery works included completion of a new 82m pedestrian bridge on the Bibbulmun Track in Lane Poole Reserve, and the establishment of new fire-resistant rammed earth camping huts and toilets.

The Department partnered with Google to capture imagery of key tourist trails and attractions for inclusion on Google Street View. This is the first time the Google Street View Trekker will be applied at this scale to WA parks.

Volunteers continued to make a significant contribution to the Department's work, with the number of Parks and Wildlife Service-registered volunteers reaching 15,797, of whom 5657 contributed 781,766 hours to projects across the State.

## Wildlife

The Department made significant progress in developing regulations to support full proclamation of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, which will replace the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929*.

Protection of threatened plants, animals and ecological communities continued to be a priority, with 888 populations of threatened and priority flora surveyed or monitored, and 285 seed collections banked at the Threatened Flora Seed Centre.

A draft recovery plan was completed for WA occurrences of the Australasian bittern and an interim recovery plan was completed and approved for the Abrolhos painted button-quail. The numbat and western ringtail possum recovery plans were endorsed and adopted as national recovery plans.

The *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program continued to implement broadscale fox and feral cat control across the State, with 3.8 million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest baited as part of the program.

The Dryandra Woodland Sanctuary was cleared of cats and foxes allowing for the reintroduction of woylies and numbats, while a translocation of noisy scrub-birds to Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve and Angove water reserve will aid post-bushfire recovery. A third cohort of black-flanked rock wallabies was released in Kalbarri National Park as part of the South West Threatened Fauna Recovery Project

Significant progress was made on the *Return to 1616* ecological restoration project at Dirk Hartog Island National Park, which was declared free of goats in early 2018.

The *Dolphin Watch* smartphone app was expanded to include Roebuck Bay, and a dolphin fin identification book was published to facilitate community participation in the monitoring of dolphin species in the Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park.

The Department continued to partner with other research bodies, Government agencies, natural resource management groups, local government and community groups to conserve the State's wildlife.

## Fire

The Department achieved 218,965 hectares of prescribed burning in the south-west forest regions, marking the first time the nominal target of 200,000 hectares was achieved in consecutive years since 1996–97. A further 4,692,079 hectares was burnt in the Department's other six regions, the Kimberley, Pilbara, Goldfields, Midwest, Wheatbelt and South Coast.

Coordination and on-ground management of bushfire risk included constructing and maintaining fire access tracks, modifying vegetation in strategic buffers, 'open-edge' prescribed burning and large-scale aerial ignition.

Departmental staff attended and monitored 688 bushfires which burnt approximately 2,780,972 hectares in 2017–18.

The Department's fire-detection system in the high bushfire risk zones of the south-west forest regions saw the fleet of 10 'spotter' aircraft fly 4028 hours of aerial surveillance. The detection aircraft also flew 153 hours in support of bushfire suppression operations.

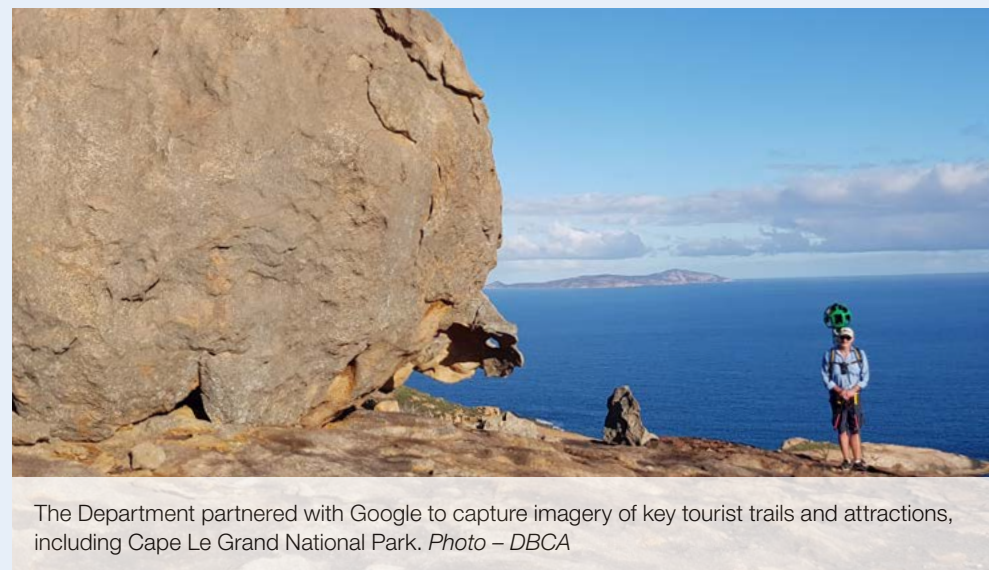
## Forest management

The Department works to implement the requirements of the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*, and ecologically sustainable management of the range of forest values and uses.

In 2017–18, this included preparing and publishing three-year timber harvest plans (2018–20) for the Swan, South West and Warren regions, and detection and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback.



The Australian Sikh Heritage Trail was completed as part of the River Journeys project. Photo – Bobby Sandhu/Be Still Studios



The Department partnered with Google to capture imagery of key tourist trails and attractions, including Cape Le Grand National Park. Photo – DBCA

# About the Department

DBCA was created on 1 July 2017, following the State Government's decision to bring together the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority, Zoological Parks Authority and the former Department of Parks and Wildlife.

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

## Our key brands



## Underpinned by



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.

## Attractions and Partnerships Project Group

DBCA established an interagency Attractions and Partnerships Project Group in May 2018 to help develop an action plan for State-owned or managed natural and Aboriginal tourism attractions. This initiative will align with Tourism WA's recent *Two Year Action Plan for Tourism Western Australia 2018 and 2019*.

The new Nature Based and Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan will identify the State's short and medium-term natural and Aboriginal tourism projects and will be drafted by December 2018.

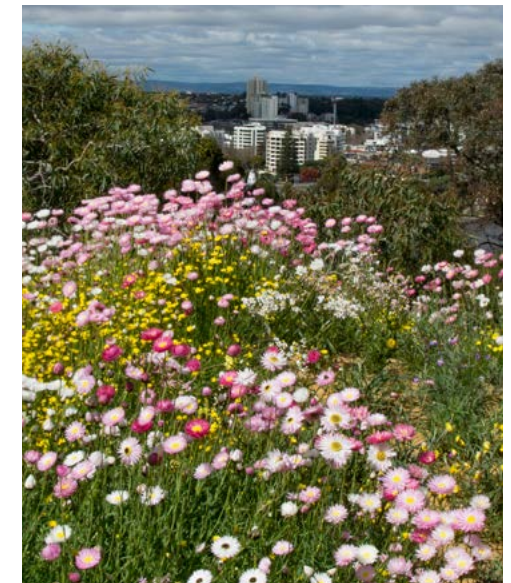
## Science

The Department's renewed focus on science has led to one of its first major achievements – the creation of DBCA Biodiversity and Conservation Science, which provides science and biodiversity knowledge to support the functions of the Parks and Wildlife Service, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.

Led by Executive Director Dr Margaret Byrne, Biodiversity and Conservation Science coordinates and delivers science that underpins the Department's management of species, ecosystems, land and waters and is

delivered by more than 160 staff at multiple sites across the State, including national and marine parks, Kings Park, Perth Zoo, and the WA Herbarium.

Biodiversity and Conservation Science staff have expertise in a wide range of areas including animal biology and breeding, aquatic ecology, biological surveys, collections management, policy, ecology and restoration, fire behaviour, and marine and plant biology.



Kings Park wildflowers.  
Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA





Wild sea turtles being cared for at Perth Zoo. *Photo – Zoological Parks Authority*



William Bay National Park. *Photo – Shem Bisluk/DBCA*



Quokka on Rottneest Island. *Photo – Rottneest Island Authority*

# Overview of agency

## Enabling legislation

Following Machinery of Government changes, the designation of the former Department of Parks and Wildlife was altered and designated as the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions with effect from 1 July 2017, under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*. In addition to providing services to the Swan River Trust and the Conservation and Parks Commission, the Department also supports and provides services to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority (Statutory Authorities).

## Responsible Ministers

The Department reports to the Minister for Environment Hon Stephen Dawson MLC and the Minister for Tourism Hon Paul Papalia MLA.

The Ministers, the Department and the Statutory Authorities administer the legislation listed right. The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority report separately.

On 21 September 2016, the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* received Royal Assent. Significant parts of the Act were proclaimed in the *Government Gazette* of 2 December 2016 and became operable from 3 December 2016. The remaining parts of the Act are to be proclaimed once the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Regulations commence in January 2019.

## Legislation administered by the Department at 30 June 2018

### Acts

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Reserves (National Parks and Conservation Parks) Act 2004*
- *Reserves (National Parks, Conservation Parks and Other Reserves) Act 2004*
- *Reserves (National Parks, Conservation Parks, Nature Reserves and Other Reserves) Act 2004*
- *Sandalwood Act 1929*
- *Swan and Canning Rivers (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Act 2006*
- *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*
- *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*

### Regulations

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

- Wildlife Conservation (Reptiles and Amphibians) Regulations 2002

## Legislation administered by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority at 30 June 2018

### Acts

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

### Regulations

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

## Changes made in 2017–18 to legislation administered

The Conservation and Land Management Amendment Regulations 2017 (published in the *Government Gazette* on 1 September 2017) amended the Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002 in relation to the fees payable for an apiary site authority.

The Wildlife Conservation Amendment Regulations 2017 (published in the *Government Gazette* on 11 August 2017)

amended the Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970 in relation to fees payable for a fauna interaction licence and other licences issued under the regulations.

## Proposed changes to legislation administered

There were no major changes proposed to the legislation administered by the Department during the year. Work has been ongoing since Assent was given to the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* on the preparation of drafting instructions for the Biodiversity Conservation Regulations. Completed regulations will be necessary to provide for full implementation of the Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Biodiversity Conservation Act provides that both the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and the *Sandalwood Act 1929* and their associated regulations will be automatically repealed once the relevant parts of the Biodiversity Conservation Act commence.

## Notices, appointments, orders and approvals

The following notices, appointments and orders were published:

- *Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park (Alteration of Boundaries) Order 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 14 July 2017 pursuant to ss.13(1) and (4) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*

- *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from State Forest) Order (No. 4) 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 15 September 2017 pursuant to s.9(3)(b) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park Alteration of Boundaries) Order 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 22 September 2017 pursuant to ss.13(1) and (4) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park (Classified Waters) Notice 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 6 October 2017 pursuant to s.62(1a) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Conservation and Land Management (Changes to State Forest Nos. 13 and 22) Proposal 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 17 November 2017 pursuant to s.10A of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from State Forest) Order (No. 5) 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 8 December 2017 pursuant to s.9(3)(b) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 16 January 2018 pursuant to s. 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*
- *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 16 January 2018 pursuant to s.14(4) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*
- *Rowley Shoals Marine Park (Classified Waters) Notice 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 2 March 2018 pursuant to s.62 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Montebello Islands Marine Park (Classified Waters) Notice 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 2 March 2018 pursuant to s.62 of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from State Forest) Order (No. 1) 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 6 March 2018 pursuant to s.9(3)(b) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from State Forest) Order (No. 2) 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 9 March 2018 pursuant to s.9(3)(b) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Conservation and Land Management (Reservation of State Forest) Order 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 16 March 2018 pursuant to s.8(1) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Ngari Capes Marine Park (Classified Waters) Notice 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 10 April 2018 pursuant to s.62(1a) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Conservation and Land Management (Changes to State Forest No. 25) Proposal 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 15 May 2018 pursuant to s.10A of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Conservation and Land Management (Changes to State Forest No. 65) Proposal 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 22 May 2018 pursuant to s.10A of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Conservation and Land Management (Changes to State Forest No. 36) Proposal 2017* published in the *Government Gazette* on 8 June 2018 pursuant to s.10A of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*
- *Conservation and Land Management (Excision from State Forest) Order (No. 3) 2018* published in the *Government Gazette* on 19 June 2018 pursuant to s.9(3)(b) of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*



North Kimberley Marine Park. Photo – George Shedrawi/DBC

# Overview of agency

## Performance management framework

DBCA supports Government goals with more specific desired outcomes, achieved via delivery across seven 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 to the right illustrates the relationship between agency-level desired outcomes and the most appropriate Government goal.

### Changes from the 2016–17 reporting year

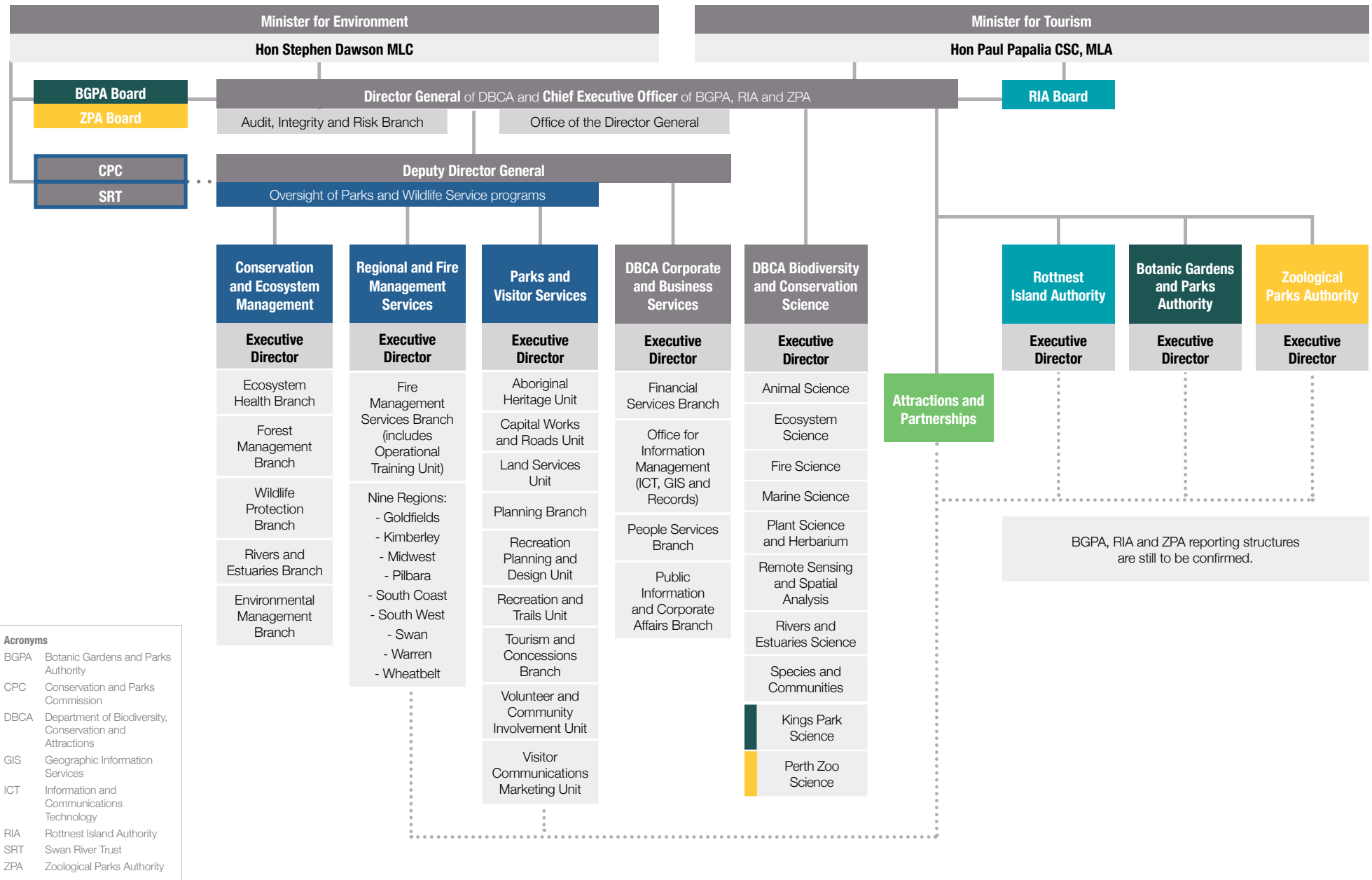
The performance management framework was reviewed and updated to reflect Machinery of Government changes that occurred from 1 July 2017. The updated performance management framework incorporates new Government goals, desired outcomes and service categories as shown in the table to the right. Key performance indicators were also revised and the new indicators are reported against in the key performance indicators section of the Annual Report that follows the financial statements. Key performance indicators for services 1 to 3 are reported in the separate annual reports for the relevant service delivery authority.

## Shared responsibilities with other agencies

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

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services
<p>Better Places:</p> <p>A quality environment with liveable and affordable communities and vibrant regions.</p>	Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park</li> <li>2. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island</li> <li>3. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo</li> <li>4. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark</li> <li>5. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters</li> </ol>
	Plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation utilises evidenced-based science.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities</li> <li>7. Research and Conservation Partnerships</li> </ol>
	Sustainable use of forest resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Implementation of the Forest Management Plan</li> </ol>
	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"> <li>9. Prescribed Burning and Fire Management</li> <li>10. Bushfire Suppression</li> </ol>

# Organisational chart



# Agency performance



A bottlenose dolphin in the Swan River. *Photo – Ben Ansell/DBCA*

DBCA has a legislative requirement to report its achievements against the 10 services it provides. For Parliamentary reporting purposes, DBCA and the three Statutory Authorities are required to prepare separate annual reports. Services 4 to 10 are reported in this Annual Report. Service 6 will also be partially reported in the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority 2017–18 Annual Report* and *Rottnest Island Authority 2017–18 Annual Report*. Service 7 will also be also partially reported in the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority 2017–18 Annual Report* and *Zoological Parks Authority 2017–18 Annual Report*.

Service 1 is reported in the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority 2017–18 Annual Report*. Service 2 is reported in the *Rottnest Island Authority 2017–18 Annual Report*. Service 3 is reported in the *Zoological Parks Authority 2017–18 Annual Report*.

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

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

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

The priorities for this service in 2017–18 were:

- integrated delivery of environmental management programs critical to the *River Protection Strategy* and the *Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan*
- intercepting pollutants as they travel through tributaries and drains using nutrient intervention systems and technologies, such as the nutrient stripping wetland systems that are now operational in the Ellen Brook and Bayswater catchments
- oxygenation of the upper Swan and Canning rivers, reducing the risk of harmful algal blooms and conditions that are hostile to aquatic fauna

- expert advice and distribution of \$1 million in funding for foreshore restoration and protection works through landholder partnerships in the Riverbank Program – this funding will continue to be matched by riverside land managers, equating to a \$2 million investment along our rivers
- development and implementation of the first round of the Community Rivercare Program, awarding \$300,000 in funding to 17 community groups for projects in the Swan Canning Catchment
- delivering *RiverWise* workshops, the *River Rangers* schools education program, and the *River Guardians* community engagement program, including the *Dolphin Watch*, *Fishing Line Bin* and *Phosphorus Awareness* projects
- providing advice to the Minister, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and local government authorities with respect to development on and around the Swan Canning river system.

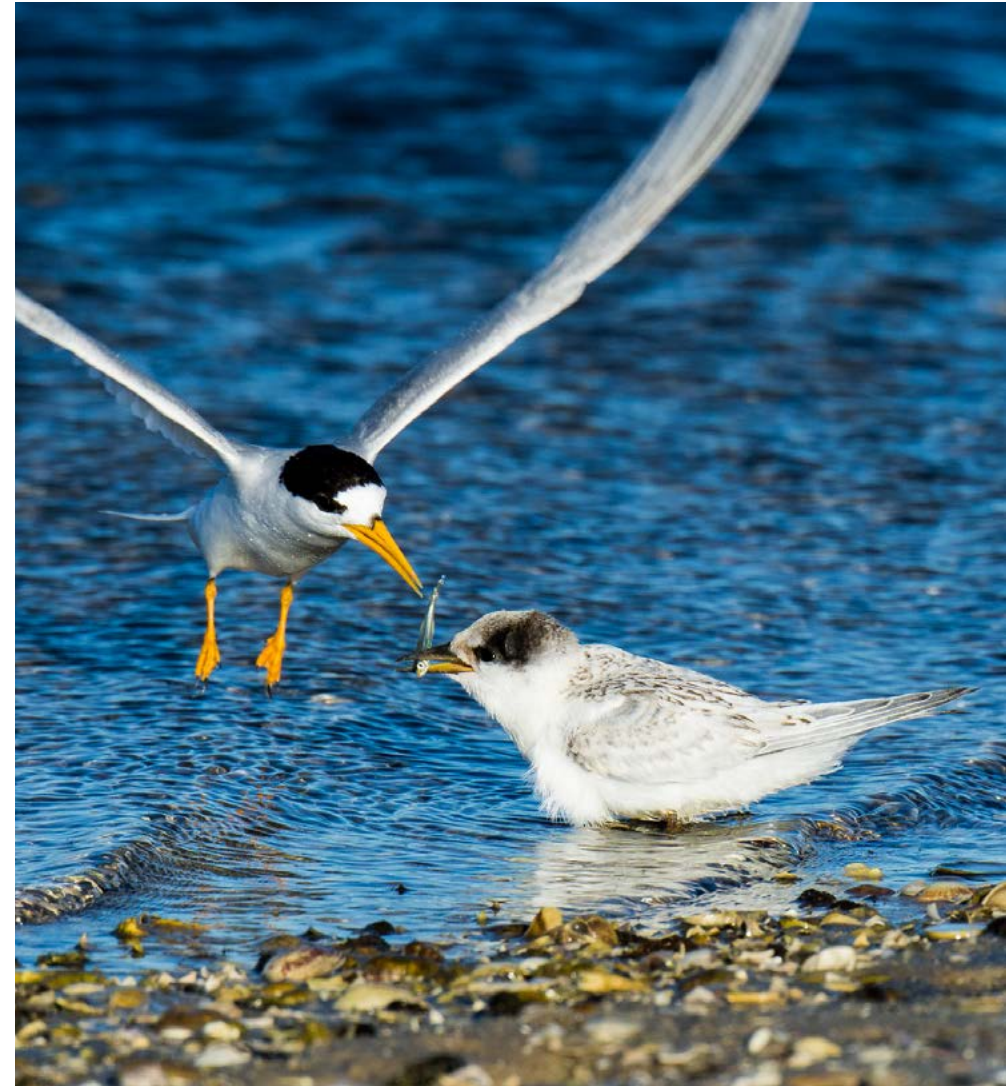
The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2017–18. The service is delivered by the Rivers and Estuaries Branch, the Riverpark Unit in Swan Region, Parks and Visitor Services and DBCA Biodiversity and Conservation Science.

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

- influencing planning decisions to prevent contaminant inputs to the river, maintain stormwater and groundwater quantity flows to the river, and improve foreshore condition by providing advice and input to strategic plans, policies, guidelines and programs relevant to urban water management
- supporting the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities
- supporting the New WAter Ways water sensitive urban design capacity building program for Government and the urban development industry
- influencing and advocating the implementation of a water sensitive Perth through membership of the Water Sensitive Transition Network
- assessing development applications and providing advice to the WAPC and local government
- ensuring developments are compliant with approval conditions
- influencing development of State and local government policies for protection of the river system and preparing precinct plans for identified areas of the Riverpark, in conjunction with State and local governments

# Agency performance

- working with relevant authorities and developers to manage impacts on the river from the development of projects of State significance.
- 2. Delivering environmental programs to improve the health and resilience of the river system, including its shorelines, to environmental and community pressures by:**
- financially supporting NRM sub-regional groups to maintain community capacity across the catchment
  - financially supporting the Swan Alcoa Landcare Program as a source of funding to local environmental groups delivering on-ground projects to improve water quality
  - implementing fencing and revegetation projects and the Light Industry Audit Program in priority catchments
  - financially supporting the *Phosphorus Awareness Project*
  - working with stakeholders to reduce sediment loads entering drains and tributaries from subdivisions and building sites
  - assisting landholders to implement on-ground activities to improve soil health and water quality in the Swan-Avon river system
  - undertaking estuarine (weekly) and catchment (fortnightly) water quality monitoring throughout the Swan Canning Catchment
  - operating two oxygenation plants on the Upper Swan Estuary and two plants on the Canning River
  - tracking priority estuarine fish species such as black bream with a focus on the oxygenation zone in the Upper Swan Estuary and the Kent Street Weir on the Canning River
  - investigating and reducing non-nutrient contaminants
  - investigating environmental water requirements for the Canning and Helena rivers and other major tributaries
  - assessing the potential ecological impacts of in-river barriers in the Canning River
  - monitoring the upstream extent of feral fish species in the Canning River
  - working with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) to complete the upgrade of the Kent Street Weir and fishway
  - delivering the Swan Canning Riverpark research strategy
  - assessing estuary condition based on the fish community indices
  - conducting seagrass monitoring and validating a seagrass-based indicator for estuarine health



Fairy terns at Point Walter. Photo – Christine Chester



- investigating Riverpark dolphin health and behaviour via targeted research
  - understanding the impact of unseasonal summer flooding on the western school prawn
  - initiating trials of new technologies for monitoring phytoplankton and zooplankton in the Swan Canning Riverpark
  - demonstrating the effectiveness of nutrient intervention and water-sensitive urban design projects in urban and rural catchments
  - operating wetland intervention projects in the Canning Plain, Bayswater Brook and Ellen Brook catchments
  - continuing soil amendments trial in the Ellen Brook Catchment
  - protecting and rehabilitating priority Riverpark foreshore areas through the implementation of grants and proactive project funding streams
  - supporting foreshore landholders in the delivery of foreshore projects via the *Best Management Practices* publications
  - maintaining an asset management plan for foreshore assets.
- 3. Delivering operational and compliance activities, recreation and commercial activities in the Riverpark to enhance community benefit and amenity by:**
- implementing the *River Journeys Trail Project* by developing key interpretation nodes and facilities near popular Riverpark destinations
  - maintaining high Riverpark visitor satisfaction levels through responding to community feedback and engaging key river use groups and stakeholders
  - ensuring ongoing management cooperation and coordination with all Riverpark management organisations and stakeholders, including the Aboriginal custodians
  - facilitating establishment and management of sustainable commercial activities in the Riverpark
  - ensuring current and new river reserve leases benefit the community and are managed sustainably using environmental management systems
  - ensuring responsible and appropriate visitor behaviour through compliance activities
  - implementing a land management strategy along the upper Canning River foreshores to address issues of bushfire risk mitigation, unauthorised development and encroachment, water extraction and dam structures
  - maintaining public amenity and safety through implementation of a visitor risk management system
  - facilitating enjoyment of the Riverpark through maintaining courtesy moorings and other public facilities
- ensuring responsible use of the river through implementing the *Swan Canning Riverpark Boating Management Strategy* in partnership with other agencies
  - maintaining an effective incident response framework and capability
  - providing logistical support for water sampling, oxygenation programs, and feral fish and aquatic weed management programs.
- 4. Establishing and implementing a planning and policy framework to achieve collaborative, coordinated Riverpark management by:**
- coordinating interagency strategic and policy contributions
  - supporting implementation of the *Swan Canning River Protection Strategy* and providing legislated progress reports to the Swan River Trust and Minister for Environment
  - coordinating policy and advice functions on behalf of the Swan River Trust
  - coordinating the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy Advisory Group and developing an agreed reporting framework with river partners
  - coordinating provision of high-level advice on the application of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (SCRM Act) and Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007 to the Department.
- 5. Enhancing community social responsibility so that more Perth people help look after the Swan Canning Riverpark by:**
- providing high quality publications, displays and information that promote awareness and appreciation of the Riverpark
  - building strategic alliances and corporate partnering opportunities which support Riverpark objectives
  - building *River Guardians* online subscribers and *RiverWise* opinion leaders through education, citizen science and special events
  - refining and improving the *Dolphin Watch* smart phone app
  - delivering *RiverWise*-branded behaviour change programs, sustainable gardening workshops and special events to effect positive river stewardship in the community.
- 6. Ensuring accountability, good governance and financial sustainability by improving management systems by:**
- coordinating a risk-based management approach in branch service delivery
  - providing effective administration and governance to the Swan River Trust Board.

# Agency performance

**Table 1: Service 4 performance summary**

	2017–18 target	2017–18 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$15,027,000	\$15,799,000	\$772,000
<b>Key efficiency indicator</b>			
Average cost per hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark*	\$2052.00	\$2158.00	\$106.00
<b>Key effectiveness indicator</b>			
Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark**	95.00%	86.80%	(8.20%)

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found on pp 119–122.

\*The area used in the calculation consists of the number of hectares of Riverpark for which the Department is responsible for under the SCRM Act. The area includes the Swan Canning waterway (vested with Swan River Trust) and the adjoining public lands (vested with State and local authorities) included in the Parks and Recreation reservation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. It should be noted that other State and local government authorities listed in Schedule 5 of the SCRM Act also carry out management functions within the Riverpark.

\*\*This is a new indicator. See page 120 for more details.

## Performance highlights

The Swan Canning river system continues to face a range of water quality and ecosystem health challenges. In 2017–18, river management initiatives were delivered to protect the health of the river system, improve understanding of the rivers' function and optimise land use planning in the Riverpark.

## River System Management

### Healthy Catchments Program

- The Swan Alcoa Landcare Program (SALP) is a partnership program providing support and funding to community groups. It is funded by the Department and Alcoa and administered by Perth NRM. In 2017–18, the 20th year of the program, SALP provided \$338,604 to 25 community groups to implement 53 landcare projects throughout the Swan Canning Catchment. SALP also won the State Division of the Partnership for Landcare Award and is a finalist in the National Award.
- Funding of \$610,000 was provided to sub-regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups to coordinate community projects reducing nutrients and other contaminants entering the river system.
- The first grant round of the Community Rivercare Program was developed and implemented with 17 community groups awarded \$300,000 in funding to deliver projects in 2018–19 that address water quality improvement, foreshore restoration and habitat creation in waterways of the Swan Canning Catchment.

## Drainage and Nutrient Intervention Program

- The Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary wetland is now undergoing a performance assessment. A detailed Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities monitoring program commenced in July 2017 in partnership with the Department, University of Western Australia and the City of Bayswater.
- The Ellen Brook Wetland treated almost 200 megalitres of water before it entered the Swan River. The wetland uses Iron Man Gypsum, a by-product of Iluka Resources mineral sands mining, to strip nutrients from the water.
- A site selection and prioritisation process for new drainage intervention works began and will strategically guide future investment in drainage improvement works in the Swan Canning Catchment.

### Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan

- A project to evaluate urban stormwater best management practices received the Stormwater WA Award for Excellence 2017 in the Excellence in Research and Innovation category.
- Hydrological and nutrient re-modelling of the coastal catchments of the Swan Canning river system was completed and the development of the *Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan (SCWQIP)* was progressed. The SCWQIP will provide the future management framework for delivering key Government initiatives such as drainage and nutrient intervention projects in partnership with local government and community groups in priority areas.

### Riverbank funding

- More than \$2.1 million was distributed to 14 priority riverbank projects across 10 foreshore land managers. These projects included erosion control, revegetation, weed control, river wall repair, enhancing river access, widening vegetation corridors, creating native animal habitat and preparation of foreshore management plans.

### Science to support water quality and ecological health management

- Information on science projects supporting water quality and ecological health management of the Swan and Canning rivers can be found on page 37 of this report.

### Investigation underpinning understanding of Riverpark values, threats and mitigation

- Investigations into construction site sediment transport into drainage infrastructure continued to measure turbidity generated by construction activities. A numerical model of the impact of storm events on sediment transport through the drains was implemented, with

the final product designed to influence construction management behaviour and reduce sediment transport to infrastructure and receiving waters.

- Investigations into non-nutrient contaminants in the Swan Canning Estuary and its catchment continued, with a focus on Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in surface waters and key recreational fishing species.
- Investigations into the ecological response of the Canning and Helena rivers to environmental water releases continued, with a focus on connectivity around in-river barriers and the restriction of the upstream

distribution of feral fish species by strategic barriers.

### Oxygenation program

- DBCA worked with DWER to operate two oxygenation plants on the Upper Swan Estuary, providing oxygen relief to a 10km stretch of river susceptible to poor water quality. Two oxygenation plants on the Canning River also deliver oxygenated water to a 4.5km stretch upstream of Kent Street Weir.



Boats in the Swan Canning Riverpark. Photo – Andrew Roob

# Agency performance

## Kent Street Weir refurbishment

- The Department, in conjunction with DWER and the City of Canning, completed the upgrade of the Kent Street Weir in December 2017. The refurbished weir includes automated hydraulic gates that can manage water levels and prevent tidal incursions, a new walkway, and a fishway to allow fish passage through the weir.

## Water quality monitoring

- The Department, in partnership with DWER, continued a weekly monitoring program of water quality in the Swan Canning river system at 31 sites. Water quality in 29 of the 33 catchments that feed into the Swan Canning river system was monitored fortnightly and is published quarterly on the Department's website.

## Boating Management Strategy

- In 2017–18, the Department continued to deliver the *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 Tonkin Highway and Albany Highway, Gosnells. This initiative helped identify hazards and illegal structures along the Canning River foreshore, with 15 issues identified and resolved.

## Events, complaints, incidents and compliance activities

- The Department responded to 303 complaints in and around the Riverpark, compared with 259 in the previous year.
- Five foreshore vegetation protection signs were installed in the Riverpark. The signs are a successful tool to reduce vegetation damage and help educate the public about the value of shoreline vegetation. There was a decrease in reported incidents of vegetation damage with 30 incidents recorded during 2017–18, in comparison with 39 the previous year.

## Maintaining the Riverpark's amenity

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

## River Journeys project

- The Australian Sikh Heritage Trail was completed at Adenia Park through the *River Journeys* project, which develops interpretation nodes throughout the Riverpark. A new interpretation node at John Tonkin Park, East Fremantle is in the final stages of design.

## Statutory Assessments

- In 2017–18, the Department issued more than 211 approvals for works or activities in the Swan and Canning rivers' Development Control Area (DCA) and provided advice on 183 development and subdivision applications that were in, next to, or affecting the Swan and Canning rivers. Five development applications were assessed under Part 5 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* and advice was provided to the Minister for Environment.
- The Department provided ongoing advice on river protection and foreshore enhancement matters for major projects of State significance on and around the Swan and Canning rivers, including Perth Stadium, Matagarup Pedestrian Bridge and Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority projects.
- There are 103 tourism businesses licensed to operate on the Swan and Canning rivers, including 51 charter operators using a total of 65 vessels. There were also 52 licences approved across 11 aquatic activities, including watersport lessons and equipment hire. A further 14 commercial operators are approved to use the foreshore, primarily for pop-up food and beverage outlets.

## Strategic activities

- Development of the Perth Water Precinct Plan began in collaboration with several other State agencies and local governments. The plan will guide future improvement and development of Perth Water, its foreshores and adjoining urban interface.
- DBCA worked with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on a review of State Planning Policy 2.10: Swan-Canning River System and State Planning Policy 2.9: Water Resources to ensure that activities, land use and development maintain and enhance the health, amenity and landscape values of the rivers, including recreational and scenic values.
- The draft Land and Waterways Use Plan for the Swan Canning Riverpark was also completed in June 2018.

## Land use planning program

- The land use planning program provided advice on 28 strategic planning proposals likely to impact on the river system. The program works closely with urban development stakeholders to ensure that contaminant inputs to the river are reduced, stormwater and groundwater quantity flows to the river are maintained, and foreshore condition is improved.

- The Department continued to resource and support the New Water Ways program and the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, and influence and advocate the implementation of a water sensitive Perth through membership of the Water Sensitive Transition Network.

#### Compliance and audit

- The Department undertook compliance actions on 84 projects around the Development Control Area. Most non-compliant issues were satisfactorily resolved as a result of the Department's efforts. Eleven leases at yacht clubs and marinas were audited for compliance with environmental management systems.

#### Swan Canning River Protection Strategy

- The Department continued to work with members of the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy (SCRPS) Advisory Group to oversee implementation and reporting of management actions to the Swan River Trust. An achievement reporting framework was developed and the First Year Progress Report on the SCRPS implementation was presented to the Minister for Environment and Parliament in 2017.
- An addendum publication to the SCRPS Strategic Management Plan was produced in June 2018 to reflect Machinery of

Government changes and agreed river management responsibilities.

- The draft SCRPS Biennial Report (as required under the SCRMP Act 2006), was completed in June 2018.

#### Community engagement

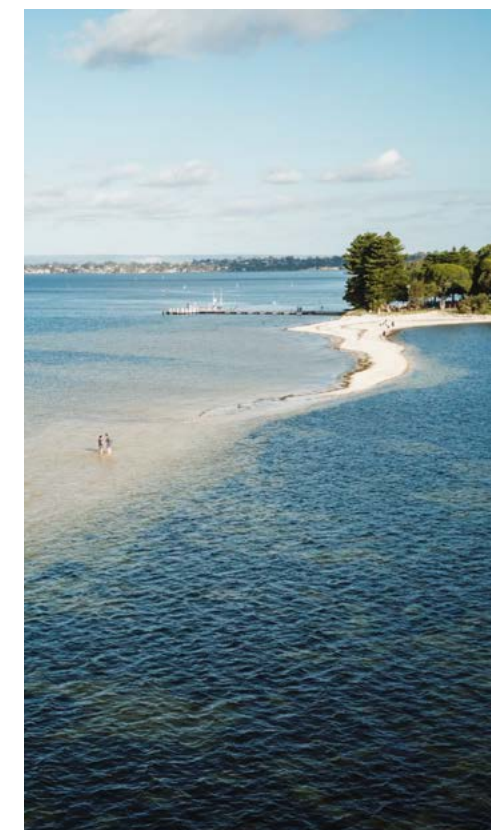
A number of community engagement projects were undertaken to support behaviour change and citizen science for the Swan and Canning rivers. The following Service Four programs and projects were supported by Parks and Visitor Services:

- The *River Guardians* program had 2945 subscribers at 30 June 2018. The program worked with 63 stakeholder groups and was actively present at 18 environmental education events with a combined attendance of more than 13,000 people. *River Guardians* continued to provide *RiverWise* training, volunteering opportunities and presentations from scientific and behaviour change experts addressing key issues impacting our rivers.
- The *Dolphin Watch* citizen science research project continued to be delivered in Perth and was expanded to Mandurah and Broome in 2018. More than 150 new *Dolphin Watch* volunteers registered with the Department in 2017–18 and 62 new volunteers were trained. There were 440 dolphin monitoring reports submitted

and volunteers contributed 1747 hours. *Junior Dolphin Watch* engaged with 138 students from four schools.

- The *Reel It In* fishing line bin project had 61 dedicated fishing line bins at 30 June 2018 at popular jetties, fishing platforms, traffic bridges and foreshores throughout the Riverpark. It is estimated the bins removed more than 20km of fishing line from the Riverpark during the year. Native Animal Rescue empty the fishing line bins on a weekly basis and more than 40 volunteers have adopted 34 fishing line bin sites throughout the Riverpark. Ten fishing line bins have also been sent to the City of Mandurah for installation in the Peel-Harvey Estuary.
- A priority nutrient input catchment around the Southern River was selected for the 2017 *RiverWise Households* project. This behaviour change project engaged more than 500 households and deployed a personalised coaching approach, combined with on-site garden consultations, feedback letters and referrals to a gardening workshop. The program recruited higher fertiliser users (30 per cent of participants) into the garden consultation service, completing 117 garden consults, and achieved a 52 per cent fertiliser reduction among this group. The overall participant group achieved a 28 per cent reduction in fertiliser application, by weight, among participants.

- The Department funded six *RiverWise* gardening workshops attended by a total of 440 people in priority catchments in the Perth metropolitan area to encourage sustainable gardening practices including responsible fertiliser use.



Point Walter. Photo – David Pethick

## Case study

# Joint management agreement celebrates 10 years

This year marks a decade of one of WA's first joint management agreements between traditional owners and the Department.

In 2008, joint management of six conservation parks began with the Miriuwung and Gajerrong (MG) people in the East Kimberley near Kununurra. An outcome of the 2005 Ord Final Agreement, the joint management agreement created six new conservation areas covering 154,346 hectares, placing ownership of the land with the MG people. The land is leased to the State and managed as a conservation park.

It has similar goals to other joint management agreements around WA – ensuring traditional ways of looking after country and culture, as well as rules about how decisions are made, are respected and maintained. The agreement recognises and taps into the wealth of knowledge and skills of traditional owners in caring for country.

The agreement with the MG people also put in place one of WA's first Aboriginal ranger programs. Eight MG rangers – including two senior rangers – now work on country, completing certified training in land management and gaining practical skills in fire management, weed and feral animal control, machinery operation and wildlife surveys.

The joint management agreement and the ranger program have led to many benefits for the Department and the community. Socially,

the rangers say they have pride in their work, report more confidence and self-esteem, and enjoy working on their country and looking after it. The rangers are well respected and young people aspire to become rangers themselves.

Management of the reserves benefits from two-way communication between Department staff and the rangers, merging traditional and contemporary land management practices. For example, the prescribed burning program aims to emulate traditional burning practices. It also gives the traditional owners a strong voice when making decisions about the parks.

Joint management also plays a role in getting people out on country, with the Department facilitating trips for customary activities and sharing knowledge. Visitors to the parks benefit from better understanding of Aboriginal culture through signage incorporating cultural information and traditional language.



MG rangers installing a new staircase in Mirima National Park. *Photo – DBCA*



MG ranger Clay Peart undertaking an asset protection burn around Parry Creek Farm. *Photo – DBCA*



Mayiba (Middle Spring) in Ngamoowalem Conservation Park, which is jointly managed with the MG people. *Photo – DBCA*

# Agency performance

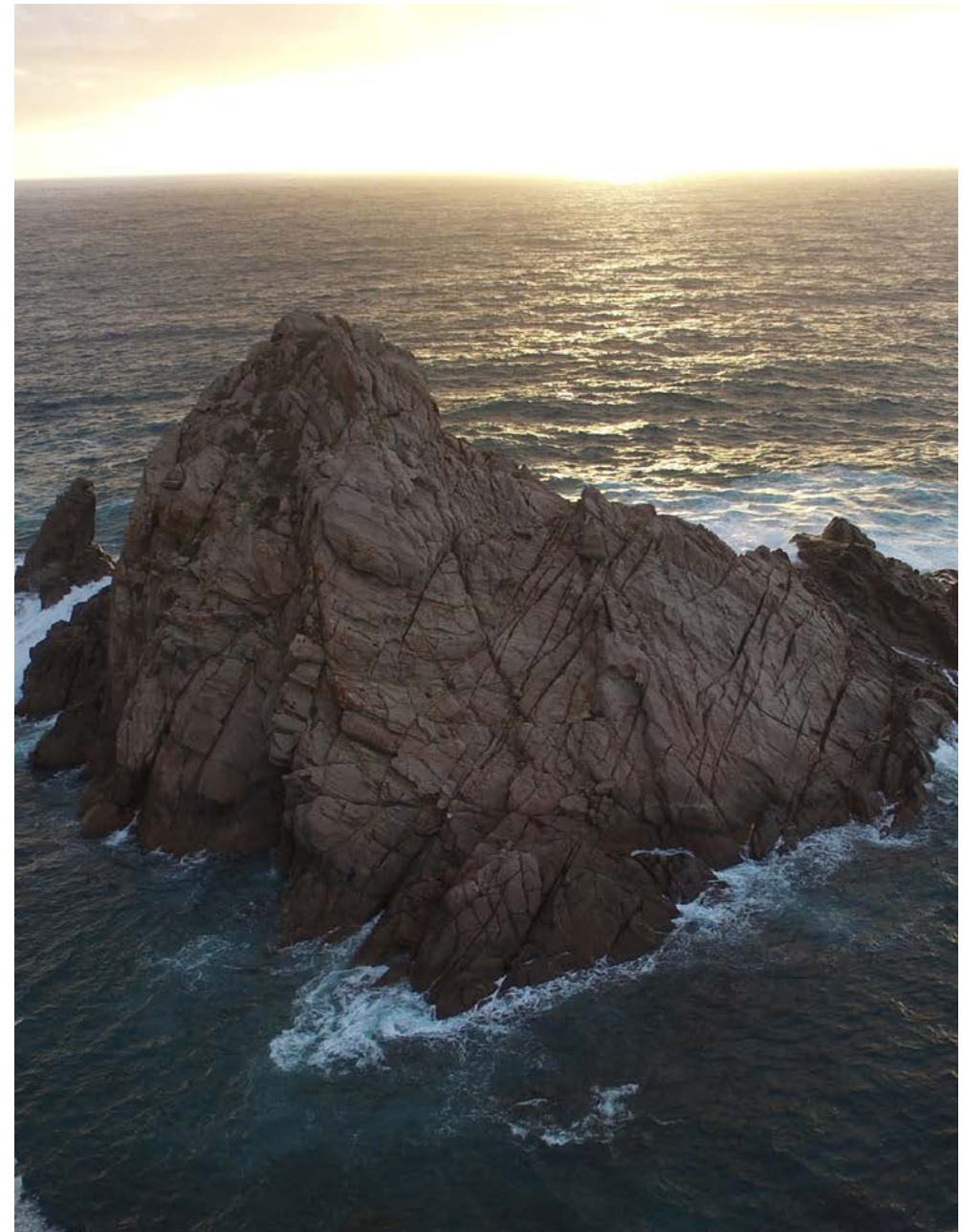
## Service 5: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters

This service is responsible for the generation of environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits through further development of a world-class parks system in terms of ecosystem management and visitor facilities and services.

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

The priorities of this service in 2017–18 were:

- continuing to establish a world-class parks system by improving the presentation of parks and developing recreation opportunities including the development of trails and expansion of campgrounds through capital investments
- continuing to plan for and implement a mosaic of parks to protect the Kimberley including the proposed Fitzroy River National Park and the islands and waters of Buccaneer Archipelago
- continuing to expand the level of Aboriginal engagement and involvement through the use of customary practices and, where resourced, joint vesting and management of reserves
- continuing to implement park improvements to improve and expand camping and associated visitor experiences
- continuing the Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure Project to improve tourist access and provide world-class tourism attractions and experiences in Kalbarri National Park
- working closely with the community and regional development commissions to plan for strategic investments in park visitor infrastructure development
- developing, coordinating and administering the Aboriginal Ranger Program
- building and strengthening community connections through the continued use of volunteers, working with recreation and other community user groups
- continuing to work with the tourism industry and associations to expand commercial opportunities to deliver high-quality visitor experiences, including Aboriginal cultural tourism experiences, that also contribute direct expenditure in regional communities
- continuing to plan for the management of Wedge and Grey reserves
- progressing the planning, development and management of former pastoral lands, in particular along the Ningaloo coast.



Sugarloaf Rock in Ngari Capes Marine Park. Photo – DBCA



The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2017–18:

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

- ongoing planning and management of new parks and reserves in the Kimberley, including the proposed Fitzroy River National Park and proposed Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park
- continuing to prepare *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) marine and terrestrial management plans on behalf of the Conservation and Parks Commission and joint management partners
- incorporating into management plans the CALM Act objective to protect and conserve the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons
- continuing to undertake visitor planning in selected areas
- continuing to undertake recreation and interpretation master planning at high priority sites identified for development
- continuing to plan for commercial activity opportunities
- assisting in the preparation of regional and local mountain bike trails strategies and master plans

- continuing to undertake Parks and Visitor Services strategic planning

- continuing to improve alignment of Parks and Visitor Services strategic plans with operational plans and works programming.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- continuing to promote the CALM Act management objective to protect and conserve the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons through training and other opportunities
- developing an Aboriginal cultural planning framework and methodology to guide work units
- continuing to protect Aboriginal cultural sites when undertaking works
- continuing to implement Aboriginal customary activities policy, protocols and procedures

# Agency performance

- where resourced, developing and implementing joint management arrangements with Aboriginal working parties and other organisations
  - continuing to develop local area access arrangements including developing policy, protocols and procedures
  - continuing to build and strengthen working relationships with Aboriginal communities, native title representative bodies and Aboriginal working parties
  - continuing to promote commercial tourism and event opportunities with Aboriginal people.
- 6. Developing and nurturing lifelong connections between the community and parks in order to conserve and protect natural areas, by:**
- continuing to build and strengthen relationships with volunteers and recreation user groups with a focus on long trails, mountain bike, horse riding and off-road vehicle groups
  - continuing to build and strengthen relationships with partner groups, key stakeholders and State Government agencies
  - continuing to offer community partnership models of campground management where appropriate.
- 7. Providing organisational support to ensure financial, administrative and staff management is appropriate to delivering parks and visitor services, by**
- continuing to undertake financial and administrative management as required
  - continuing to implement the remote parks housing replacement and renovation program
  - continuing to explore opportunities to generate revenue from fees and charges
  - continuing to promote and explore opportunities for implementation of the Department's *Aboriginal Employment Strategy 2017–19*
  - continuing to progress workforce planning in association with Parks and Visitor Services' strategic planning
  - continuing to improve technology management and information connectivity.

**Table 2: Service 5 performance summary**

	2017–18 target	2017–18 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$107,297,000	\$100,910,000	(\$6,387,000)
<b>Key efficiency indicator</b>			
Average cost per hectare in national parks and other lands and waters	\$3.40	\$3.18	(\$0.22)
<b>Key effectiveness indicator</b>			
Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters	95.00%	92.50%	(2.50%)

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found on pp 119–122.

## Performance highlights

### Management planning

- Ten CALM Act management plans were in preparation, the final Albany coast parks and reserves management plan was released, and amendments were made to Ngari Capes, Montebello Islands and Eighty Mile Beach marine park management plans.
- Boundary amendments to include intertidal waters were made to Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls, North Lalang-garram, Lalang-garram / Camden Sound and Eighty Mile Beach marine parks.

- Management zoning was gazetted for Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park and Ngari Capes Marine Park.

### Aboriginal engagement

- There has been ongoing negotiation with traditional owners in the Kimberley to facilitate the creation of jointly managed reserves.
- There were 20 Aboriginal tourism operators, up from 17 in 2016–17.
- The Department continued to implement mandatory Aboriginal cross-cultural awareness training for staff across the State.

- The Aboriginal Heritage Unit worked collaboratively with the Department's Swan Region to develop a regional *Aboriginal Engagement Strategy*.
- The Department continues to work with key tourism stakeholders and the Aboriginal community to support *Culture in the Parks*, 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.
- About 200 traditional owners have been engaged in on-country land management works and training in the Kimberley.
- The Department consulted with Aboriginal elders in Collie about works at a significant site in the area. Maintenance work is planned for later in 2018.
- Planning began to identify suitable sites for cultural camps in the South West Region.
- The Department's *Reconciliation Action Plan 2018–20* was developed to help strengthen engagement and relationships with Aboriginal people.

#### Tourism and accommodation

- The Department continued to implement a community partnership campground management model, enabling a private or community sector organisation to carry out day-to-day management of a campground on a contract for service basis. The model

is being used at D'Entrecasteaux National Park, and Logue Brook and Potters Gorge campgrounds in Wellington National Park.

- The process to identify a suitable proponent to develop an ecotourism facility in Millstream Chichester National Park progressed, including at a new site at Palm Pool close to a permanent waterbody. A competitive process to identify a preferred proponent is underway.
- The whale shark industry in the Ningaloo Marine Park had a record 1742 tours and a whale shark contact success rate of 94 per cent during the 2017 season (1 March to 31 July). Passenger numbers increased from 27,700 in the 2016 season to 29,197 in the 2017 season.
- The second season of the in-water interaction with humpback whales trial in Ningaloo Marine Park was conducted from August to November 2017. The trial is in partnership with licensed whale shark operators who have experience with in-water interactions. This unique activity was experienced by 1547 people during the season in 457 successful interactions. Approval has been granted for in-water interactions to continue until 2020 with the aim to transition to a licensed industry.

#### World Heritage management

- The Department continued to provide day-to-day management of the Shark Bay, Ningaloo Coast and Purnululu National Park World Heritage areas, including

providing executive support to property-specific advisory committees.

- In April 2018, a delegation from the Department and the Purnululu World Heritage Advisory Committee travelled to Kakadu National Park to meet with Parks Australia staff and traditional owners to discuss managing visitation to rock art sites.

#### Recreation and trails

- The Department continued to work closely with key recreation bodies to develop and implement strategic planning initiatives, including the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on the development of the *Western Australian Bushwalking Strategy*, the implementation of the *Western Australian State Trails Blueprint 2017–2021*, and off-road-vehicle management in association with the Western Australian Local Government Association.
- The Department continued to partner with and support recreation stakeholders, including the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail foundations, Friends of the Cape to Cape Track, TrailsWA, OutdoorsWA, Westcycle, WA Mountain Bike Association, WA 4WD Association, Track Care WA, the Recreational Trailbike Riders' Association of WA and the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association.
- The *Perth and Peel Mountain Bike Master Plan* was completed and launched by the

Minister for Environment and the Minister for Sport and Recreation in July 2017.

- New mountain bike trail concept plans were completed for Wooditjup (formerly Bramley) National Park, the Margaret River Pine Plantation, Arklow Forest in Collie and the Murray Valley within Lane Poole Reserve.
- The Department began construction of 6km of new dedicated mountain bike trail in Wooditjup National Park, and 5km in the Murray Valley, Dwellingup.
- Construction began on the Wellington Dam Walk Trail, a five-day, four-night 75km walking trail around Wellington Dam.
- The Department's partnership with the four-wheel drive community continued, with volunteers working alongside staff on projects on the Fawcett Track in Lane Poole Reserve, the historic Damperwah State Farm in the Karara rangelands and the south-west forests.
- A new \$850,000 pedestrian bridge on the Bibbulmun Track was completed (see Improving facilities section).
- Bushfire recovery works at recreation sites continued, particularly on the Bibbulmun Track with the establishment of new, fire-resistant rammed earth camping huts and toilets, replacement of destroyed and damaged bridges and boardwalks, and replacement of trail markers and signs.

# Agency performance

## Visitor planning and communications

- The Department worked with private conservation organisations, Aboriginal communities, the private sector and volunteers to promote people's enjoyment and safety in parks.
- Significant improvements were made to the Explore Parks WA website, and upgrades made to the Park Stay WA website with nine new campgrounds added.
- The *National, marine and regional parks visitor guide* was published and more than 100 State-wide distribution outlets maintained.
- Recreation site planning and detailed design continued for the Skywalk project in Kalbarri National Park, improved visitor infrastructure in John Forrest National Park and Lane Poole Reserve, and began in Monkey Mia, Karijini and Dryandra.
- Master planning continued for recreation assessments in the West Kimberley with Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation, Ningaloo Coast pastoral lease exclusion area and Wedge and Grey shack settlements. Master planning began for Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park, Walyunga National Park and for national parks of the Jurien Bay area.
- Design and engineering was undertaken for Deep Gorge in Murujuga to allow safe and respectful access to rock art.
- The Department partnered with Google to capture imagery on key tourist trails and

attractions for inclusion on Google Street View.

This is the first time the Google Street View Trekker will be applied at this scale to Western Australian parks and will promote WA's attractions as key tourism and community assets and as a nature-based tourism destination. Trails in Warren, South Coast, Swan and Kimberley regions have been captured to date.

## Improving facilities

- Maintenance continued on the Department's 37,000km road network, with road upgrade projects completed in Wellington and John Forrest national parks.
- The \$20 million Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure Project continued with the construction of sealed roads to the Loop, Z Bend and Meanarra Hill sites completed. The tender for the two skywalk lookout structures and other facilities at Z Bend and Meanarra Hill was advertised.
- Implementation of the \$5.9 million Public Recreation and Joint Management Arrangements for the Ningaloo Coast project continued with the establishment of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) to enable the creation of a conservation and recreation reserve along the Ningaloo coast and joint management arrangements with traditional owners. The access roads to Red Bluff and Tombstones recreation

sites were upgraded and several recreation sites around Coral Bay improved.

- As part of bushfire recovery works, an 82m suspension bridge over the Murray River on the Bibbulmun Track in Lane Poole Reserve was constructed. The bridge, named Bilya Djena Bidi (river foot bridge), replaces the Long Gully timber trestle bridge.
- The Caravan and Camping initiative has concluded. There were 91 new campsites established in 2017–18 at Jarrahdene and Shannon campgrounds in Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park. As part of the initiative, 523 campsites, seven new campgrounds and 10 expanded campgrounds were established and six commercial tourism accommodation leases were upgraded.
- A new campground in Yanchep National Park was completed.
- The upgrade of the Dwaarlindjirraap (Baden Powell) day-use area in Lane Poole Reserve was completed with the construction of new stairs for swimmers and canoeists to access the Murray River.
- Improvements to infrastructure and facilities in John Forrest National Park continued with the upgrade of the Jane Brook picnic area and upgrade of the main access road.
- Construction works were completed for Mesa campground in Cape Range National Park, Cape Peron trails, and Gurlbinwila at Crab Creek in Yawuru country.

- The redevelopment of the Lucky Bay campground continued with the construction of a new ablution block and refurbishment of an existing ablution block, and new barbecue shelter, toilet, viewing decks and shade sails.
- The sealing of River Road in Wellington National Park was completed providing an important tourist drive link in the park.
- \$1.739 million was invested to replace or repair 23 vehicle bridges across the south-west of the State.

## Signs and interpretation

- During 2017–18, 3236 signs were developed to final production, including 258 interpretive signs, 1412 risk signs, 198 directional/identification signs and 1368 management signs.
- Interpretation signage was installed at 54 recreational sites in national parks and reserves, including at Herdsman Lake, Rockingham Lakes, and Canning River and Beeliar regional parks. Cultural interpretation was a priority with an increase in jointly managed lands and waters.
- Directional wayfinding, park and reserve boundary and identification signs were installed throughout the State for 40 projects, and sign planning for new and redeveloped campgrounds was undertaken.
- The Department continued to provide advice to special interest groups, local governments and agencies for a variety of communication and planning needs.

### Working with the community

- At 30 June 2018, the number of Parks and Wildlife Service registered volunteers was 15,797, of whom 5657 contributed 781,766 hours to projects across the State. Volunteer projects included campground hosting, collecting seeds, clearing weeds, terrestrial and marine plant and animal surveys and track, trail and park maintenance.
- In 2017–18, there were 323 active volunteer projects registered around the State.
- Across the Department, 22 new volunteer projects were created, and 1756 new volunteers were registered.
- Two new community-based MOUs were established in 2017–18. A partnership was developed between Parks and Wildlife Service and the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, WA, a leading structured youth development program. Another new partnership was forged with the First Hike Project, an initiative which aims to help refugees feel at home in Australia and deepen their connection to their new country by taking groups on hiking trips to experience the Australian bush. The Rio Tinto Earth Assist MOU continued to deliver effective on-ground conservation work and in-school environmental programs to primary and secondary school students.
- A corporate volunteer project with Bankwest to support their staff in on-country work and cultural learning around the six Noongar seasons was undertaken at Yanchep National Park.
- The Wildcare Helpline's 43 office and home-based volunteers contributed 8150 hours fielding more than 10,000 calls from members of the public concerned with sick or injured native wildlife. The Helpline's referral network supported by the Volunteer and Community Involvement Unit (VCIU) includes more than 10 native wildlife rehabilitation centres, 270 venomous reptile removers and more than 100 Animal Control Agents. The Wildcare Helpline smartphone app has been downloaded more than 3500 times since its launch in July 2017.
- The Campground Host program had 256 volunteers at 52 campsites across all regions of WA, providing 181,235 hours of voluntary park and visitor management assistance.
- Wildlife rehabilitation centres across the State, supported by VCIU, provided more than 373,644 voluntary hours of care for native wildlife.
- 348 volunteers attended on-site training, including 181 at wildlife rehabilitation courses in Kensington, Bunbury and Karratha, while 17 campground hosts attended basic fire awareness training.
- A volunteer survey carried out in March 2018 indicated that most volunteers were very satisfied with their experience (84.4 per cent overall satisfaction), which was reflected in the high number who would recommend volunteering with the

Department to others (86.3 per cent). This was reiterated with 88.3 per cent of respondents saying they were likely to continue volunteering with the Department.

- The VCIU continued to support external stakeholders including 'Friends of' groups and community-based organisations.

- Information on the Department's *River Guardians* program and *Dolphin Watch* project is reported under Service 4 on page 19.



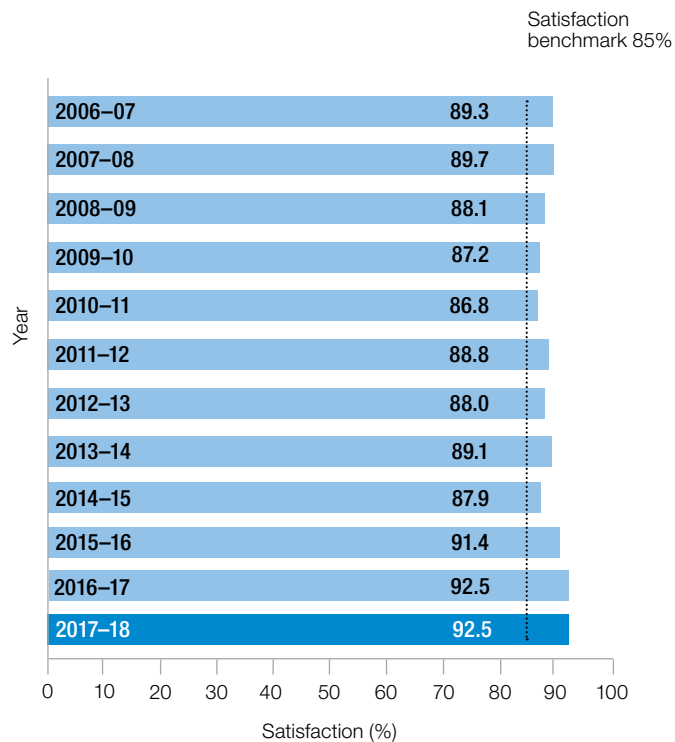
The new Bilya Bjena Bidi suspension bridge spans 82m across the Murray River in Lane Poole Reserve. Photo – Stuart Harrison/DBCA

# Agency performance

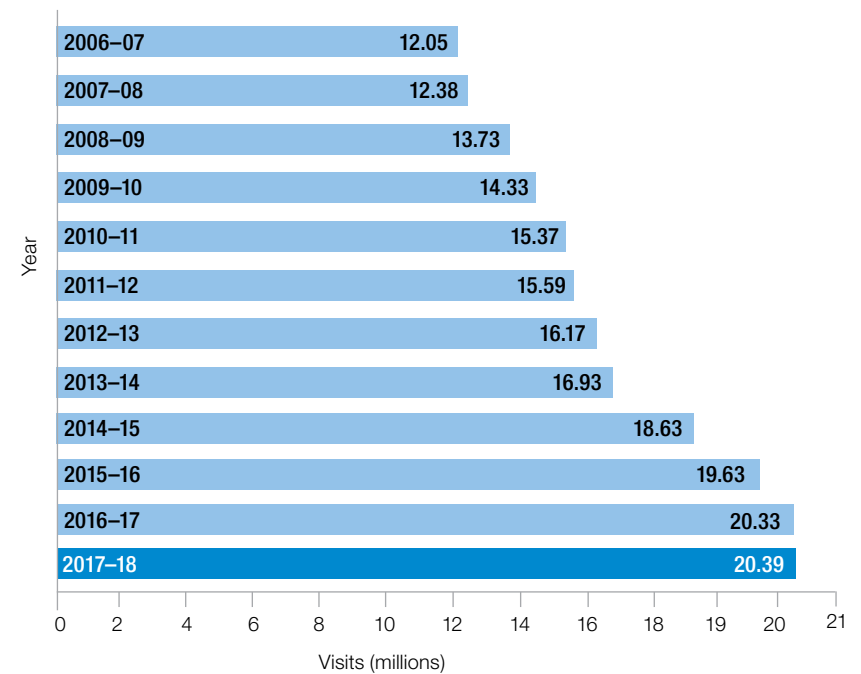
## Park visitor statistics

- The 2017–18 visitor satisfaction index, averaged from visitor responses to surveys at selected parks, reserves and forest areas around the State, was 92.5 per cent. This outcome, with results from previous years of the survey program, is illustrated in Figure 1.
- The total number of visits to Department-managed lands and waters was 20.39 million, an increase from 20.33 million last year (Figure 2).

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



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



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

## Case study

# New mountain bike trails under construction

Promoting recreational activities in the State's natural areas is a priority for the Department. This year, construction started on several new mountain bike trails as participation continued to grow.

WA's national parks and reserves offer outstanding opportunities for a range of outdoor activities, from bushwalking and four-wheel driving, to kayaking, rock climbing and mountain biking.

Mountain biking is one of the world's fastest growing recreational activities. In WA, its popularity is also on the rise with an estimated 19 per cent of people owning a mountain bike and about 120,000 mountain bikes purchased every year. Mountain biking can lead to significant health and social benefits for the community, and helps people to connect with our parks.

The Department partners with key stakeholders, including the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation, Westcycle and the WA Mountain Bike Association, and was heavily involved in the development of the *Perth and Peel Mountain Bike Master Plan*, which was released this year and will guide strategic development of new trails in the Perth and Peel regions.

The Department is also planning and constructing new trail networks to meet the rapidly increasing demand for mountain bike trails.

This year, new concept plans were completed for Wooditjup (formerly Bramley) National Park near Margaret River, the Margaret River Pine Plantation, Goat Farm in Greenmount, Arklow Forest in Collie and the Murray Valley near Dwellingup.

In Wooditjup National Park, the Department began construction of 6km of new dedicated mountain bike trail (building on the 9km of new trail previously completed in 2016), while another 5km of new trail construction also began in the Murray Valley.

With this demand, planning and construction of high quality, sustainable trails and facilities is needed, as it protects the environment and encourages more community participation.

In addition to the 1000km Munda Biddi Trail, the Department manages more than 400km of dedicated mountain bike trails, making it the State's biggest mountain bike trail provider.



Mountain biking in Wooditjup National Park. Photo – Erik Sandstrom

# Agency performance

## Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities

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

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

The priorities of this service in 2017–18 were:

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

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

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2017–18. The service is delivered by multiple divisions, services and Statutory Authorities across the Department.

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

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

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

- continuing to establish the formal terrestrial and marine conservation reserve system, with priority for:
  - Kimberley terrestrial, island and marine reserves
  - lands purchased for conservation
  - proposals in the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*
  - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) regions with less than 10 per cent in conservation reserves
- progressively implementing priority conservation and science actions in marine reserve management plans
- progressively implementing priority conservation and science actions in terrestrial reserve management plans or taking action to effectively manage terrestrial reserves through other appropriate mechanisms
- continuing to effectively manage World Heritage listed areas through the implementation of collaborative conservation management programs across various tenures

- continuing to implement the WA marine monitoring program in marine parks and reserves
- supporting and participating in audits and assessments undertaken by the Conservation and Parks Commission.

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

- developing and implementing approved wildlife recovery programs including recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities
- continuing to maintain, review and update, as necessary, the lists of threatened and priority species and threatened and priority ecological communities
- continuing to ensure the sustainable use of flora and fauna, hobby keeping of fauna and the trade in wildlife are appropriately regulated and managed
- maintaining an effective system for monitoring and compliance with legislation for wildlife management
- managing wildlife interactions to protect life and property
- implementing legislative amendments and supporting programs to improve the management of sandalwood and enhance its sustainable use



- understanding the requirements for Aboriginal people to undertake customary activities involving wildlife.

#### 4. Reducing impacts of key threatening processes, by:

- continuing to provide conservation, species and habitat advice and information to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Regions being undertaken by the State and Commonwealth Governments
- developing and implementing appropriate monitoring and reporting to meet the ecosystem health and biodiversity key performance indicators in the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*
- reviewing and determining priorities for pest animal management, developing and conducting training, and undertaking actions to achieve conservation and protection of native fauna and other values, including through the *Western Shield* program and the *State Cane Toad Strategy*
- reviewing and determining priorities for weed management, developing and conducting training, and undertaking actions including surveys to determine weed distribution and abundance to achieve conservation and protection of native flora and other values
- reviewing and determining priorities for plant disease management, developing and conducting training, and undertaking actions to achieve conservation and protection of native flora and other values, including through programs to manage *Phytophthora* dieback, with a focus on identified protectable areas
- progressing integration of feral cat and fox baiting in *Western Shield* areas, using the Eradicat® feral cat bait
- assessing the potential costs and benefits of alternate manufacturing processes for feral cat and fox baits
- developing and implementing periodic reporting requirements to ensure service delivery is consistent with pest, weed and disease management priorities and wildlife management plans
- implementing priority and targeted actions to reduce the impacts of altered hydrology (e.g. climate variability, secondary salinity, acidification and eutrophication) on biodiversity and other values on CALM Act land
- implementing strategic actions to improve the resilience of threatened terrestrial and marine species and ecological communities under predicted climate change settings
- continuing to provide consistent and timely advice to industry, regulatory agencies and the Minister for Environment on land use, resource extraction and industrial development proposals to protect the conservation reserve system and key species and ecological communities.



Boodies, along with bilbies, brushtail possums, malas and golden bandicoots, are being monitored at Matuwa as part of the Operation Rangelands Restoration project.  
Photo – Judy Dunlop/DBCA

# Agency performance

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

- ensuring that science programs prioritise and address the gaps in knowledge in order to deliver improved management strategies implemented by the Department for effective conservation, protection and management of flora, fauna, ecological communities and conservation reserves
- continuing to undertake terrestrial and marine biological surveys to systematically address gaps in knowledge and increase understanding of biodiversity components and patterns to better inform wildlife and conservation reserve management, including joint management with Aboriginal traditional owners
- determining priorities for and undertaking research relating to priority weeds, plant diseases and pest animals and related conservation and management actions
- better understanding the factors influencing the effectiveness of fox and feral cat baiting and developing more effective control regimes
- continuing to plan and implement translocations, including captive breeding programs and ex situ seed storage where necessary, focusing on high priority threatened flora and fauna and the development of success criteria

- managing and curating the Western Australian Herbarium to improve representation of rare and poorly known taxa and of the conservation estate, and conducting and supporting taxonomic research on WA plants, algae and fungi
- assisting the Western Australian Museum and other research institutions with research into faunal taxonomy, particularly in poorly known groups such as terrestrial and marine invertebrates, and taxa of conservation concern, such as short range endemics
- undertaking research on population genetics, demography, eco-physiology and reproductive biology to improve management and conservation of threatened flora and fauna
- continuing to build partnerships and facilitating the development of models to determine the effects of human-induced climate change on biodiversity
- maintaining detection, diagnostic and mapping services for *Phytophthora* species.

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

- providing core services and information on all plants, algae and fungi in WA
- continuing to develop and support the implementation of a survey database to provide access to information on biodiversity

- developing a geographical database to access information on the incidence and management of weeds, pests and diseases that may affect conservation values, with an initial focus on weeds
  - reviewing and implementing improvements to information management and licensing systems.
- ## 7. Promoting public and stakeholder awareness, understanding and support for biodiversity conservation including through being involved in conservation programs, by:

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



Predator-proof fence at Dryandra Woodland Sanctuary. Photo – DBCA

**Table 3: Service 6 performance summary**

	2017–18 target	2017–18 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$70,908,000	\$60,086,000	(\$10,822,000)
<b>Key efficiency indicator</b>			
Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat	\$2.21	\$1.90	(\$0.31)
<b>Key effectiveness indicators</b>			
Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan	73%	72.36%	(0.64%)
Area of land baited for introduced predators	4,404,138 hectares	4,404,138 hectares	0 hectares*

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found on pp 119–122.

\* This is the first year this indicator has been used. There is no variance as baiting has been conducted as planned.

### Performance highlights

#### Wildlife legislation, policy and strategic programs

- The Department made significant progress in developing regulations to support full proclamation of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, which will replace the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929*. Stakeholder consultation will continue through 2018, before the commencement of the regulations and full proclamation of the Act. Associated with the regulations

is the development of a new online licensing system that will integrate the issue and management of licences, other authorisations and CEO approvals that relate to licences.

- The Department has prepared a *Science Strategic Plan 2018–21* that identifies a number of strategic themes, goals and associated approaches to support the Department's *Strategic Directions 2018–21*.
- The Department participated in a national working group to undertake a review of the draft *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2018–2030: Australia's biodiversity conservation strategy and action inventory*.

- The Department identified 17 projects and policies relating to climate change in response to a stocktake of climate change actions coordinated by DWER.
- Technical information was provided by the Department on reserves, species, ecosystems and landscapes to facilitate environmental impact assessment, regulation of land clearing and land use planning across Government.
- The Department continued to provide assistance to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on the Strategic Assessment of the Perth and Peel Region, particularly in relation to biodiversity conservation.
- The Department is developing an integrated species and ecological communities data management system to facilitate improved management of threatened species and communities. Phase 1 of the system is anticipated to be completed by December 2018.
- The *Rottnest Island Sustainability Destination Action Plan* was developed, outlining a series of overarching sustainability objectives and targets across 10 performance areas to be implemented in accordance with the draft *Rottnest Island Management Plan 2019–2024*.

#### Threatened species listing

- The Department is a member of a national working group to implement a common assessment method for listing threatened species in a consistent manner between the Federal Government and each State and territory, with the objective of developing a single national threatened species list. At 30 June 2018, a MOU agreeing to implement the common assessment method had been signed between the Federal Government and the Governments of each State and territory with the exception of South Australia.
- Nominations for 78 species of flora and fauna have been referred to the Federal Government for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) as part of the process to align threatened species listed under the EPBC Act with threatened species listed under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*. During the year, 48 species had their status aligned through amendments to the EPBC Act.

# Agency performance

- The WA Threatened Species Scientific Committee met to assess nominations for changes to the lists of threatened flora and fauna under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*. The recommendations of the 2017 meeting were endorsed by the Minister for Environment and the new threatened species lists were gazetted on 16 January 2018.

## Threatened animals

- Two native animal species were added to the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* list of specially protected (threatened) fauna, one species was removed from the list, one species was moved to a higher threat category, and one species was moved to a lower threat category. A summary of the changes to the Specially Protected Fauna Notice and the gazette notice are available on the Department's website.
- At 30 June 2018, there were 249 threatened fauna species (52 critically endangered, 56 endangered and 141 vulnerable), 23 listed as presumed to be extinct, seven listed as conservation dependent, seven listed as otherwise specially protected, 95 migratory birds protected under international agreements and 214 species on the Department's priority fauna list.
- There were 13,734 records of sightings, captures or evidence of threatened and priority fauna added to the Threatened and Priority Fauna database or the Fauna Survey Returns system.

- A draft recovery plan was completed for the WA occurrences of the Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and an interim recovery plan was completed and approved for the Abrolhos painted button-quail (*Turnix varius scintillans*). The numbat and western ringtail possum recovery plans were endorsed and adopted as national recovery plans under the EPBC Act.
- The western ringtail possum recovery team is guiding recovery for this species, which was recently upgraded to critically endangered.
- Research was undertaken to identify the key habitat requirements for the threatened Australasian bittern and to determine the implications and potential responses to declining water depths of its wetland habitats as a result of climate change.

## Threatened plants

- Eight species of flora were added to the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* list of specially protected (threatened) flora, four species were removed from the list and added to the priority flora list, one species was added to the list of presumed extinct flora, one species was removed from the list of presumed extinct flora, seven species have moved to a higher category of threat, and three species have moved to a lower category of threat. A summary of the changes to the Rare Flora Notice and the gazette notice are available on the Department's website.

- At 30 June 2018, there were 428 extant threatened flora species (161 critically endangered, 139 endangered and 128 vulnerable), 15 listed as presumed to be extinct and 3213 taxa on the Department's priority flora list.
- A total of 888 populations, comprising 365 species of threatened and priority flora, were surveyed or monitored, and 50 new populations of threatened flora and 201 new populations of priority flora were located. Of the 584 records added to the Threatened and Priority Flora database, 154 were for new populations.
- The number of plant specimens held at the Western Australian Herbarium increased by 1.47 per cent (a net increase of 11,486 specimens), bringing the number of specimens held to 791,006. A total of 337 names were added to the WA Plant Census. The Rottnest Island Flora Inventory and Herbarium was updated by the Rottnest Island Voluntary Guides.
- A total of 285 seed collections (155 species) were banked at the Threatened Flora Seed Centre during 2017–18; 104 of these collections were 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 seven critically endangered and three endangered species were withdrawn from the seed bank and germinated for use in Departmental

translocation projects. The seed bank now contains collections of 341 threatened flora, 734 priority flora and 849 key restoration species.

- New populations of threatened plants continue to be established in areas free or largely free of key threats, with infill planting and monitoring at translocation sites for seven species.

## Threatened ecological communities

- At 30 June 2018, there were 69 extant ecological communities listed by the Department as threatened (20 critically endangered, 17 endangered and 28 vulnerable), and four listed as 'presumed destroyed'. Another 391 ecological communities were on the priority list. Proclamation of relevant sections of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* will provide for legislative protection for threatened ecological communities (TECs) in WA.
- An interim recovery plan was approved for the 'Monsoon vine thickets on coastal sand dunes of Dampier Peninsula' ecological community.
- New occurrence information was added to the Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities database for 28 occurrences of TECs and priority ecological communities (PECs) distributed across the State, helping resolve the status of the PECs and providing improved information for land use planning. Surveys were

completed in 144 occurrences of TECs and PECs throughout the State.

- Management actions including weed mapping and control, fencing, feral and pest animal control, hydrological investigations, monitoring, revegetation, dieback control and fire management were undertaken to protect 29 TECs and 13 PECs across the State.

#### Managing threats

- The Department continued to implement the *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2014–19*, with a focus on protecting native wildlife. The strategy also encompasses education and public awareness, and quarantine strategies to prevent the establishment of new satellite populations ahead of the frontline. The Department has refocused the cane toad program to implement research outcomes, including taste aversion training of threatened northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*).
- The Department continued to support a coordinated corella control project to manage introduced white corellas in the Perth metropolitan area. The project is overseen by the Corella Coordination Working Group, chaired by the WA Local Government Association with representatives from several local governments, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and BirdLife WA. The project targeted the control of introduced corellas at

various centres of abundance in the Perth metropolitan area and south-west of the State, and supported the development of an information portal.

- Critically endangered flora and ecological communities were treated aerially with phosphite to protect them from the impacts of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, including approximately 70 hectares of the critically endangered Busselton ironstone threatened ecological community. *Phytophthora* control techniques were employed at two infestations in Fitzgerald River National Park, and barriers around an infestation on the Bell Track have prevented the spread of *P. cinnamomi* to date.
- The Department partnered with Main Roads WA on a project to improve options for access to uninfested basic raw materials for road building to minimise the spread of *Phytophthora* dieback.
- Operations to prioritise, review and manage priority environmental weeds continued throughout the State, including through collaborative efforts with traditional owners and community and other groups.
- Mobile mapping software applications were implemented to standardise and improve the capture and management of weed occurrence and treatment data, and work continued to develop a weed management course to cover the requirements for weed identification,

integrated weed management and the safe use of chemicals.

- The Department continued to negotiate with recognised recreational hunting and shooting groups to undertake pest animal control work to complement strategic management and conservation outcomes. The Department worked with groups to manage pest animals in Avon Valley and Walyunga national parks.
- The Department participated in wild dog management in the eastern and central Wheatbelt through declared species groups, and in the rangelands with recognised biosecurity groups, to ensure a coordinated landscape-wide approach to minimising the impact of wild dogs on pastoral production and biodiversity.

#### Western Shield

- The *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program continued to implement broadscale fox and feral cat control for native animal conservation across a network of sites in WA. About 3.8 million hectares of conservation reserves and State forest were baited as part of the core program, using about 587,000 fox baits and 500,000 Eradicat® feral cat baits. The total area baited for foxes and feral cats as part of *Western Shield* and *Western Shield*-related projects (externally funded) in 2017–18 was about 4.4 million hectares.

- Regular monitoring of baited areas continued to track the recovery of native species. A review of monitoring for the program is underway to ensure consistency with the *Western Shield Plan 2017–2026*.
- Using the *Western Shield – Camera Watch* webpage hosted by Zooniverse, more than 5000 volunteers classified more than one million images, contributing to the monitoring of native fauna and their predators, feral cats and foxes, in the northern jarrah forest.

#### Wildlife sanctuaries and translocations

- The Dryandra Woodland Sanctuary, a 1000 hectare predator-proof enclosure in the proposed Dryandra Woodland National Park, was cleared of cats and foxes. Woylies (*Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi*) and numbats (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) were released into the sanctuary as the first stage of the fauna reintroduction program. Monitoring indicated high survivorship and breeding inside the sanctuary.
- The *Operation Rangelands Restoration* project continued at Matuwa (Lorna Glen former pastoral station). Reintroduced populations of bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*), mala (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*), golden bandicoot (*Isodon auratus*) and boodie (*Bettongia lesueur*) were monitored. All species are breeding and golden bandicoots are persisting outside the fenced enclosure. Martu traditional owners

# Agency performance

and the Department will continue to jointly manage this property on the Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara Indigenous Protected Area for conservation and cultural purposes.

- The Perup Sanctuary continued to support robust populations of threatened woylies and western ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*).
- The Nangeen Sanctuary, located in Nangeen Hill Nature Reserve, continued to protect an important population of the black flanked rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*) in the Wheatbelt, and was one of the source populations for translocations to Kalbarri National Park.
- Gilbert's potoroos (*Potorous gilbertii*) from Bald Island and the sanctuary in Waychinicup National Park were translocated to Middle Island in the Recherché Archipelago Nature Reserve as a trial to establish a new population.
- A translocation of noisy scrub-birds (*Atrichornis clamosus*) from Mondrain Island to Two Peoples Bay and Angove water reserve was conducted to aid post-bushfire recovery and improve the genetic diversity of the populations.
- The Perth Zoo breeding program continued to breed numbats, dippers (*Parantechinus apicalus*) and western swamp tortoises (*Pseudemydura umbrina*) for wild release. A program to rear orange-bellied frogs (*Geocrinia vitellina*) and white-bellied



Conservation officer Rebecca Kay with a black-flanked rock wallaby at Nangeen Sanctuary. Photo – G. Anderson

frogs (*Geocrinia alba*) was undertaken to supplement wild populations.

- A small captive population of critically endangered western ground parrots (*Pezoporus flaviventris*) at Perth Zoo is contributing knowledge of the breeding and behaviour of this species.
- Perth Zoo-bred dibbler were translocated to a previous translocation site at the proposed Peniup Nature Reserve.



Gilbert's potoroos joey in Waychinicup National Park. Photo – G. Anderson

## Marine science

- The Department's marine monitoring program continued to collect and report on the condition of key ecological values in WA's marine parks and reserves, and the pressures acting on them. During 2017–18, planning and implementation of long-term monitoring in the Kimberley marine reserves continued. Monitoring data was also collected for various ecological values including fish, coral, seagrass, little penguins and deep reef communities at Rowley Shoals Marine Park, the Ningaloo marine reserves, Shark Bay marine reserves, Jurien Bay Marine Park, metropolitan marine reserves, Ngari Capes Marine Park, and Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park. Research to address key management-related knowledge gaps regarding ecological processes, key pressures, biological survey and identifying appropriate monitoring methods was carried out in marine reserves at Ningaloo, Shark Bay, Ngari Capes and in the Perth metropolitan area.
- The *Dolphin Watch* app was expanded to include Roebuck Bay, and a dolphin fin identification book was published to facilitate community participation in the monitoring of dolphin species in the Yawuru Nagulagun Roebuck Bay Marine Park.
- The Rottneest Seagrass Monitoring Program was implemented by the West Australian Divers for Diversity Inc, which aims to develop a benchmark to enable long term

monitoring and reporting on the viability of seagrass meadows in the Rottneest Island Reserve.

- More information on Service 6 achievements by the Rottneest Island Authority is available in the Rottneest Island Authority 2017–18 Annual Report.

## Estuarine science

- A report on research activity against the *Research Strategy for the Swan Canning Riverpark (2013–2018)* was delivered. The Department continued to partner with the University of Western Australia to address key data requirements of the Swan Canning Estuarine Response Model.
- The 2017 condition assessment of the Swan and Canning estuary based on the fish community index continued. The Swan Canning Acoustic Array (30 acoustic receivers deployed throughout the estuary) continued to provide valuable information on fish movement relative to water quality and major in-river barriers.
- An evaluation of the biology and ecology of the western school prawn in the Swan and Canning estuary and a restocking trial was concluded, with the project receiving a commendation under the 2017 WA Seafood Industry Awards – Environment Category.

## Wetlands

- Information sheets and mapping reviews for three Ramsar sites are in various stages of preparation. In response to a

request from the Federal Government, a preliminary assessment to determine the status of the Vasse-Wonnerup System Ramsar site is underway.

- A review of the Geomorphic Wetlands Swan Coastal Plain dataset for the Perth-Peel region was undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. A mapping review of the WA Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia dataset was published.
- Biological survey and mapping was conducted for nine threatened ecological community mound springs in the east Kimberley and two mound springs and a claypan in the West Kimberley, in part to inform management of threats from agricultural development.
- The South West Wetlands Monitoring Program completed a report on depth, salinity and pH trends from 1977 to 2016 of 105 wetlands. Analysis is underway of data collected between 1996 and 2014 on the biological responses of a selection of Wheatbelt wetlands to threats such as salinisation, acidification and climate change, with reports on four wetlands finalised.
- A project to investigate the hydrogeochemistry of peat wetlands will provide information for prioritising wetland management by understanding the factors that underpin resilience to acidification in

response to declining rainfall from climate change in the southern peat wetlands of the Muir-Byenup System Ramsar site. Groundwater monitoring continued in the Lake Bryde catchment and in the Toolibin Lake and Muir-Byenup System Ramsar sites, with additional monitoring undertaken to document the first fill event at Toolibin Lake in 21 years. Research was undertaken into the hydrological functioning of the Brixton Street wetlands to inform management of these and similar wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain.

- A *Fortescue Marsh Management Strategy* was completed to guide the management of the Pilbara Region's most significant wetland.

## Forest science

- Monitoring of plant and invertebrate communities continued at seven *FORESTCHECK* grids burnt in February 2015 by the Lower Hotham bushfire. Monitoring was also undertaken on grids at Dwellingup to compare post-fire responses.

# Agency performance

- Trends in vegetation cover at *FORESTCHECK* monitoring grids have been quantified using satellite imagery to inform reporting for the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*.
- Research to inform silvicultural practices and potential adaptation strategies under a drying climate continued, including groundwater monitoring in the Warren Region. Field measurements of forest structure were undertaken in the experimental catchment at Yarragil block east of Dwellingup in preparation for a silvicultural treatment intended to maintain streamflow and groundwater levels.
- A study of factors affecting consumption of woody fuel during prescribed fires in jarrah-marri forest identified that wood decay and fuel particle arrangement have a large effect on the extent of consumption.

## Off reserve conservation

- The partnership agreement with NRM WA for the delivery of the *Land for Wildlife* program progressed. During 2017–18, the program registered 23 new properties, bringing the total area of registered sites managed privately for conservation to 286,873 hectares over 1975 properties.
- The voluntary Nature Conservation Covenant Program registered 20 new covenants (nine conditional/11 voluntary). Through the program, covenants have been established on 315 titles covering 26,112 hectares, including habitat for threatened species and ecological

communities, a Ramsar-listed wetland and registered Aboriginal heritage sites.

- Urban Nature worked with more than 85 community groups, private landholders, local governments, State Government agencies and universities to facilitate best practice management of urban bushland. External funding was received for critical management actions at seven regionally significant reserves including continuation of a project to manage and restore the Greater Brixton Street Wetlands. The production of a flora identification tool for managers of critically endangered claypan floristic communities was published on FloraBase and the results of a study looking at change in these critically endangered communities over 20 years has been submitted for publication.
- Coordination of the Banksia Woodland Restoration Project continued and is in the process of transitioning to an operational management status. The project has restored 50 hectares of banksia woodland established through topsoil transfer, planting and direct seeding to provide new feeding habitat for the endangered Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), controlled major environmental weeds across 23 reserves, and implemented a monitoring framework using ground-based and remote sensing data to assess the longer-term effects of weed control and bushfire on banksia woodland biodiversity and condition.

- The Roadside Conservation Committee met four times during the year, and undertook a range of activities to raise awareness of roadside conservation and engage with stakeholders, including providing training for four local governments. A guidance document to manage roadside vegetation and minimise the impacts of road works was released.

## Sustainable use of natural resources

- The commercial harvest of western grey and red kangaroos (*Macropus fuliginosus* and *M. rufus*) continued to be regulated under the State management plan approved by the Federal Government. Quotas continue to be set for each management region.
- The Department's management of the sandalwood industry and the detection of illegal harvest of sandalwood from the wild continued throughout 2017–18. Distilling machinery and related equipment along with 4.2 tonnes of sandalwood, and a shipping container housing 9.5 tonnes of sandalwood, were seized. Prosecution briefs have been prepared for these matters. A legacy prosecution into the illegal sandalwood trade was finalised in March 2018 resulting in the offender being sentenced to imprisonment and fined for Criminal Code and *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* offences.
- In partnership with the Department and Forest Products Commission, the Goldfields Land and Sea Council hand seeded 390kg of sandalwood seed and

planted about 42,900 hosts, each with three seeds, to regenerate sandalwood on Credo Station, 70km from Coolgardie.

- During 2017–18, 23 prosecutions were initiated. These involved 70 charges covering a broad range of offences including the illegal taking or possession of protected and rare fauna or flora; illegal importation, exportation or selling of fauna; cruelty to fauna; failure to comply with licence conditions; and offences relating to activities in State forest, nature reserves, national parks and marine parks. Over the year, 528 offences were reported, with 47 per cent of these dealt with by caution notices.

## Licensing

- To support the sustainable use of wildlife, the Department issued 7349 licences under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* to take, collect, keep and breed, deal in, trap, import or export native animals, and 1509 licences to collect native plants. A further 1265 licences were issued to either scare, destroy, trap or relocate nuisance wildlife or dangerous wildlife and wildlife causing damage.

For information about prosecutions under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and associated regulations please see page 70.



## Case study

# Rock wallabies bounce back in Kalbarri

Rock wallabies are returning to Kalbarri National Park, with a third release of translocated animals this year and monitoring showing the population is growing.

Black-flanked rock wallabies were thought to be extinct in the park for 20 years, until two were unexpectedly caught on camera in 2015. Following this surprising discovery, concerted efforts have been made to help the population recover.

Over three years, 75 wallabies have been introduced into the park, with the most recent group of 25 released in May 2018. The translocation was a collaboration between the Department and WWF-Australia. The wallabies were sourced from Cape Range National Park and the Wheatbelt.

Department and WWF-Australia staff have been monitoring the radio-collared wallabies using camera monitoring, tracking and trapping. The translocations are being hailed a success, with only three wallabies succumbing to predators, and the remaining animals thriving. Even more excitingly, the population is growing, with remote camera monitoring showing the wallabies are breeding and more than 90 per cent of females captured during trapping in May 2018 carrying pouched young. Genetic analysis will be used to determine the genetic diversity of the wallabies and if the unique Kalbarri genes are being retained.

Feral cats, foxes and goats are thought to have led to the original decline of wallabies in the park. Goats have been culled in the park since 2006 to enable rock wallaby food sources and habitat to recover. The Department has baited foxes since 1996, and Eradicat® cat baiting has been implemented. Preliminary results of camera monitoring suggest feral cat and fox activity has decreased in the baited area.

The translocations are part of the South West Threatened Fauna Recovery Project, funded through the Federal Government's National Landcare Program. The project is also working to recover key threatened mammal and bird species at four key sites in south-western WA – western ringtail possums, woylies and numbats in the Upper Warren area; woylies and numbats at Dryandra Woodland; and western ground parrots and Gilbert's potoroos in South Coast reserves. The project integrates feral cat baiting with existing introduced predator control programs, monitoring of threatened species and translocations where necessary.



Kalbarri National Park ranger-in-charge Mike Paxman checking automatic camera images of black-flanked rock wallabies. *Photo – DBCA*

# Agency performance

## Service 7: Conservation Partnerships

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

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

The priorities of the service in 2017–18 were:

- developing, negotiating and improving partnerships with other research bodies, such as universities, the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) and the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI), other Government agencies, natural resource management (NRM) bodies, local government, non-Government organisations and community groups to leverage additional funding to support Government 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 bushfires, altered hydrology, and priority pest animals, weeds and plant diseases, on biodiversity, ecological processes and sustainable land uses
- undertaking scientific investigations that are effectively targeted to improve biodiversity knowledge and integrate science knowledge into wildlife management.

The following strategies and key activities guided the delivery of the service's priorities in 2017–18. The service is delivered by multiple divisions, services and Statutory Authorities across the Department.

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

- developing and maintaining good working relationships with a range of organisations, groups and stakeholders involved or interested in biodiversity conservation, including WABSI
- continuing to apply for external funds to deliver on-ground management, monitoring and research that improves management of the State's biodiversity and conservation

reserve system, according to Government priorities

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

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

- progressively implementing priority conservation and science actions in marine reserve management plans
- progressively implementing priority conservation and science actions in terrestrial reserve management plans or taking action to effectively manage terrestrial reserves through other appropriate mechanisms
- continuing to effectively manage World Heritage listed areas through the implementation of collaborative conservation management programs across various tenures.

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

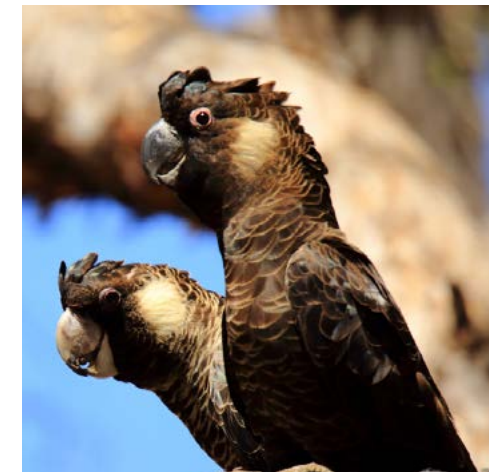
- using effective partnerships to implement approved wildlife recovery programs, including recovery plans for threatened species and ecological communities.

### 4. Reducing impacts of key threatening processes, by:

- implementing priority and targeted actions for pest animal control and undertaking actions to achieve conservation and protection of native fauna and other values
- implementing priority and targeted actions for weed control and undertaking actions, including surveys to determine weed distribution and abundance, to achieve conservation and protection of native flora and other values
- implementing priority and targeted actions for plant disease control and undertaking actions to achieve conservation and protection of native flora and other values, including through programs to manage *Phytophthora* dieback, with a focus on identified protectable areas
- progressing integration of feral cat and fox baiting in *Western Shield* areas, using the Eradicat® feral cat bait, including implementing the South West Fauna Recovery Project



Seed biology and ecology training was provided to a group of Spinifex Women Rangers. *Photo – Ryonen Butcher/DBCA*



Monitoring of natural and artificial breeding hollows for Carnaby's cockatoo continued at important breeding sites. *Photo – Rick Dawson*

- implementing priority and targeted actions to reduce the impacts of altered hydrology (e.g. climate variability, secondary salinity, acidification and eutrophication) on biodiversity and other values on CALM Act land
  - implementing strategic actions to improve the resilience of threatened terrestrial and marine species and ecological communities under predicted climate change settings.
- 5. Undertaking targeted scientific investigations and integrating science knowledge into wildlife management, by:**
- ensuring that externally funded science programs address gaps in knowledge in order to deliver improved management strategies implemented by the Department for effective conservation, protection and management of flora, fauna, ecological communities and conservation reserves
  - undertaking research on population genetics, demography, eco-physiology and reproductive biology to improve management and conservation of threatened flora and fauna
  - continuing to deliver the Dirk Hartog Island National Park Ecological Restoration Project (*Return to 1616*), according to the project plan
  - continuing to undertake terrestrial and marine biological surveys to systematically address gaps in knowledge and increase understanding of biodiversity components and patterns to better inform wildlife and conservation reserve management, including joint management with Aboriginal traditional owners
  - undertaking research on the marine environment, including large fauna, to inform and improve management programs
  - continuing to coordinate the delivery of the WAMSI Kimberley Marine Research Program
  - continuing to deliver the Northwest Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program
  - continuing to undertake research and monitoring to inform the development and delivery of landscape scale management
  - continuing to facilitate the development of models to determine the effects of human-induced climate change on biodiversity.

# Agency performance

**Table 4: Service 7 performance summary**

	2017–18 target	2017–18 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$29,437,000	\$21,705,000	(7,732,000)
<b>Key efficiency indicator</b>			
Average cost per hectare of wildlife habitat	\$0.91	\$0.69	(\$0.22)

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found on pp 119–122.

## Performance highlights

### Strategic partnerships

- The Department is a partner in the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Northern Australian Environment Resources Hub. In 2017–18, the Department progressed the development of a bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) project in the Fitzroy Catchment with traditional owners. As part of this hub, the Department continued its collaboration with CSIRO to research the ecology and impacts of the significant weed stinking passionflower (*Passiflora foetida* var. *hispidia*) in the Fitzroy Catchment.
- The Department contributed to eight projects implemented through the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub, focused on management and recovery of threatened plants and animals through improved threatened plant reintroduction and species recovery; fire and introduced predator management; improving threatened species assessments and

developing a national threatened species index and a Red Hot List for imperiled plants; translocation, reintroduction and fencing for threatened fauna; and conserving species on islands.

- The WAMSI Kimberley Marine Research Program is now largely complete, with final reports for all 25 integrated science projects being received. The program has provided new information on marine biodiversity, habitats, ecological processes and human use across the Kimberley and the findings are being shared with managers and stakeholders, including traditional owners, to ensure that this knowledge is integrated into management.

- WABSI has developed projects investigating subterranean fauna and mine site rehabilitation, and completed the La Grange surveys for the bilby and threatened and priority flora. The Department is a foundation member and provides a node leader.
- Discussions continued with the Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation (TMPAC) over the joint management of Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara (MKK) Indigenous Protected Area. The Department liaised with the TMPAC and MKK management team over the research undertaken at Matuwa.
- The Department entered into a collaborative project agreement with CSIRO to coordinate the Land Monitor Project, which currently produces vegetation cover change datasets for the south-west and is planning to extend coverage to the remainder of the State.
- As a partner in the *Minyma Uninypa – the Seed Women* project funded through the State Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program, the Department provided a seed biology and ecology training course to a group of Spinifex Women Rangers.

- In partnership with the Gorgon Project, monitoring, research and management of the conservation values of the Barrow Island Nature Reserve and surrounding marine parks and reserves continued.

### Biological surveys

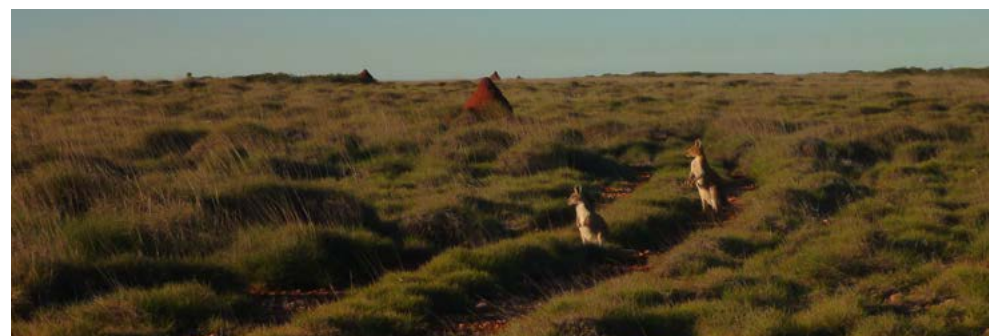
- Reporting is complete for a BHP-supported biological survey of Mandora Marsh in the Great Sandy Desert.
- A further 692 plant collections were lodged with the WA Herbarium from the Pilbara Biological Survey, bringing the total to 7761.
- The Department collaborated with the Walpole Nornalup National Parks Association to map sensitive peat systems in the Walpole Wilderness.
- A survey of Bedout Island for seabirds and marine turtles was undertaken with the University of Tasmania. Masked booby and lesser frigate bird numbers were higher than last year and rats were not detected on the island. Two flatback turtles were fitted with satellite tags and tracks were counted for flatback and hawksbill turtles.
- The Department worked in collaboration with Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa and Metals X with support from the Nifty mining site to undertake a survey for threatened species in and around Karlamilyi National Park that identified new populations of quolls and black-flanked rock wallabies.

### Threatened and important animals

- The North West Shelf Flatback Turtle Conservation Program, funded through the Gorgon Project, aims to increase conservation of the North West Shelf flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*) population. In 2017–18, the Department continued turtle nesting monitoring at Thevenard and Delambre islands, continued satellite tracking adult females from nesting beaches, and continued studies to better understand the impacts of artificial light on hatchling behaviour, fox predation on turtle hatchlings and eggs, and climate change on marine turtle incubation. Aerial survey data from the Pilbara was analysed to identify the distribution of nesting flatback turtles.
- Aerial surveys of bottlenose (*Tursiops aduncus*), Indo-Pacific humpback (*Sousa sahalensis*) and potentially Australian snubfin (*Orcaella heinsohni*) dolphins in Pilbara coastal waters were completed in 2017–18. Vessel-based surveys focused on the Onslow and Dampier Archipelago areas will continue as part of offset projects associated with the Wheatstone and Pluto developments. Findings from these surveys will inform the conservation status of these species and future environmental impact assessments.
- In May 2018, a third cohort of black-flanked rock wallabies (*Petrogale lateralis*) was released in Kalbarri National Park as part of the South West Threatened Fauna Recovery Project, funded through the Federal Government's National Landcare Program, with support from WWF-Australia. This year, rock wallabies were sourced from Cape Range National Park in addition to Wheatbelt locations to supplement the genetic representation in the Kalbarri population.
- An offset funded project associated with the Pluto and Wheatstone developments investigating the distribution of dugong along the Pilbara coast in relation to areas of key seagrass productivity, was initiated in 2017 in collaboration with Edith Cowan and Murdoch universities. Two field trips to survey dugong distribution and seagrass condition were undertaken in 2017–18. In addition, the Department collaborated with CSIRO and NESP to undertake an aerial survey to monitor dugong distribution and abundance in Shark Bay and along the Ningaloo coast.
- A partnership with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy continued to support the reintroduction of threatened species into the Mount Gibson Sanctuary.



Flatback turtle on Thevenard Island. Photo – Liz Grant/DBCA



Euros on Barrow Island. Photo – DBCA

# Agency performance

- In partnership with WWF-Australia and with financial support from San Diego Zoo Global, the Department continued to survey and monitor the recovery of the quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) population near Northcliffe after the February 2015 O'Sullivan bushfire. Additional ground baiting to control foxes continued to protect recovering fauna populations.
- In partnership with the South West Catchments Council, the western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) translocation into Perup Sanctuary continued to be monitored.
- Surveys and repeated monitoring of known populations of the northern quoll and bilby continued in the Pilbara with offset and other corporate funding from Atlas Iron, Millennium Minerals, Fortescue Metals Group, Main Roads WA, Iron Ore Holdings, Roy Hill and BHP.
- A landscape-scale cat baiting trial at Yarraloola continued, funded by a Rio Tinto offset, demonstrating that cat activity was reduced and that northern quolls were most likely not at risk of consuming Eradicat® feral cat baits.
- Surveys for northern quoll, bilby, black-flanked rock wallaby and other threatened species were undertaken across the Western Desert with support from the Martu traditional owners, Birrilburru rangers, Kirrikurra rangers and Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa.
- Surveys for bilby on the Dampier Peninsula by the Nyul Nyul, Yawuru, Goolarabooloo, Jabirr Jabirr and Nyikina Mangala rangers continued with offset funding support from Main Roads WA.
- Region-wide targeted surveys for bilby and rare and priority flora in the La Grange Irrigated Agriculture Project Area were undertaken in collaboration with Karajarri and Nyangumarta rangers, Yawuru Country Managers, the Kimberley Land Council and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation. Funds to support the surveys was provided by the Water for Food program via the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
- Support continued for citizen science projects such as BirdLife Australia's Great Cocky Count and Shorebirds 2020 surveys, GeoCatch's Western Ringtail Possum Tally and WWF-Australia's Spring Quenda Count.
- Research continued into habitat use and migratory patterns of Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and the forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) in partnership with Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia.
- Monitoring of natural and artificial breeding hollows for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) continued at important breeding sites, in partnership with BirdLife Australia and CSIRO.
- A trial translocation of Gilbert's potoroo (*Potorous gilbertii*) to Middle Island in the Recherché Archipelago began in partnership with the Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group and with funding from the Federal Government.
- Preparatory work, including surveys, was undertaken to determine the suitability of Mondrain Island in the Recherché Archipelago for the translocation of noisy scrub-birds (*Artichornis clamosus*) from Bald Island, and re-stocking translocations from Cheyne Beach back into Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve supported by South Coast NRM.
- The Western Australian Herbarium's Pilbara plant identification program, a partnership with Rio Tinto, continued to provide an authoritative identification service to industry.
- The Department's Threatened Flora Seed Centre continued to be involved in international seed conservation projects, such as the Global Trees Project and the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership.
- Through the Federal Government's Threatened Species Strategy, the Department implemented recovery actions, including translocations, for four critically endangered flora species, supporting the delivery of the strategy's target of 30 plants by 2020.
- As a partner in the State NRM Rare Flora Search and Rescue Project administered by WWF-Australia, the Department developed and provided training to 55 Departmental volunteers in the use of Flora Collector, a smart phone app for surveying threatened and priority flora. The volunteers used the app to improve knowledge about the number of populations and plants for 38 priority plant species.
- A 22-year collaboration with Hanson Construction Materials resulted in the book *Banksia woodlands: A restoration guide for the Swan Coastal Plain*, which received the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's Golden Gecko Award for Environmental Excellence, and

## Threatened and important plants

- The Doral Yoongarillup mine offset provided for the purchase and fencing of 140 hectares of Scott Coastal Plain vegetation that was previously in private ownership, for addition to the conservation estate. Over half of the purchased location is Scott Coastal Plain ironstone threatened ecological community intermingled with highly cleared Scott Coastal Plain alluvial soil vegetation and small vegetated Bassendean dunes. This intact combination of Scott Coastal Plain vegetation types is rare and was not previously represented in any other conservation reserves in the area.

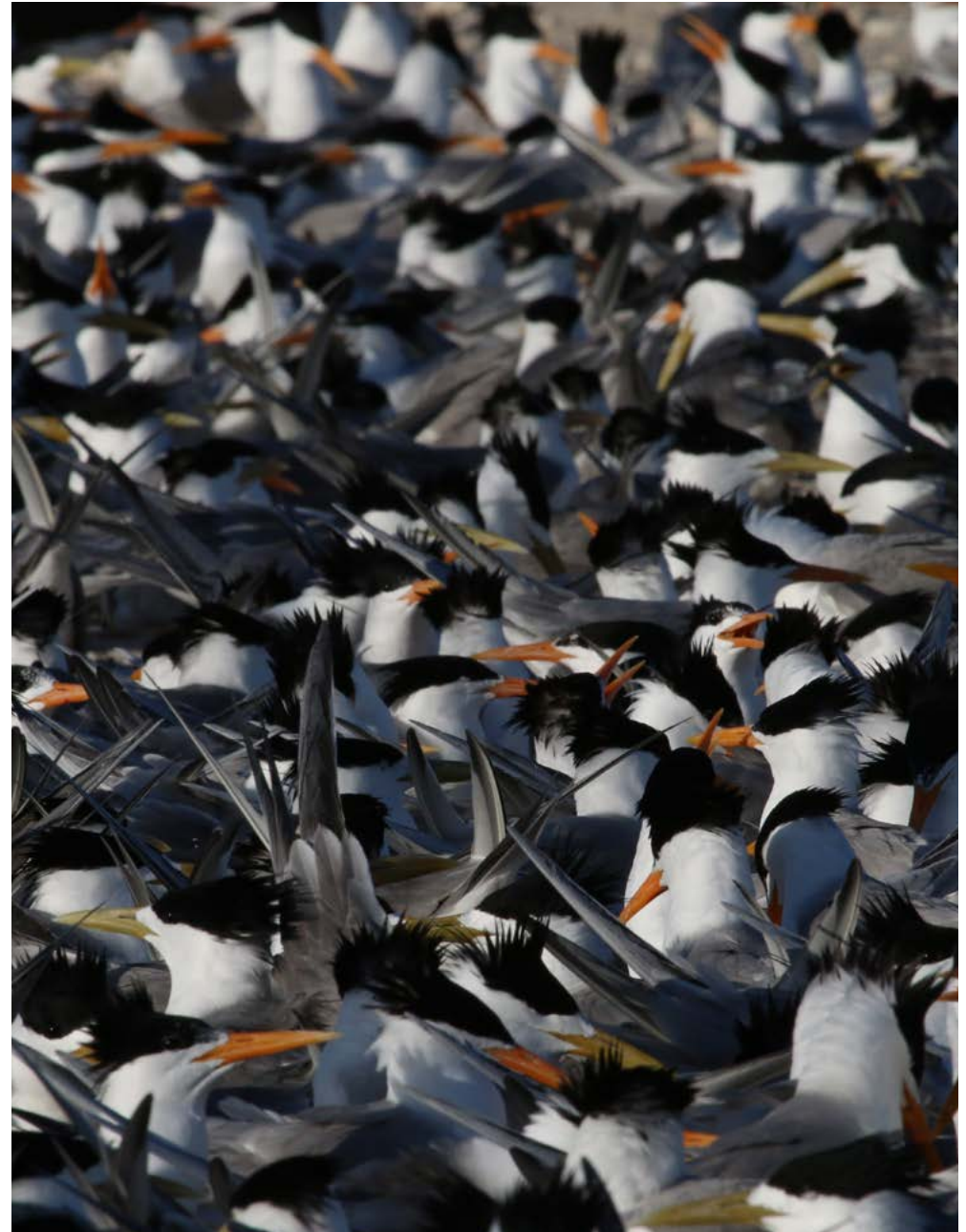
the West Australian and Australian Institute of Management's Green Business Pinnacle Award in 2017.

- Work continued in research projects and provision of expert advice for the restoration and conservation of native Western Australian plant species and rehabilitation of disturbed environments. This includes the development and use of innovative restoration technologies to improve rehabilitation outcomes for the WA resources sector, rural industries, and for improving urban bushland conservation, including taxonomy, restoration genetics and restoration ecophysiology.
- Research continued on the fire ecology and management of urban and peri-urban reserves, including banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain, in partnership with Murdoch University, City of Canning, City of Cockburn and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. This included the establishment of a new site, an experimental burn at Yangebup Lake and pre- and post-burn surveys.
- A partnership with Cliffs Natural Resources to investigate the conservation and translocation requirements of threatened short range endemic plant species associated with banded ironstone formation hills resulted in completion of a translocation and management manual for *Ricinocarpos brevis* and start of a new project to investigate the biology of *Tetratheca erubescens*.

- The Restoration Seedbank partnership with BHP and the University of Western Australia resulted in further discoveries linking soil activity and seed management approaches to improve seedling establishment in Pilbara rehabilitation projects.
- New partnerships began with BHP, Greening Australia, Rio Tinto and the University of Western Australia, with Federal Government funding support, to develop new approaches to native species restoration in agricultural landscapes and in steep, rocky mining waste slopes using direct-seeding techniques.
- ▣ More information on Service 7 achievements by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority is available in the *Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority 2017–18 Annual Report*.

#### Managing threats

- With sponsorship from Alcoa of Australia, Tronox and Western Areas Ltd, the *Western Shield* wildlife recovery program continued to implement broadscale, integrated fox and feral cat baiting across conservation reserves and State forest.
- With funding from the Federal Government's National Landcare Program, the *Hisstory* bait trial was completed which, in conjunction with earlier captive trials, demonstrated that the *Hisstory* bait for feral cats is unlikely to present a significant hazard to free-ranging northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*).



Crested terns on Bedout Island. Photo – Andrew Fidler

# Agency performance

- Significant progress was made on the *Return to 1616* ecological restoration project at Dirk Hartog Island National Park, which is substantially funded through the Gorgon Barrow Island Net Conservation Benefits program. The island was declared free of sheep in 2016 and free of goats in early 2018. The Department continued to monitor for feral cats and no further signs of cats have been seen. Monitoring surveys of three threatened bird species, weed management and community engagement continued. A pilot translocation of two threatened species, the rufous hare-wallaby (*Lagorchestes hirsutus bernieri*) and banded hare-wallaby (*Lagostrophus fasciatus*), was undertaken in August 2017.
- The South West Threatened Fauna Recovery Project continued to contribute to threatened species recovery through further integrating feral cat and fox baiting at Dryandra Woodland, the Upper Warren area, Kalbarri, Cape Arid, Fitzgerald River, Stirling Range and Waychinicup national parks, and Mt Manypeaks and Two Peoples Bay nature reserves.
- The Department worked with Rangelands NRM to deliver ranger workshops and handbooks to assist in surveillance and mitigation work under the *Cane Toad Strategy for Western Australia 2014–19*. Under Australian Research Council (ARC) linkage grants with the University of Sydney, the Department investigated strategies to reduce cane toad breeding success and began implementing mitigation strategies using teacher toads on key native species in the Kimberley. The cane toad program partnered with Wastewise to deliver environmental education to communities throughout the Kimberley. Ongoing monitoring of cane toads and quolls was also undertaken with Rangelands NRM on Adolphus Island.
- A collaborative project between the Department and the University of Sydney, with the involvement of Balangarra rangers, on the Forrest River floodplain in the Kimberley has revealed that goannas exposed to small non-lethal toads survived longer when toads invaded their habitats.
- A report was completed with the support of BHP on hydrological investigations to determine the nature of groundwater dependence of organic springs and mound springs of the Mandora Marsh area, a threatened ecological community, to inform assessment of water resources planning in the West Canning Basin.
- Control of feral pigs continued on conservation lands across sections of the south-west in collaboration with the Lake Muir Denbarker Community Feral Pig Eradication Group, the Donnelly Vertebrate Pest Management Group and the Warren Catchments Council.
- A continuing collaboration with the Pilbara Mesquite Management Committee, Roy Hill Station, Fortescue Metals Group, Roy Hill Iron Ore and Rangelands NRM undertook control of Parkinsonia upstream of Fortescue Marsh, with aerial surveys indicating a substantial reduction in the extent, density and recruitment of this infestation.
- The Pilbara Weed Strategy, a collaboration involving the Department, CSIRO, Atlas Iron, Roy Hill and Pilbara Corridors, has been finalised and captured more than 285,000 weed records from 178 weed species across the Pilbara. Data will be available through NatureMap.
- Through a Perth NRM Resilient Landscapes grant, the Department worked collaboratively with the Shire of Mundaring and Jane Brook Catchment Group to carry out weed control to enhance threatened species habitat. The project also included fauna surveys, vegetation condition mapping, pest control and revegetation in conservation reserves in the Perth Hills.
- The Department continued its collaboration with CSIRO on the impacts of stinking passionflower on freshwater crocodile breeding habitat in Lake Kununurra.
- The Department continued to work in partnership with the Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management at Murdoch University to DNA-sequence recent and historical WA isolates from the Department's culture collection. Annual data updates of *Phytophthora* species detection and management are provided to South Coast NRM, who make the data available via an online GIS platform where it can be viewed, stored and shared with the broader community.
- The Department partnered with the Dieback Working Group and South Coast NRM to deliver the annual Dieback Information Group conference to raise awareness of *Phytophthora* and its management across Government, universities, industry and community groups.
- The Healthy Wetland Habitats program received seven new expressions of interest, four of which have progressed through to implementing voluntary management agreements over 117.2 hectares of wetland.



## Service 8: Implementation of the Forest Management Plan

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 ecological sustainable commercial forest production activities on State forests and timber reserves.

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

The overall priorities for 2017–18 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 2017–18 were:

- focusing resources on addressing the requirements of the FMP, with consideration to weed, pest animal and disease management (including *Phytophthora* dieback) issues
- refining monitoring, research and data collection and analysis to facilitate reporting on the FMP key performance indicators for the preparation of the FMP mid-term performance review
- providing targeted advice on proposed developments and planned operations, including plantation and native forest timber harvesting, mining and provision of utilities
- contributing to biodiversity research and monitoring programs (including through *FORESTCHECK*)
- providing regulatory oversight of native forest timber harvesting processes, including implementation of management activities in the FMP relating to setting silvicultural standards, monitoring and yield regulation to support the ongoing delivery of sustainable forest products industry in Western Australia
- ensuring areas harvested are regenerated in a timely manner (where this is the primary silvicultural objective), and appropriate fire management and protection activities are implemented following harvest
- providing coupe-level harvest planning, field survey, dieback interpretation and resource evaluation services to FPC.



Bombala forest block near Dwellingup. Photo – Nathan Ashburner/DBCA



View from Millar's Log Road in Monadnocks Conservation Park. Photo – Jake Cortis/DBCA

# Agency performance

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 DBCA 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 photography, photo-interpretation, photogrammetry, vegetation and *Phytophthora* dieback disease mapping surveys, and database design and development to other DBCA services, other Government agencies, natural resource management groups and external clients.

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

- implementing and enhancing systems for approvals, monitoring rehabilitation and compliance (including setting management

standards) for operations undertaken on State forest and timber reserves

- providing planning support to guide the location of fauna habitat zones, selection and management of public firewood collection areas and licensed flora harvesting areas
- monitoring areas burnt by bushfire and prescribed burning to support landscape-scale planning and reporting, and helping evaluate biodiversity assets at risk from effects of infrastructure construction or threatening processes
- delivering information about and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback and evaluating disease hygiene standards to minimise spread through planned disturbance operations

- undertaking research and monitoring (such as *FORESTCHECK*) and refining operational procedures to enhance the management of biodiversity, productive capacity, ecosystem health and vitality, and soil and water values.

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

- reviewing silviculture, soil and water management, and other relevant guidance documents

- conducting training for silvicultural and soil protection practices

- monitoring areas subject to timber harvesting and associated silvicultural treatments

- preparing three-year regional timber harvest plans, and reviewing annual regional timber harvest plans submitted by FPC.

### 5. Maintaining partnerships, including with:

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



Thinned karri at Mattaband forest block. Photo – Danielle Wiseman/DBCA

**Table 5: Service 8 performance summary**

	2017–18 target	2017–18 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$24,095,000	\$16,673,000	(\$7,422,000)
<b>Key efficiency indicator</b>			
Average cost per hectare of forest	\$18.65	\$12.91	(\$5.74)
<b>Key effectiveness indicator</b>			
Cumulative removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan	764,000m <sup>3</sup>	497,503m <sup>3</sup>	(266,497m <sup>3</sup> )

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found on pp 119–122.

## Performance highlights

### Major plans

- The FMP for south-west forests continued to be implemented.
- A draft report was prepared on the mid-term performance review of the FMP. Reporting on many of the key performance indicators involved comprehensive analysis of datasets collected during the last five years on forest condition, yield regulation and silviculture outcomes in the areas available for timber production.
- A technical assessment and indicative design were prepared to facilitate consultation on a proposed expansion of Wellington National Park.

- Information was contributed towards the *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018*.

### Forest management

- The Department provided specialist advice on the implications for ecologically sustainable forest management of proposed developments and planned operations, including mining, utilities (e.g. water pipelines) and infrastructure work.
- Technical support, on-ground works and advice were provided to FPC for implementation of annual harvest and coupe plans, fire management and forest regeneration activities.

- Projections of native forest timber resources available under the FMP were prepared to inform market development options for the forest products industry. This included potential timber resources available for the Request for Proposals (Sale of fire affected karri) and Expression of Interest (Integrated timber processing yard) processes issued by FPC.

The ongoing preparation or review of operational guidance documents (required by the FMP) included finalising the procedure for the assessment, identification and demarcation of old-growth forest and dieback management manual, and review of:

- planning and approvals process for salvage harvesting
- jarrah treemarking field guide
- preventing, containing and controlling spills procedure
- coupe hand-over and hand-back process.

Information sessions were delivered to regional staff, external dieback interpreters and FPC staff on preparing enhanced hygiene management plans that improve the management of risks of introducing or spreading *Phytophthora* dieback during soil disturbance operations.

### Forest planning and monitoring

- In collaboration with FPC, the Department prepared and published three-year timber harvest plans (2018–20) for the Swan, South West and Warren regions.
- There were 99 disturbance operations in 2017, covering 7220 hectares of State forest and timber reserves, which were evaluated and monitored for compliance with the environmental outcomes sought in the FMP. This included 25 soil disturbance and erosion surveys across 20 active native forest coupes (covering 303 hectares and 111km of log extraction track) and 25 pre-harvest and 20 post-harvest silvicultural surveys (covering 100 hectares and 15km of survey transects).
- Detection and mapping of *Phytophthora* dieback was undertaken on 36,570 hectares of land managed by the Department to help plan and manage disturbance operations and the prioritisation of disease management treatments. This included work undertaken for FPC and 12,920 hectares recheck of areas previously mapped.
- Dieback interpretation conducted by Department interpreters to inform current or future native forest timber harvesting and roading operations was completed on 25,600 hectares during 2017.

# Agency performance

- Assessments of the publicly-nominated areas of potential old-growth forest in Lewin forest block near Manjimup and Barrabup forest block near Nannup were completed in August and October 2017, respectively. The assessments added 17 hectares of previously unmapped karri old-growth forest in Lewin and 43 hectares of previously unmapped jarrah old-growth forest in Barrabup. The assessment reports are published on the Department's website.
- Fauna habitat zones in State forests are created to help maintain biodiversity values in areas subject to timber harvesting. Analysis of the potential location of five fauna habitat zones was carried out, four of which (comprising a gross area of 671 hectares) were finalised in accordance with the FMP. The cumulative number of fauna habitat zones finalised is 135, comprising a gross area of 35,578 hectares. An updated map of fauna habitat zone locations was published to the Department's website in May 2018.
- High resolution, digital aerial imagery was acquired across forest areas totalling 295,299 hectares to monitor and inform outcomes of timber harvest operations, silvicultural treatments, prescribed fire and bushfire recovery (including fire salvage and regeneration work around Northcliffe).
- LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data was acquired for areas of regrowth karri forest to inform timber inventory, digital elevation modelling and yield regulation modelling.

## Research

Research and monitoring were undertaken to support the delivery of this service, including through the *FORESTCHECK* program. More detail can be found on pages 37 to 38.



Dieback management is a priority for the Department. *Photo – DBCA*



Nanga forest block 12 months after fire. *Photo – Danielle Wiseman/DBCA*

## Service 9: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management

This service is responsible for using planned fire to achieve community and asset protection, and land, forest and wildlife management objectives. The desired outcome of the service is 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.

For 2017–18, the overall priorities for this service and the strategies and key activities guiding their delivery across the State were:

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

- applying principles of risk management and continual improvement to planning and conducting the prescribed burning program to minimise the risk to the community from bushfires on Department-managed land as much as is reasonably practical
- applying adaptive management principles to the practice of prescribed burning to enable adoption of new knowledge, including research findings, and new technology and techniques to effectively deliver desired community protections as well as land, forest and wildlife management outcomes

- applying sound policy, technology, information management systems and approaches to deliver identified planned fire management programs, while seeking to minimise risks to and impacts on the community
- continuing quality assurance processes for the program at all levels
- reviewing systems, processes and doctrine, and approaches to utilisation of available resources, to maximise the safe implementation of the prescribed burning program.

### 2. Implementation of new performance measures for the existing prescribed burning program, and reporting on and revising where required existing performance measures, to enable a better understanding of the Department's prescribed burning program achievements and its contribution to community protection and other land, forest and wildlife management objectives.

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

- continuing the Fire Management Development Program (FMDP) through the strategic recruitment, training and development of program staff, and extending FMDP opportunities to other staff, to provide a sustained level of capability required to effectively and

efficiently deliver the operational fire management program

- developing time-bound succession plans to ensure the Department retains the requisite fire research and senior fire leadership capacity
- training and developing existing staff from across various functional areas to have the skills and knowledge required to fulfil the Department's fire management goals
- planning for the establishment of the Operational Training Unit, to be housed in the Fire Management Services Branch.



Table 6: Service 9 performance summary

	2017–18 target	2017–18 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$45,022,000	\$53,459,000	\$8,437,000
<b>Key efficiency indicator</b>			
Average cost per hectare burnt	\$15.70	\$10.89	(\$4.81)
<b>Key effectiveness indicator</b>			
Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved	55%	67%	12%

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found on pp 119–122.

# Agency performance

## Other performance measures

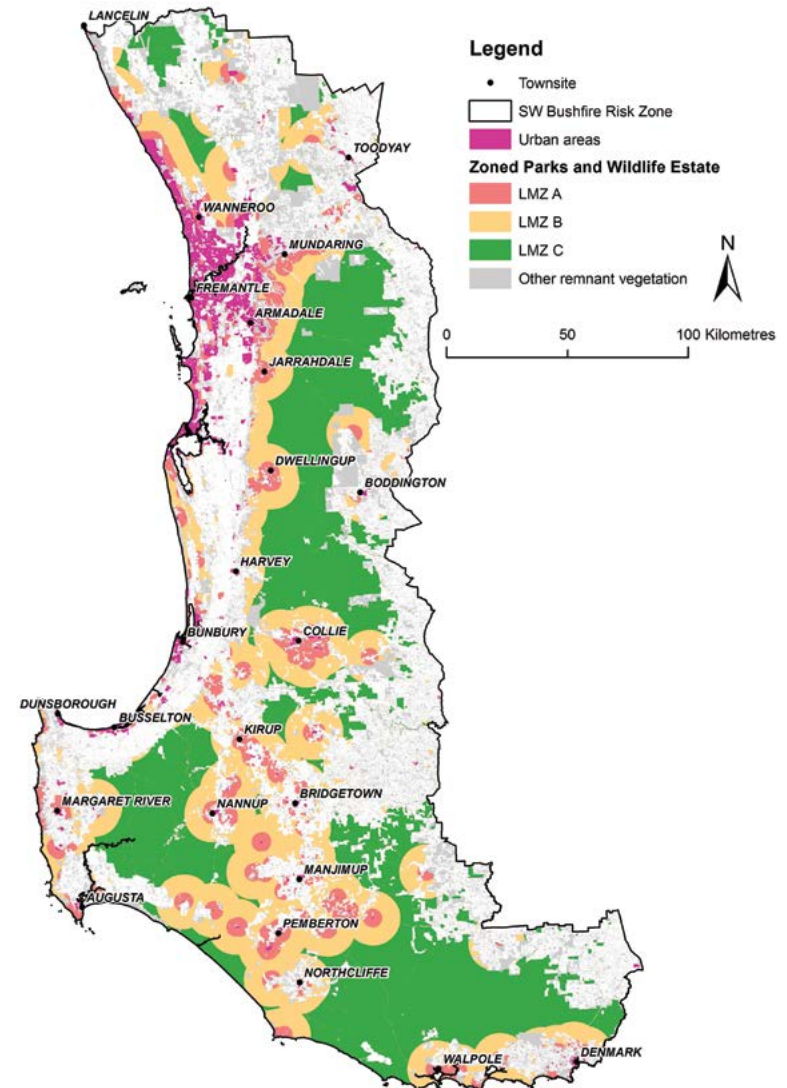
Three new annual performance measures were introduced in 2015–16, two of which relate most directly to prescribed burning. The third relates to bushfire suppression (see page 57). The prescribed burning measures are:

- The area of prescribed burning completed in three zones at defined distances from the interface between populated areas and natural lands, within the Department’s three south-west forest regions. For identified populated areas, three concentric land management zones (LMZs) have been created based on distance from the urban interface. LMZ A extends 3.5km from a populated area, LMZ B extends a further 7.5km from the populated area and the third zone, LMZ C, comprises the remainder of the Department-managed landscape. While more distant from populated areas, LMZ C is traversed by infrastructure corridors of economic and public safety significance (e.g. powerlines, highways) and contains important biodiversity, recreational, timber production, water catchment and other values. The three LMZs are shown in Figure 3. A portion of the nominal annual prescribed

burning target is allocated to each zone, according to the proportion of all Department-managed land which occurs in that zone. After rounding, the nominal 2017–18 prescribed burning targets for the three zones were 20,000 hectares, 70,000 hectares and 110,000 hectares respectively. The 2017–18 achievements for each LMZ target are shown in Table 7.

- The second annual performance measure illustrates the medium-term trend. It is based on research showing that prescribed burning is effective in significantly reducing the frequency and size of bushfires in the forests of south-west Western Australia when at least 45 per cent of the landscape is maintained with a fuel age of less than six years since last burnt. To realise this target in the Department’s three south-west forest regions, DBCA aims to conduct prescribed burning over at least 200,000 hectares per annum. ‘The proportion of Department-managed lands in the south-west forest regions that is less than six years since last burnt’ is used as an annual indicator of the effectiveness of the Department’s prescribed burning program in mitigating bushfire risk. At 30 June 2018, the figure was 43 per cent.

Figure 3: Land management zones



**Table 7: 2017–18 LMZ prescribed burning achievements<sup>1</sup>**

LMZ	Distance from populated area	Nominal 2017–18 target (hectares)	Achieved (hectares)	Percentage of target
A	within 3.5km	20,000	13,580	68
B	3.5–11km	70,000	62,869	90
C	beyond 11km	110,000	135,532	123

<sup>1</sup> The Department completed 6983 hectares of prescribed burning that is not represented in this table as it was not on Department-managed land and so not within an LMZ.

### Performance highlights

#### Prescribed burning achieved

- The Department achieved 218,965 hectares of prescribed burning in the south-west forest regions in 2017–18, including about 4055 hectares that were burnt for pine plantation protection. After the achievement of 247,360 hectares last year, this was the first time the nominal target of 200,000 hectares had been achieved in consecutive years since 1996–97. This year’s program was again assisted by additional State Government funding.
- A further 4,692,079 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.



Aerial view of a prescribed burn in the Pilbara. Photo – Paul Rampant/DBCA

# Agency performance



Helitorch prescribed burn in the Helena Valley between Mundaring and Kalamunda. Photo – Michael Pasotti/DBCA

## Prescribed fire planning and risk management

- The Department continued to engage and collaborate with the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) in the pursuit of continual improvement.
- Through its ongoing assurance program, OBRM assessed the Department's prescribed fire planning processes in the Wheatbelt Region and Exmouth and Wellington districts. These reviews confirmed that the Department's processes for prescribed burning align with ISO 31000:2009, the international standard for risk management.

- The Department experienced a challenging period in late May 2018 when the passage of a low-pressure system caused strong winds that led to escapes from three Departmental prescribed burns and a significant number of private property burns, which tested all bushfire response agencies. Three Departmental burns in Torndirrup National Park, Stirling Range National Park and Chester State Forest were among the escapes. In conjunction with OBRM, the Department is undertaking a review process to better understand the factors involved

in the escapes and make changes to procedures where necessary.

## Bushfire preparedness on unallocated Crown land

- The Department is responsible for the coordination and on-ground management of bushfire risk through targeted bushfire mitigation works on 89 million hectares of unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves outside the Perth metropolitan area and townsites.

- High priority mitigation work undertaken by the Department in 2017–18 included constructing and maintaining fire access tracks, modifying vegetation in strategic buffers, 'open-edge' prescribed burning and large-scale aerial ignition.
- A significant increase in on-ground mitigation works was made possible through the strategic investment of new funding from the State Government's Mitigation Activity Fund to protect regional towns, with 316km of modified vegetation buffers and 180km of fire access tracks completed. These works were complementary to activities undertaken by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.
- DBCA 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

- Eleven staff participated in the Fire Management Development Program (FMDP) expansion. This initiative provided an opportunity for staff outside the current program to access key learning opportunities. Participants in the expanded program received structured development in the form of development meetings, competencies and learning opportunities. This initiative strengthened the fire capabilities of the workforce by broadening base knowledge and capacity in fire management.
- During 2017–18, the FMDP undertook a round of recruitment for pool positions in anticipation of vacancies in 2018. There were more than 65 applicants.
- Several FMDP participants were merit selected for promotional opportunities. In June 2018, a level 4 FMDP participant began a 12-month secondment to act as the Regional Fire Leader for Midwest Region. In January 2018, an FMDP participant was seconded to the Ecosystem Science Program's Research Scientist position. This will become a permanent move in July 2018 and is part of a strategic succession plan for the program. Two FMDP participants gained permanent fire positions.

- The FMDP graduate program is in its second year with three individuals returning for another fire season. The program will be expanded early in 2018–19.

### Fire ecology education programs

- Fire Management Services Branch continued to work with Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch's *Nearer to Nature* team to provide a range of fire education programs to more than 200 school groups. These included forest management, fire behaviour, ecological consequences of fire on the environment and habitat protection.
- Fire Management Services Branch continued to refine the fire ecology training course.



Prescribed burning was carried out across various tenures surrounding Kalbarri, including Kalbarri National Park, to create a strategic buffer. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

## Case study

# Prescribed burn targets exceeded for second year in a row

The Department's prescribed burn program has reached a significant milestone this year, with 218,965 hectares of prescribed burns completed in the State's south-west forest regions in 2017–18. After the achievement of 247,360 hectares last year, this is the first time the Department's target of 200,000 hectares has been achieved in consecutive years since 1996–97.

Between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018, the Department started 138 burns on land that it manages, including national parks, conservation reserves and State forest from Gingin in the north to Denmark on the south coast, including the Perth Hills area.

Since 2015–16, DBCA's prescribed burn program has been boosted with an additional \$20 million over four years to enhance protection of south-west regional communities from bushfire. This funding allows the Department to take advantage of favourable conditions for prescribed burns, mobilising staff around the south-west when weather and fuel conditions are optimal.

This year's additional \$5.5 million was used to fund aircraft used in aerial burns, pay for accommodation and travel costs for staff, extend contracts for seasonal employees, and employ external contractors for key roles including burn preparation and road management.

The outstanding result achieved in 2017–18 was due to good conditions for prescribed burns and detailed planning by Department staff.

It will significantly reduce the threat and severity of devastating bushfires, minimising the risk to life, infrastructure and biodiversity by reducing the build-up of flammable fuel loads.

The Department's prescribed burning target is based on scientific research showing prescribed burning is effective in significantly reducing the frequency and size of bushfires in south-west forests when at least 45 per cent of the landscape is maintained with a fuel age of less than six years since last burnt. To realise this target, the Department aims to conduct prescribed burning over at least 200,000 hectares in south-west forests per year.

A further 4,692,079 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, unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserves, often in conjunction with other land managers including traditional owner groups.



A prescribed burn in Gloucester National Park near Pemberton. Photo – Jeff Bennett/DBCA

## Service 10: Bushfire Suppression

This service is responsible for responding quickly and effectively to bushfires on, or near, Department-managed land by maintaining an appropriate detection and response capacity. The desired outcome of the service is 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.

In 2017–18, the overall priorities for this service and the strategies and key activities guiding their delivery across the State were:

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

- providing appropriate personal protective equipment and sound training and development opportunities for all personnel involved in bushfire suppression
- maximising the number of Departmental staff with the necessary skills and training to participate in bushfire suppression operations or support roles
- continuing to develop and maintain capability and capacity to contribute to pre-formed incident management teams for deployment to major fires around the State, particularly during the southern bushfire season

- maintaining fire availability rosters to provide bushfire response capacity appropriate to fire conditions.
- ### 2. Maintenance of a modern, fit-for-purpose fleet of fire appliances, heavy plant, and surveillance, intelligence and water bombing aircraft, as well as fire tower and communication networks, to adequately support firefighters, by:

- providing sustainable fleet, communications and infrastructure maintenance and renewal capacity through well-planned and cost-efficient programs conducted by internal and contracted specialists

- continuing the maintenance program for fire surveillance towers.

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

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

- revising internal doctrine, processes and systems to facilitate alignment with agreed inter-agency arrangements.

**Table 8: Service 10 performance summary**

	2017–18 target	2017–18 actual	Variance
Expense by service	\$32,548,000	\$30,392,000	(\$2,156,000)
<b>Key efficiency indicator</b>			
Average cost per hectare burnt	\$32	\$10.93	(\$21.07)
<b>Key effectiveness indicator</b>			
Proportion of south-west bushfires contained to less than two hectares	75%	82%	7%

More information on DBCA's Outcome Based Management Structure can be found on pp 119–122.

### Key Effectiveness Indicators

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

Note that the bushfire effectiveness indicator considers only those fires where DBCA was the initial attack agency.

More details regarding the key efficiency indicator and key effectiveness indicator can be found in the audited key performance indicator report, see page 119.

### Other performance measures

Three new annual performance measures for fire management were introduced in 2015–16, two of which are outlined in Service 9 (see page 52). The third measure relates most directly to bushfire suppression, being 'The ratio of area affected by bushfire to area of prescribed burning completed annually'.

# Agency performance

This is one of a suite of national reporting measures on the State of Australian forests. The assumption underlying this measure is that environmental integrity and functionality will be greater where prescribed fire comprises a greater proportion of the total fire load. There is no specific target for this measure; rather it provides an indication of medium-term trends. The ratio of area affected by bushfire to the area of prescribed burning completed for 2017–18 is 7066 hectares : 218,965 hectares (ratio = 0.03).

Areas used to calculate the bushfire to prescribed burn ratio relate to CALM Act tenure only. The respective figures are therefore less than the total figures for bushfires and prescribed burns used elsewhere in this Annual Report, which include other tenures. The annual ratios of bushfire to prescribed burns is graphed from 2004–05 to 2017–18 in Figure 4.

## Bushfire management

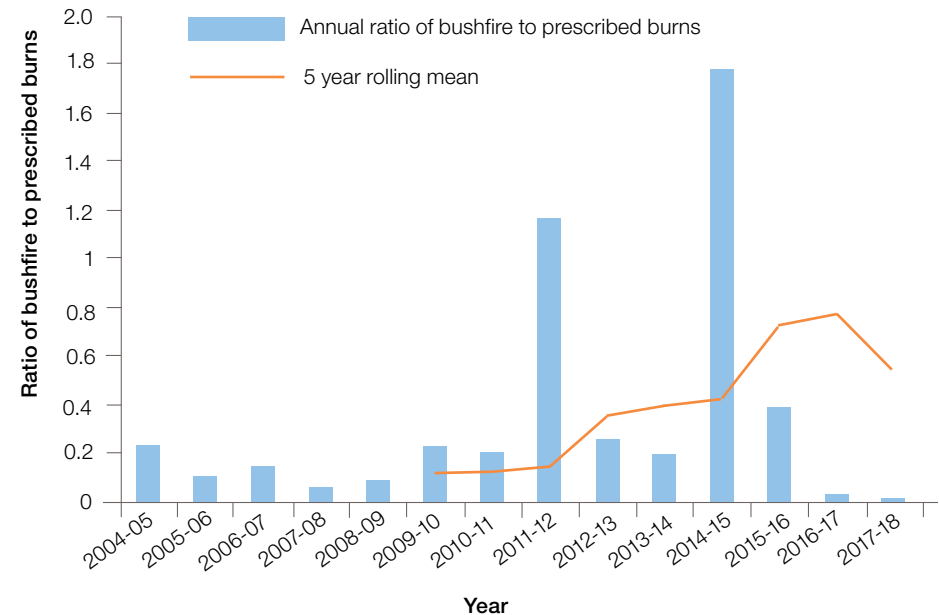
Departmental staff attended and monitored 688 bushfires which burnt approximately 2,780,972 hectares in 2017–18, including:

- 598,988 hectares in the Pilbara Region
- 612,926 hectares in the Goldfields Region
- 1,303,700 hectares in the Kimberley Region
- 223,208 hectares in the South Coast Region

- 14,314 hectares in the Midwest Region
- 20,769 hectares in the Wheatbelt Region
- 7066 hectares in the three south-west forest regions (Swan, South West and Warren).

- The causes of these fires were:
  - lightning – 22 per cent (equal to the 10-year average)
  - deliberately lit or arson-caused fires 42 per cent (equal to the 10-year average)
  - accidental fires – less than 13 per cent
  - escapes from non-DBCA burns – seven per cent
  - escapes from Departmental burns – one per cent
  - other causes – six per cent
  - unknown – 10 per cent.
- In conjunction with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and local governments through the Western Australian Local Government Association, DBCA 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 2017–18 southern bushfire season, as recommended by the

Figure 4: Annual ratios of bushfire to prescribed burns from 2004–05 to 2017–18



Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire.

- The Department continued to work in conjunction with DFES, local government volunteer bushfire brigades and other stakeholders in providing a quick and effective bushfire response capacity for the community.
- There were no deployments of the State bushfire pre-formed teams during the 2017–18 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 10 'spotter' aircraft flew 4028 hours of aerial surveillance in pre-determined circuits. Flight schedules varied according to bushfire danger levels and fire activity.



A helitac drops water over a bushfire in Gngalara Pine Plantation.  
 Photo – Leigh Sage/DBCA

The detection aircraft also flew 153 hours in support of bushfire suppression operations during 2017–18. The detection aircraft were flown by two permanent pilots and 13 pilots filling seasonal positions.

#### Aerial bushfire suppression operations

- The Department contracted eight fixed-wing 802 air tractor water bombers in the south-west forest regions from November 2017 to late-March 2018. Two additional fixed-wing water bombers were also available for use and were rotated through bases at Manjimup, Albany, Bunbury, and Jandakot 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 390 operational hours in attending 124 bushfires and dropped 851 loads, delivering 2.5 million litres of suppressant.

#### Bushfire training and development

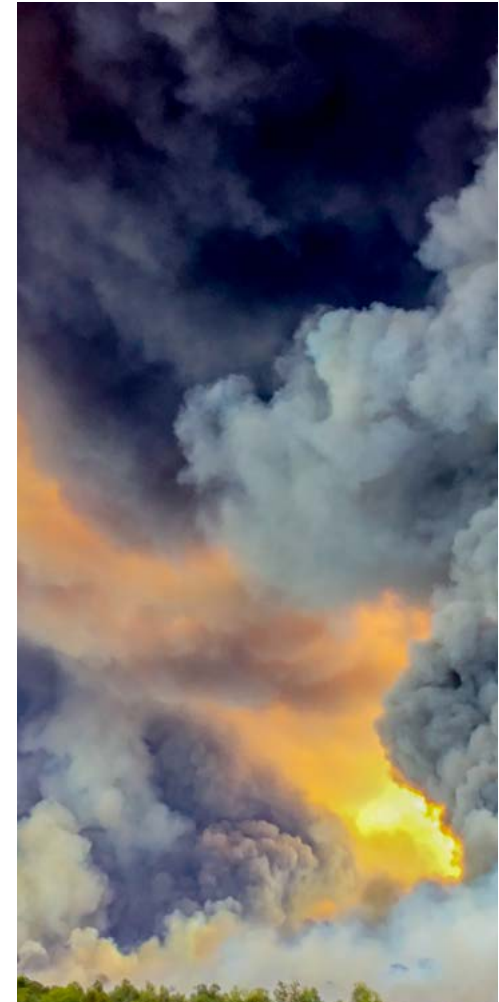
- Fire Management Services Branch training and development staff conducted 43 formal fire training courses involving 407 participants. The courses included Basic Wildfire Awareness, Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System

Awareness, Fire Fighting Crew Member, Fire Fighting Crew Leader, Fire Operations 1, Fireline Construction with Machines, Fireline Construction – Pushing Trees, Intelligence Officer, Management Support Unit, Public Information Officer, Runner, and Search and Rescue Watch. Training staff also assisted in presenting the Operations Management Level 2 course.

- Course participants were predominantly from DBCA, but also included campground host volunteers and personnel from the Forest Products Commission (FPC), DFES and local governments. These courses were also presented to Aboriginal ranger groups from across the State.
- Annual mandatory pre-season training in preparation for the 2017–18 bushfire season was conducted for more than 1200 DBCA and FPC personnel and met training requirements in various aspects of fire management including the use of two-way radios, storage and use of fire blankets, and 'burnover' drills.
- The Department continued to implement a recognition of prior learning process for firefighters to be awarded Fire Fighting Crew Member national units of competency. Fire Fighting Crew Leader was added to this program.

# Agency performance

- The prescribed burning training program was developed jointly with DFES. This was presented in 2017 and a second course began in 2018 with 16 staff participating in each course. Two groups will also be assessed against a recognition of prior learning based on their long involvement in developing and implementing complex prescribed burns.
  - A new DFES/DBCA logistics officer course was presented in 2017 and will run again in mid-2018. Other joint courses in review include Planning, Resources, Intelligence, Communications Planning and Fire Mapping.
  - Fire aviation personnel provided training for 200 DBCA and other fire and land management agency personnel, including staff from DFES. These courses included Air Attack Supervisor Qualification, Air Attack Supervisor Currency, Air Observer, Ground Controller, Incendiary Operations Supervisor, Aerial Incendiary Bombardier and Helitorch Ground Crew.
  - Water bomber reloading training was provided to 374 participants across 35 operational bases, with most participants from volunteer bushfire brigades and local State Emergency Service units. This training was also provided to Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) staff at RAAF bases Pearce and Gingin.
  - Training for the role of aerial incendiary bombardier was also provided to 17 staff from Parks and Wildlife Queensland.
  - The Department has continued its collaboration with DFES and other agencies in Australia and New Zealand in the development of fire training programs and course materials moving towards national accreditation for all fire aviation training courses.
- Fire management fleet and infrastructure**
- Throughout 2017–18, the Department completed its heat shield installation program across the Landcruiser component of its light fleet fast-attack firefighting units. Trials were also conducted on other light fleet vehicle makes to determine suitability.
  - Major reconstruction and repairs to the Mount William and Mungalup fire towers were completed in 2017–18.
- Interagency bushfire management**
- During 2017–18, Departmental fire management staff were involved in improving interagency bushfire management arrangements through the newly formed State Bushfire Coordinating Committee (SBCC) and associated sub-committees.
  - Outside the SBCC, the Department participated in interagency liaison with DFES, particularly through the working group for multi-agency State pre-formed incident management teams, as well as local government, the Office of Emergency Management and other State, interState and international agencies.
  - The Department welcomes the establishment of a Rural Fire Division of DFES with a focus on rural firefighting capacity and support for volunteers, private landholders and the rural fire sector.
  - The establishment of the Rural Fire Division will enable a focus on fuel reduction and bushfire mitigation activities on lands outside of the conservation estate managed by the Department. These works will be complementary to the Department's longstanding prescribed burning program and will enable closer collaboration with the Rural Fire Division to maximise on-ground bushfire mitigation across the broader public and private landscape to better protect local communities.



Buraminya bushfire near the Shire of Esperance. Photo – Rob Blok/DBCA

# Supporting our Department

## Corporate and Business Services

The division provided corporate services to the Department and other agencies including the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Forest Products Commission and Waste Authority of Western Australia.

### Financial Services Branch

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

### People Services Branch

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

In 2017–18, PSB coordinated the Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme (VTSS) for the Department and Statutory Authorities. The VTSS was an important efficiency measure for the public sector and assisted in the reduction of the agency's overall expenditure.

The Employee Relations and Safety Section continued to undertake widespread health and safety system audits and work site inspections in the regions and districts. Other initiatives included assisting in the setup of Chemalert, the hazardous substances and dangerous goods management system, and the introduction of online based webinar training for staff in remote locations. This new service has resulted in a significant increase in participation rates for Health and Safety and Manual Handling training within the Department.

### Office for Information Management

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

On 14 February 2018, the Office for Information Management integrated the functions of geographic information and corporate records services. Corporate Information Services provides support, advice and training on corporate information services; Geographic Information Services provides cartographic, geographic data and information and application development services to meet operational and public geographic information needs.

In 2017–18, OIM enabled the business to achieve its strategic, tactical and operational goals using IT. Key achievements for 2017–18 include:

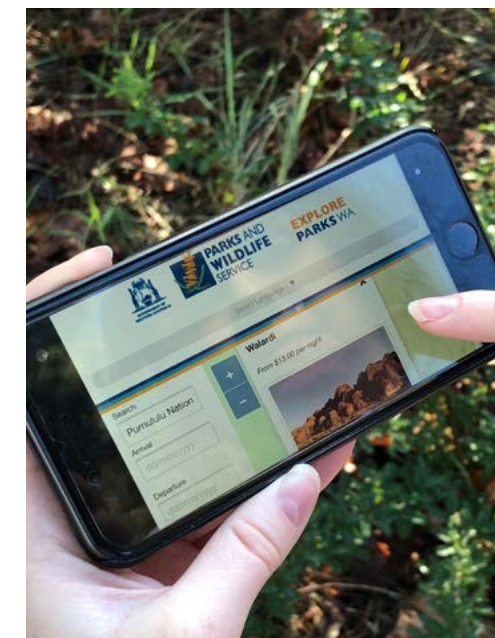
- enabling the Machinery of Government IT reform outcomes through good IT governance and correct IT security policies and practices
- improving employee awareness of recordkeeping in accordance with the *State Records Act 2000*, and
- enhancing information systems used for managing and sharing critical Department information for land management and emergency management.

OIM also worked with Parks and Visitor Services to develop a new online campground booking system. Launched in October 2017, ParkStay allows instant booking of more than 30 campgrounds across the State, from Purnululu National Park in the Kimberley to Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park in the South West.

Accessible via the Department's Explore Parks website, it allows campers to find and secure a campsite before they travel. The reliability and ease-of-use of the new system has led to the Department making more campgrounds available for online bookings, and the public has responded with an increase in the number of bookings being

made. This, along with a rise in camping fees in September 2017, led to a 65 per cent increase in revenue from campground bookings to more than \$1 million in the first six months after ParkStay's launch.

Developed using open source software to minimise costs to the Department, ParkStay also integrates smoothly with other online systems including DBCA's wildlife licensing system.



The Department has developed a new online campground booking system.

Photo – DBCA

# Supporting our Department

## Public Information and Corporate Affairs Branch

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

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

## Education

*Nearer to Nature* education officers continued to deliver programs for young people to connect with nature at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre (PHDC) in Mundaring, Forest Heritage Centre (Dwellingup), and national and marine parks. PHDC also provides education and camping facilities for entry level campers and students. The facilities are designed to support all abilities, with easy access showers and toilets, wheelchair ramps to all buildings and all-access camp sites. *Nearer to Nature* delivered programs focusing on *Western Shield*, forest ecology, fire ecology (with the support of the Department's Regional and Fire Management Services Division), wetland ecosystems, sustainability and Aboriginal culture. A number of these activities were supported by Alcoa.

During 2017–18, more than 20,000 people took part in *Nearer to Nature* programs. A further 1390 community members visited the centre for overnight camping.

*Bush Rangers* continued to support the social and educational development of cadets from high schools across the State. The program continues to be popular in the Kimberley and at Aboriginal community schools, where it provides the opportunity for young people to work on country with Indigenous ranger groups and elders. (See case study on page 65).

The *River Rangers* program for Years 5–6 provides education and volunteering opportunities related to rivers and catchments. The focus of the program continued to expand beyond the Swan River Catchment, with two units in Aboriginal community schools in the Kimberley. In 2017–18 there were 794 *River Rangers* cadets in 17 schools. There is a waiting list of schools to join *Bush Rangers* and *River Rangers*.



Woylie at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. Photo – Shem Bisluk/DBCA



### Media and public information

The branch's media unit provided communications support through the preparation and delivery of communication plans, speeches, media statements, media training for staff, social media and events; public information for incident management; communications support for the Minister's office; as well as responding to media enquiries. Unit staff performed a vital role providing public information for incident management during the 2017–18 fire season and continued to work closely with media and communications colleagues at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

### Audio-visual production

In 2017–18 the branch delivered more than 100 quality audio-visual products for a variety of platforms including social and traditional media, and for communication and training within the Department and with stakeholders.

Spectacular aerial and on-ground footage was also gathered from the Kimberley to the south coast, and used to showcase WA's natural attractions, capture major wildlife rescues and events, and to improve safety messages. Online video versions of feature stories, species and park profiles continued to add value to the Department's flagship publication, *LANDSCOPE* magazine.

Collaboration with the Parks and Wildlife Service, Biodiversity and Conservation Science, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Perth Zoo and Rottnest Island was again a focus in 2017–18 to promote and visually record of the work being undertaken across the Department.

Fostering partnerships and liaising with external organisations including the WA Parks Foundation, industry and various volunteer groups remained an important component in the delivery of a range of audio-visual products.

### Digital

The release of an improved ecommerce platform has led to the introduction of electronic park passes, and improved customer response mechanisms and business protocols for staff. Enhanced analytical data and customer feedback has led to a continually improved customer experience, with tailored solutions for an evolving market.

Centralised architecture for Drupal was initiated with the successful launch of the new Conservation and Parks Commission website. This is consistent with the whole-of-Government approach to digital services, domain names, content, visuals, and accessibility.

The digital services team have been developing 360 digital content for virtual reality, producing live streaming capabilities for the Department, and continuing to strive to deliver innovative interactive solutions for digital publishing.



Anzac Day 2018. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

# Supporting our Department

## Social media

Corporate social media accounts for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube are coordinated by the branch. A number of social media accounts are also managed independently in the regions with support and advice from the branch.

As at 30 June 2018, 11 Facebook pages, three Twitter accounts and three Instagram accounts from various operational areas were registered. In 2017–18, the corporate social media accounts experienced significant growth: Facebook 23 per cent, Twitter 12 per cent and Instagram 100 per cent.

## Publishing

The branch coordinated publishing for the Department including the production of more than 450 brochures, reports, banners, plans, newsletters, field guides and other information products.

In 2017–18 a major focus for the publishing unit was the development and rollout of new branding for the Department.

The unit designed a suite of major strategic documents including the *Strategic Directions 2018–21* and the *Science Strategic Plan 2018–21*.

Staff supported major State Government initiatives including the \$20 million Aboriginal Ranger Program by organising advertising, branding, posters, banners and writing web content to encourage applications for the program.

The publishing unit also produced the quarterly Departmental newsletter *DBCA News* and designed new logos for the Wildcare Helpline and Marine Turtles WA.

## WA Naturally

In 2017–18, the Department's saleable publishing program WA Naturally produced its 25th annual WA calendar presented by *LANDSCOPE* magazine. Four issues of *LANDSCOPE* were also produced, and seven sold-out Bush Book titles were reprinted.

## Customer service

The Kensington Information Centre continued to deliver customer services to members of the public contacting the Department's head office, responding to more than 20,000 phone calls, more than 9500 emails and approximately 5500 visitors.

Staff also continue to support the Department's saleable publishing program through processing of subscriptions and the sale of books.

The availability of digital products including national park passes and firewood permits now enables customers to purchase, download and print these products online, significantly improving service delivery as well as delivering efficiencies for the Department.



## Case study

# Bush Rangers celebrates 20th anniversary

*Bush Rangers*, the Department's flagship youth education program, has celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

The program encourages secondary school students to develop nature conservation skills and contribute to their local community, while building their appreciation of, and love for, WA's natural environment. It empowers young people to care for their environment, get outdoors, learn practical skills and develop a community-focused outlook.

Since 1998, more than 18,500 young people have taken part, contributing 1.9 million volunteer hours to conservation and community projects.

There are now 62 cadet units around the State from Kununurra to Esperance, involving more than 3200 secondary school students in hands-on projects like planting, fencing, or weeding, as well as giving them the opportunity to take part in adventure activities like abseiling, swimming with whale sharks, and rock climbing.

*Bush Rangers* is WA's biggest cadets program, and has the highest participation of Aboriginal students, female students and students with a disability of any Cadets WA program, with 20 per cent, 45 per cent and 28 per cent respectively. *Bush Rangers* is reaching people in remote and regional areas, and helping inspire young Aboriginal

people to gain practical nature conservation skills to manage their traditional lands.

The program's emphasis on volunteering and community involvement is at the heart of its success. In 2017, the 350 school teachers who ran the 67 cadet units gave more than 52,000 hours of time to the program, most of it voluntary.

The success of *Bush Rangers* inspired the creation of *River Rangers* in 2010 to engage Year 5 and 6 students in hands-on care of the Swan Canning Riverpark. *River Rangers* is now delivered by the Department and involves 800 students from 16 primary schools.



Duncraig Senior High School *Bush Ranger* cadets. Photo – DBCA



Mount Lawley Senior High School *Bush Rangers* at Boranup Beach. Photo – DBCA

# Supporting our Department

## Department-managed lands and waters

### Total estate

At 30 June 2018, the total area under the Department's care was 31,590,422 hectares.

As detailed in the 2016–17 annual report, the Department now relies solely on Landgate's statistical data and information systems for terrestrial tenure areas. The Department has taken this step to ensure the areas reported are consistent with the information systems used by Landgate as the State's land tenure information custodian.

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

**Table 9: Tenure classification of Parks and Wildlife Service-managed lands and waters (in hectares)**

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total
National park	154,342	1,416,316	570,106	2,436,643	856,771	144,293	118,142	561,370	1257	6,259,241
Conservation park	184,420	559,113	15,642	281,779	677	13,654	24,449	706	5120	1,085,561
Nature reserve	6,292,610	169,898	740,097	259,596	1,584,398	13,211	54,193	87,235	1,070,542	10,271,781
State forest	781	-	-	-	4052	534,901	474,140	265,343	28,372	1,307,589
Timber reserve	28,397	-	26,295	-	5150	26,288	28,728	8315	-	123,174
Section 5(1)(g) & 5(1)(h) reserves	81,552	865,011	66,036	10,263	4415	31,477	34,707	1857	1611	1,096,929
Marine park	-	3,070,778	869,492	343,505	-	123,000	16,391	1446	-	4,424,612
Marine nature reserve	-	-	132,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,000
Marine management area	-	-	-	143,385	-	-	-	-	-	143,385
Freehold	-	0.3	1549	-	91	19,889	50	4663	0.8	26,242
UCL - Section 33(2)	28,560	-	89,832	-	-	-	-	-	-	118,392
Crown freehold – Department managed	-	-	-	-	-	-	8711	-	-	8711
SCRM Act – river reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	3597	-	-	3597
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,770,664</b>	<b>6,081,117</b>	<b>2,511,050</b>	<b>3,475,171</b>	<b>2,455,554</b>	<b>906,715</b>	<b>763,107</b>	<b>930,934</b>	<b>1,106,902</b>	<b>25,001,213</b>

**Table 10: Lands where the Department has a management interest (in hectares)**

Tenure classification	Goldfields	Kimberley	Midwest	Pilbara	South Coast	South West	Swan	Warren	Wheatbelt	Total
Crown freehold - Department interest	-	-	12,762	-	5877	4186	12,445	1661	4955	41,886
Crown reserve - Department interest	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	141	-	143
Unallocated Crown land - Department interest	1,920,842	142,668	3,278,053	1,145,456	16,885	5	-	134	43,137	6,547,180
Total	1,920,842	142,668	3,290,815	1,145,456	22,762	4193	12,445	1936	48,092	6,589,209

Notes:

1. Areas are from Landgate cadastral/tenure information systems (30 June 2018) except MoU lands where areas were calculated by the Parks and Wildlife Service using Albers Equal Area Projection and GDA94 Datum - August 2018
2. Marine areas are provided by the Department's Planning Branch. Areas are approximate only as quality of mapping of marine reserve boundaries is variable. Improved mapping of watermark and historical boundaries may result in revised area figures in the future.

**Table 11: Area of national parks vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2018**

Name	Area (hectares)	Name	Area (hectares)	Name	Area (hectares)	Name	Area (hectares)
Alexander Morrison	8499	Dirk Hartog Island	62,664	Greater Beedelup	19,277	Korung	6350
Avon Valley	4456	Dordagup	6406	Greenmount	202	Lake Muir	9629
Badgingarra	13,105	Drovers Cave	2565	Gull Rock	2107	Lawley River	17,347
Beelu	4617	Drysdale River	447,675	Hassell	1138	Leeuwin-Naturaliste	21,596
Blackwood River	20,482	Easter	2975	Hawke	14,003	Lesmurdie Falls	57
Boorabbin	28,188	Eucla	3815	Helena	12,261	Lesueur	27,232
Boorara-Gardner	11,017	Fitzgerald River	295,715	Hilliger	16,979	Midgegooroo	2493
Boyndaminup	5439	Forest Grove	1379	Jane	6864	Millstream Chichester	238,295
Brockman	51	Francois Peron	53,145	John Forrest	2698	Milyleannup	18,690
Cape Arid	277,462	Frank Hann	68,708	Kalamunda	397	Mirima	2065
Cape Le Grand	31,189	Geikie Gorge	2748	Kalbarri	183,248	Mitchell River	115,185
Cape Range	49,984	Gloucester	874	Karijini	624,335	Moore River	17,229
Collier Range	235,305	Goldfields Woodlands	66,146	Karlamilyi	1,283,805	Mount Augustus	9176
D'Entrecasteaux	118,948	Goongarrie	60,008	Kennedy Range	142,298	Mount Frankland	37,101
Dalgarup	2377	Gooseberry Hill	33	Kingston	21,100	Mount Frankland North	22,052

# Supporting our Department

Name	Area (hectares)
Mount Frankland South	42,266
Mount Lindesay	39,573
Mount Roe	127,713
Murujuga*	4913
Nambung	19,388
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	4021
Tuart Forest	2044
Tunnel Creek	91
Un-named	1571
Un-named	81
Walpole-Nornalup	18,540
Walyunga	1813
Wandoo	46,335
Warren	3122
Watheroo	44,464
Waychinicup	3974
Wellington	17,426
West Cape Howe	3669
Whicher	6352

Name	Area (hectares)
William Bay	1745
Wiltshire-Butler	11,645
Windjana Gorge	2081
Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater	1455
Wooditjup	3891
Yalgorup	18,207
Yanchep	2860
Yelverton	728

\* Freehold land managed as National Park under Section 8A CALM Act 1984

Notes:

1. Areas are from Landgate cadastral/tenure information systems (30 June 2018)
2. Bramley National Park renamed Wooditjup National Park
3. Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater is managed as a national park

## Marine reserves

The area of marine parks at 30 June 2018 was approximately 4.4 million hectares. This represents an increase of more than 100,000 hectares during the financial year as a result of the implementation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements to include additional waters for Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park, Lalang-garram / Camden Sound Marine Park, Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls Marine Park and North Lalang-garram Marine Park.

The area of marine nature reserves at 30 June 2018 was approximately 132,000 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

## Marine management areas

The area of marine management areas at 30 June 2018 was approximately 143,000 hectares. There were no changes during the year.

**Table 12: Marine reserves vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission at 30 June 2018**

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,699,997</b>

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

### Conservation land acquisitions

During the year, DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service, on behalf of the State Government, purchased two parcels of land of high conservation value covering a combined total area of about 109 hectares for future addition to the formal conservation reserve system.

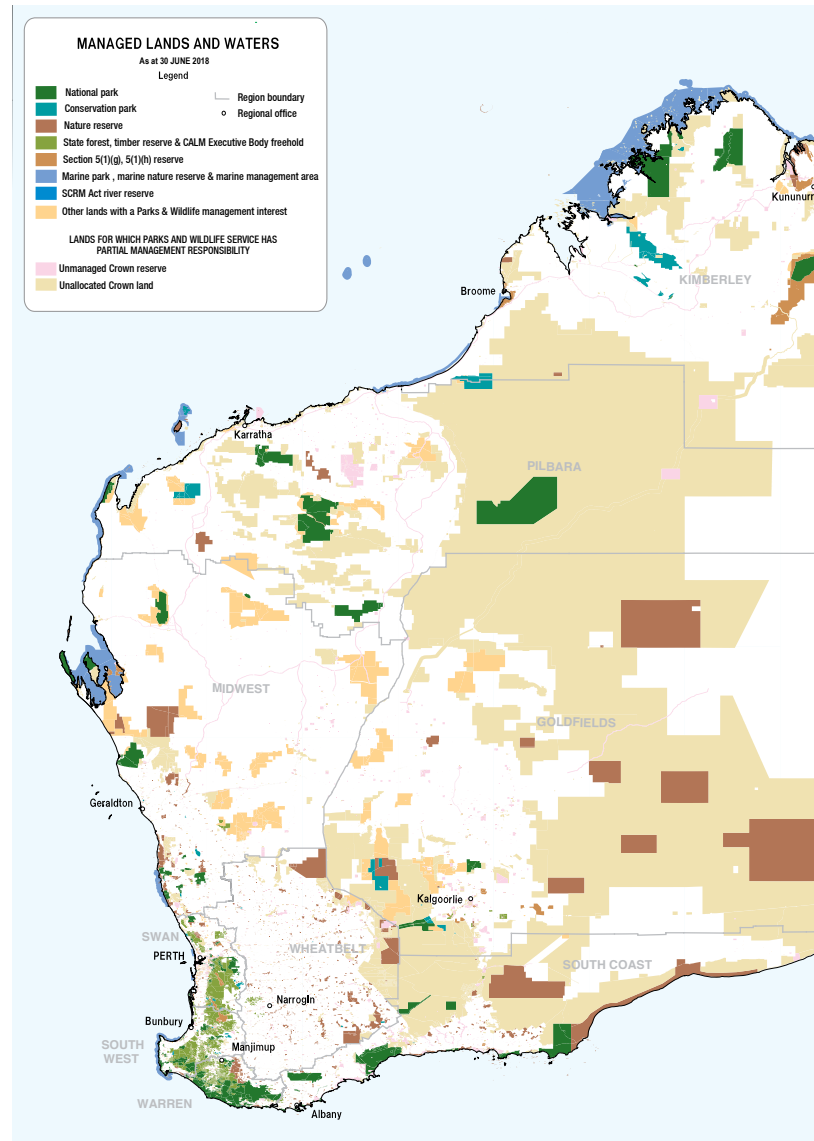
The Department's priorities for purchases are areas containing ecosystems not adequately represented in existing conservation reserves, areas containing threatened species and ecological communities, or additions to existing reserves that will greatly improve their diversity or facilitate their management.

The purchases were funded from the Department land acquisition budget. The total expenditure was \$275,000.

Purchases finalised during the year were:

- 93 hectares in the Shire of West Arthur
- 16 hectares in the Shire of Gingin.

**Figure 5: Parks and Wildlife Service-managed lands and waters at 30 June 2018**



The Department partnered with Google to capture imagery of key tourist trails and attractions, including Cape Arid National Park. Photo – DBCA

# Supporting our Department

## Legal matters

### Freedom of Information

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

The Department received 19 valid applications for access to information, with three applicants requesting an internal review, and one an external review of the Department's decisions.

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

### Litigation

Information regarding litigation in progress is available in Note 8 of the Notes to the Financial Statements on page 100 of this report.

### Prosecutions

The Department initiated 21 prosecutions during 2017–18, involving a total of 77 charges covering a broad range of offences including the illegal taking or possession of protected and rare fauna or flora, illegal importation or selling of fauna, illegal exportation of fauna, cruelty to fauna, failure to comply with licence conditions, and offences relating to activities on State forest, nature reserves and national parks.

### Finalised prosecutions for 2017–18

Of the 21 prosecutions commenced, eight were subject to final court determination during 2017–18, including cases relating to the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, *Animal Welfare Act 2002*, Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2000, and the Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970.

These matters resulted in the imposition of fines totalling \$7800 and costs to the value of \$1435.95.

In addition to the 21 prosecutions commenced during this period, a further four were carried forward and finalised from years 2014–17. These matters resulted in the imposition of fines totaling \$14,750 and to costs to the value of \$4376.

### Prosecutions currently before the courts

As at 30 June 2018, 11 prosecutions were yet to be concluded, seven cases were pending court proceedings and one case is at State Solicitor's Office for advice.

### Total reported offences

Between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018, a total of 703 offences were reported, of which 17 were dealt with by way of prosecution, 60 were pending, 346 were dealt with by infringement notice, two resulted in letters of warning, 269 were dealt with by caution notices, six required no further action and three were withdrawn.



## Marine operations

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

During 2017–18:

- Collaborative Operational Plans between DBCA and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) were reviewed for a more efficient and effective approach to marine park education and compliance activities. The agencies continue to engage collaboratively at all levels and across a range of activities including whale carcass management to mitigate shark risk and large whale disentanglement response.
- A total of 60 officers including 14 DPIRD officers were trained in large whale disentanglement response across the State. New strategies for safe disentanglement of whales were introduced, including equipping each team with a satellite tag to be deployed

on each response, providing responders with additional time to plan a safe operation. A full disentanglement can take a day or more. Tagging the animal allows disentanglement teams to review weather and sea conditions as well as the resourcing and logistical requirements. Once the animal is tagged, teams can take their time to plan for a safe and successful disentanglement attempt.

- New cutting equipment was provided to large whale disentanglement responder teams so that the time spent close to the whale is reduced as much as possible, ensuring staff safety and that entangled whales are efficiently cut free.
- The Department had a challenging period of marine mammal strandings, including the mass stranding of approximately 150 long-finned pilot whales at Hamelin Bay. Seven animals were returned to the ocean.
- The Department has tendered for two new vessels, a 6m centre console for Barrow Island and a 10.5m vessel under construction to replace three existing vessels from the Department's Perth-based fleet.

## 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.

Tragically, during 2017–18, five visitors died in the extensive areas managed by the Department. Three of these deaths were drownings. One fatality occurred after an individual became lost in Karijini National Park, and one fatality was the result of a heart attack whilst visiting Mitchell River National Park.

During 2017–18:

- 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.
- Twenty staff completed a nationally-accredited visitor risk management course provided by the Department.
- Thirty-two staff completed refresher training relating to visitor risk management.
- The Department continued to contribute to the Statewide approach to reduce the number of injuries and deaths associated with rock fishing in WA, in conjunction with Recfishwest and other stakeholders.
- DBCA provided advice and support to DPIRD in the development of the Beach Emergency Number (BEN) sign system.
- The Department provided advice and evidence at two coronial inquests into rock-fishing related fatalities.

# Significant issues and trends

## Government initiatives

The Government has provided \$10.5 million to fast track the creation of the Preston River to Ocean Regional Park in the Bunbury region. The new regional park will protect the area's biodiversity and cultural values while improving recreational opportunities for the residents of Bunbury and surrounds. It will create a continuous reserve of almost 900 hectares from the south of Bunbury west of the Preston River to the coast. The approved funding will also allow the Government to create the 2297 hectare Leschenault Regional Park, which will extend along the Collie and Brunswick Rivers westwards across the Swan Coastal Plain. Establishment of these regional parks will provide local jobs for Aboriginal enterprises and contribute to tourism opportunities in the City of Bunbury.

An Aboriginal Ranger Program has been established to capitalise on the economic and social benefits that employment provides in remote and regional Western Australian communities and to protect the environment. This five-year \$20 million program is employing Aboriginal people through direct employment and fee for service contracts, carrying out work such as biodiversity monitoring and research, management of tourism and cultural sites, weeds and feral animals, prescribed burning, bushfire suppression and environmental protection works.

A new Fitzroy River National Park will be created and managed jointly by the Department and traditional owners to protect the environment and culture of the Fitzroy River. The park is proposed to extend the existing Geikie Gorge National Park along the Fitzroy River to the north and along the Margaret River to the east. The Government will ensure there is consistency across other election commitments for the Fitzroy River area. Discussions with traditional owners to develop Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) to enable the creation of the park are underway. Consultation with other affected interest holders including pastoral lessees has also commenced.

A national park and marine park will be established to include the remote islands and fringing reefs of the Buccaneer Archipelago. Discussions with traditional owners regarding the parks have commenced. The Department will also commence the preparation of a marine park and islands national park management plan, which will facilitate employment of Aboriginal rangers for park management and opportunities for Aboriginal people to create sustainable economic enterprises.

Funding is being provided to 17 community volunteer groups in the first round of grants in the Community Rivercare Program. Recipient groups have local knowledge, experience and volunteer resources to complete restoration projects throughout the Swan Canning river

system. Later in 2018–19 there will be an opportunity for other groups to apply for funding in round two of the program.

The Department will continue planning for expansion of the Wellington National Park, near Collie, with a view to enhancing the potential tourism and recreation opportunities in the area.

The Department will develop Lake Kepwari, near Collie, as a water based tourism precinct. Works will include the construction of boating infrastructure, public facilities and road access that will provide the foundations for future tourism investment.

## Joint management and visitor services

As part of joint management arrangements with traditional owners at Murujuga National Park on the Burrup Peninsula, the Department will assist in the development of a Living Knowledge Centre and park infrastructure in collaboration with Woodside and Rio Tinto. Consultation is being undertaken with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation to consider the nomination of the Burrup Peninsula for World Heritage listing.

In the northern Goldfields, the Department will negotiate and implement an ILUA and Joint Management Agreement with Tjiwarl traditional owners related to land tenure changes associated with the Class A Wanjarri Nature Reserve.

The Department will continue to jointly manage the Yawuru terrestrial conservation estate with traditional owners to meet the State's commitments under the Yawuru Agreements.

An ILUA with the Gnulli traditional owners for reservation and joint management arrangements for the Ningaloo Coast will be finalised and a management plan is being prepared.

Visitation to Department-managed lands and waters is maintaining a strong upwards trend, with 20.39 million visits in 2017–18.

There will be increasing engagement of volunteers to assist the Department in undertaking conservation and park management activities.

The Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure project is expected to be finalised in 2018–19 including two new lookout structures overlooking the Murchison River Gorge in Kalbarri National Park, providing a significant economic driver to the regional community.

The *Swan Canning River Protection Strategy* continues to improve coordination across Government to protect and enhance the ecological and community benefits of the Swan Canning Riverpark.

On Rottneest Island the former Aboriginal prison building known as the Quod, located in the

Main Settlement, will return to the management and control of the Rottnest Island Authority. The Authority proposes to consult extensively with the Aboriginal community throughout Western Australia on the future of the building. It is anticipated that future uses will

combine memorial and interpretive functions with Aboriginal economic development opportunities. The Authority intends to seek support for the Quod redevelopment from private, philanthropic and Federal Government sources.

The Wadjemup Aboriginal Burial Ground associated with the Quod building is to be a permanent memorial space with funding provided by Lotterywest to the Rottnest Foundation, an independent community organisation. This development is subject to approval by the Rottnest Island Authority, which will also be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and use of the space including interpretive elements.

Rottnest Island will benefit from a major new development with the construction of Discovery Eco Village, providing an additional 83 accommodation units (glamping - permanent tents) and associated resort facilities. A separate staff housing facility incorporating 25 rooms will provide much needed additional staff accommodation on the island.

The Rottnest Hotel Resort has planned for additional development in the 2019 calendar year that would add 80 new rooms, additional bars, recreational areas and a convention centre.

Perth Zoo will continue to seek opportunities to increase commercial revenue returns, including finalisation of plans for a new café, and function and catering facilities.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden remains the State's single most visited destination. The high level of visitation continues to apply pressure on existing operations and infrastructure, requiring ongoing upgrades to public amenities such as footpaths, cycle paths and public toilets and a review of services to meet high levels of demand.

\$2.4 million has been secured from Lotterywest by the Friends of Kings Park to construct new facilities for hands-on volunteer activities in Kings Park. The Volunteer Hub detailed design has progressed and construction is planned for 2018–19.

### **Fire management**

The Department will continue to undertake an active fire management program in an increasingly complex operating environment, exacerbated by drying conditions in the south-west of Western Australia. An extra \$5.5 million will be available in 2018–19 for prescribed burning to reduce bushfire risk, in

addition to the Department's annual recurrent budget for prescribed burning.

### **Biodiversity and conservation science**

Western Australia has a highly significant biodiversity that faces threats and complex challenges, requiring integrated multi-disciplinary approaches to conservation and management that are underpinned by high quality science. The Department is progressing consolidation of science across the agency to build and share the State's biodiversity knowledge and deliver scientific information to support effective conservation and management.

Priority is being given to developing regulations, in consultation with stakeholders, to support full proclamation of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, replacing the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and *Sandalwood Act 1929*.

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

Invasive pests, weeds and diseases will continue to be managed. The Department will maintain the *Western Shield* fauna recovery program in partnership with industry and the community, including undertaking trials of the Eradicat® bait for feral cats.

Conservation and management of Bold Park and Kings Park will continue to achieve environmental targets, provide appropriate visitor access and mitigate risks.

### **Forest management**

The State's forests will continue to be managed to conserve plants and animals, provide for a sustainable timber industry, protect water catchments, enable recreation and tourism activities and allow mining and other public uses under the direction of the *Forest Management Plan 2014–2023*. In consultation with the Conservation and Parks Commission, the Department will complete a mid-term performance review of the plan.

The Department will lead negotiations with the Federal Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to extend Western Australia's Regional Forest Agreement to 2039.

The Department continues to prepare a sandalwood biodiversity management program under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. This will complement other initiatives to enhance the conservation and management of wild sandalwood resources, including additional resources to control illegal harvesting.

## Disclosures and legal compliance



Photo – Rick Dawson

# Certification of financial statements

## **Certification of Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 30 June 2018**

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 reporting period ended 30 June 2018 and the financial position as at 30 June 2018.

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  
17 September 2018



Mark Webb  
Accountable Authority  
17 September 2018

# Auditor General's opinion



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 2018, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service, Schedule of Assets and Liabilities by Service, and Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, and Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, including Administered transactions and balances.

In my opinion, the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the year ended 30 June 2018 and the financial position at the end of that period. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

##### Basis for Opinion

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

##### Responsibility of the Director General for the Financial Statements

The Director General is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions, and for such internal control as the Director General determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

##### Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

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

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

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

##### Report on Controls

##### Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The controls exercised by the Department are those policies and procedures established by the Director General to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions (the overall control objectives).

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

In my opinion, in all material respects, the controls exercised by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions during the year ended 30 June 2018.

# Auditor General's opinion

## **The Director General's Responsibilities**

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

## **Auditor General's Responsibilities**

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

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

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

## **Limitations of Controls**

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

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

### **Opinion**

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the year ended 30 June 2018. The key performance indicators are the key effectiveness indicators and the key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the key performance indicators of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Department's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2018.

### **The Director General's Responsibility for the Key Performance Indicators**

The Director General is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such internal control as the Director General determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

## **Auditor General's Responsibility**

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

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


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

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

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

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

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the year ended 30 June 2018 included on the Department's website. The Department's management is responsible for the integrity of the Department's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Department's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these financial statements or key performance indicators. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators to confirm the information contained in this website version of the financial statements and key performance indicators.



CAROLINE SPENCER  
AUDITOR GENERAL  
FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
Perth, Western Australia  
17 September 2018

# Financial statements



Elephant Rocks in William Bay National Park. *Photo – Mark Jekabsons*



# Financial statements

## Statement of Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee benefits expense	3.1(a)	162,448	161,547
Supplies and services	3.3	77,511	74,440
Depreciation expense	5.1.1	25,105	26,802
Accommodation expenses	3.3	4,160	4,722
Grants and subsidies	3.2	28,956	7,269
Other expenses	3.3	21,412	24,963
<b>Total cost of services</b>		<b>319,592</b>	<b>299,743</b>
<b>Income</b>			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	4.2	32,418	36,582
Commonwealth grants and contributions	4.4	2,182	2,316
Other grants and contributions	4.5	28,187	23,482
Interest revenue		2,080	1,828
Other revenue	4.3	13,878	11,922
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>78,745</b>	<b>76,130</b>
<i>Gains</i>			
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	4.6	595	242
<b>Total Gains</b>		<b>595</b>	<b>242</b>
<b>Total income other than income from State Government</b>		<b>79,340</b>	<b>76,372</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<b>240,252</b>	<b>223,371</b>
<b>Income from State Government</b>			
Service appropriation	4.1	240,651	206,780
Services received free of charge		1,370	714
Royalties for Regions Fund		21,545	10,753
<b>Total income from State Government</b>		<b>263,566</b>	<b>218,247</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>23,314</b>	<b>(5,124)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
<b>Items not reclassified subsequently to profit and loss</b>			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(87,532)	52,137
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>(87,532)</b>	<b>52,137</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>(64,218)</b>	<b>47,013</b>

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

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

## Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	7.1	15,046	5,355
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.1	74,662	76,610
Inventories	6.1	1,236	914
Receivables	6.2	8,695	15,447
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	8,859	9,098
Other current assets	6.4	6,869	8,298
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>115,367</b>	<b>115,722</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	7.1	1,199	598
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	163,809	144,994
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	5.1	3,085,101	3,167,331
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>3,250,109</b>	<b>3,312,923</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>3,365,476</b>	<b>3,428,645</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	6.5	2,382	8,081
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	32,252	32,482
Other current liabilities	6.6	4,169	4,090
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>38,803</b>	<b>44,653</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	6,467	6,822
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>6,467</b>	<b>6,822</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>45,270</b>	<b>51,475</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>3,320,206</b>	<b>3,377,170</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed Equity	9.7	3,052,885	3,045,631
Reserves		207,935	295,467
Accumulated surplus		59,386	36,072
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>3,320,206</b>	<b>3,377,170</b>

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

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

# Financial statements

## Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Note 9.7	Contributed Equity \$'000	Reserves \$'000	Accumulated surplus/(deficit) \$'000	Total equity \$'000
<b>Balance at 1 July 2016</b>		3,021,528	243,330	41,196	3,306,054
Changes in accounting policy or correction of prior period errors		0	0	0	0
<b>Restated balance at 1 July 2016</b>		3,021,528	243,330	41,196	3,306,054
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	(5,124)	(5,124)
Other comprehensive income		0	52,137	0	52,137
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	52,137	(5,124)	47,013
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		642	0	0	642
Other contributions by owners		23,271	0	0	23,271
Transfer of net assets from other agencies		190			190
Total		24,103	0	0	24,103
<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>		<b>3,045,631</b>	<b>295,467</b>	<b>36,072</b>	<b>3,377,170</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2017</b>		3,045,631	295,467	36,072	3,377,170
Surplus/(deficit)		0	0	23,314	23,314
Other comprehensive income		0	(87,532)	0	(87,532)
Total comprehensive income for the period		0	(87,532)	23,314	(64,218)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Capital appropriations		2,426	0	0	2,426
Other contributions by owners		4,757	0	0	4,757
Transfer of net assets from other agencies		805	0	0	805
Distributions to owners		(734)	0	0	(734)
Total		7,254	0	0	7,254
<b>Balance at 30 June 2018</b>		<b>3,052,885</b>	<b>207,935</b>	<b>59,386</b>	<b>3,320,206</b>

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

## Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>			
Service appropriation		212,977	186,906
Capital appropriations		2,427	642
Holding account drawdowns		9,098	8,503
Cash and cash equivalents Transferred from / (to) owner		(735)	0
Royalties for Regions Fund		26,301	34,024
<b>Net cash provided by State Government</b>		<b>250,068</b>	<b>230,075</b>
Utilised as follows:			
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee benefits		(163,598)	(157,294)
Supplies and services		(81,062)	(69,163)
Accommodation		(4,142)	(4,654)
Grants and subsidies		(29,122)	(7,139)
GST payments on purchases		(11,467)	(13,377)
GST payments to taxation authority		(172)	(4)
Other payments		(20,577)	(25,355)
<b>Receipts</b>			
User charges and fees		32,195	38,919
Commonwealth grants and contributions		1,787	2,315
Interest received		2,007	1,806
GST receipts on sales		4,893	5,318
GST receipts from taxation authority		7,079	8,898
Other receipts		48,001	35,000
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	7.1	<b>(214,178)</b>	<b>(184,730)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Payments</b>			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(28,512)	(37,256)
<b>Receipts</b>			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		966	682
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(27,546)</b>	<b>(36,574)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		8,344	8,771
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		82,563	73,792
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD</b>	7.1	<b>90,907</b>	<b>82,563</b>

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

# Financial statements

## Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates

As at 30 June 2018

	2018 Estimate \$'000	2018 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	2018 Actual \$'000	2017 Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000
<b>Delivery of Services</b>						
Item 83 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	217,439	240,276	22,837	240,276	206,207	34,069
Royalties for Regions Fund	26,503	21,545	(4,958)	21,545	10,753	10,792
Amount Authorised by Other Statutes						
- Salaries and Allowances Act 1975	375	375	0	375	573	(198)
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>	<b>244,317</b>	<b>262,196</b>	<b>17,879</b>	<b>262,196</b>	<b>217,533</b>	<b>44,663</b>
<b>Capital</b>						
Item 152 Capital appropriations	1,692	2,426	734	2,426	642	1,784
Royalties for Regions Fund	29,279	4,757	(24,522)	4,757	23,271	(18,514)
<b>Total capital</b>	<b>30,971</b>	<b>7,183</b>	<b>(23,788)</b>	<b>7,183</b>	<b>23,913</b>	<b>(16,730)</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>275,288</b>	<b>269,379</b>	<b>(5,909)</b>	<b>269,379</b>	<b>241,446</b>	<b>27,933</b>
<b>Details of Expenses by Service</b>						
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park	0	7,983	7,983	7,983	0	7,983
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island	0	6,043	6,043	6,043	0	6,043
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo	0	6,542	6,542	6,542	0	6,542
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	15,027	15,799	772	15,799	15,799	0
Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	107,297	100,910	(6,387)	100,910	86,076	14,834
Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	70,908	60,086	(10,822)	60,086	67,290	(7,204)
Research and Conservation Partnerships	29,437	21,705	(7,732)	21,705	24,618	(2,913)
Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	24,095	16,673	(7,422)	16,673	20,039	(3,366)
Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	45,022	53,459	8,437	53,459	50,803	2,656
Bushfire Suppression	32,548	30,392	(2,156)	30,392	35,118	(4,726)
<b>Total Cost of Services</b>	<b>324,334</b>	<b>319,592</b>	<b>(4,742)</b>	<b>319,592</b>	<b>299,743</b>	<b>19,849</b>
Less Total Income	(79,092)	(79,340)	(248)	(79,340)	(76,372)	(2,968)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>245,242</b>	<b>240,252</b>	<b>(4,990)</b>	<b>240,252</b>	<b>223,371</b>	<b>16,881</b>
Adjustments	(925)	21,944	22,869	21,944	(5,838)	27,782
<b>Total appropriations provided to deliver services</b>	<b>244,317</b>	<b>262,196</b>	<b>17,879</b>	<b>262,196</b>	<b>217,533</b>	<b>44,663</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	37,863	28,512	(9,351)	28,512	37,256	(8,744)
Adjustment for other funding sources	(6,892)	(21,329)	(14,437)	(21,329)	(13,343)	(7,986)
<b>Capital appropriations</b>	<b>30,971</b>	<b>7,183</b>	<b>(23,788)</b>	<b>7,183</b>	<b>23,913</b>	<b>(16,730)</b>
<b>Details of Income Estimates</b>						
Income disclosed as Administered Income	90	51	(39)	51	63	(12)
	<b>90</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>(12)</b>

"2018 Estimate" refers to the Department's (excluding Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority) budget estimates approved under section 40 of the Financial Management Act 2006.

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

Note 9.9 "Explanatory statement" and Note 10.2 "Explanatory statement for Administered Items" provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2018 and between the actual results for 2018 and 2017.

# Financial statements

## 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 entity is a not-for-profit entity (as profit is not its principal objective).

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Accountable Authority of the Department on 17 September 2018.

#### Statement of compliance

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

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

The *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions (the Instructions) take precedence over AAS. Several AAS are modified by the Instructions to vary application, disclosure format and wording. Where modification is required and has had a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

#### Basis of preparation

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

#### Judgements and estimates

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

#### Contributed equity

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

The transfers of net assets to/from other agencies, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal.

### 2. Department Output

#### How the Department operates

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

	<b>Note</b>
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

Pursuant to Public Sector Management Act 1994 section 35(1) (d), the name of the Department was re-designated from Department of Parks and Wildlife to Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions with effect on and from 1 July 2017.

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

Funding is predominantly provided by Parliamentary appropriations supplemented by fees received for the provision of services to the public. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Department controls resources to carry on its functions.

##### Services

The Department provides the following services:

##### *Service 1: Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Financial statements

## *Service 6: Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities*

Develop and implement programs for the conservation of biodiversity.

## *Service 7: Research and Conservation Partnerships*

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

## *Service 8: Implementation of the Forest Management Plan*

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

## *Service 9: Prescribed Burning and Fire Management*

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

## *Service 10: Bushfire Suppression*

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

Consolidation:

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

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

To facilitate interpretation of the financial reports of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, funding provided to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority are disclosed as "Service 1- Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park, Service -2 Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island and Service 3 - Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo". These disclosures do not represent the full and comprehensive financial results and financial position of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority. For all 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.

# Financial statements

## 2.2 Schedule of income and expenses by service

For the year ended 30 June 2018

	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	
	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>																						
<b>Expenses</b>																						
Employee benefits expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,882	6,606	48,325	44,323	43,014	44,338	8,657	9,021	10,822	12,813	35,631	32,369	10,117	12,077	162,448	161,547
Supplies and services	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,210	2,370	32,235	20,236	10,299	14,177	10,407	12,326	3,721	4,325	10,050	11,033	7,589	9,973	77,511	74,440
Depreciation expense	0	0	0	0	0	0	193	208	12,671	14,203	2,151	2,771	854	857	1,098	4,996	3,989	3,142	3,014	25,105	26,802	
Accommodation expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	121	2,054	1,995	1,071	1,359	27	232	74	119	551	610	298	286	4,160	4,722
Grants & subsidies	7,983	0	6,043	0	6,542	0	6,169	6,013	1,280	107	38	68	842	1,068	2	3	35	9	22	1	28,956	7,269
Other expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0	260	481	4,345	5,212	3,513	4,577	918	1,114	956	1,019	2,196	2,793	9,224	9,767	21,412	24,963
<b>Total cost of services</b>	<b>7,983</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,043</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,542</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,799</b>	<b>15,799</b>	<b>100,910</b>	<b>86,076</b>	<b>60,086</b>	<b>67,290</b>	<b>21,705</b>	<b>24,618</b>	<b>16,673</b>	<b>20,039</b>	<b>53,459</b>	<b>50,803</b>	<b>30,392</b>	<b>35,118</b>	<b>319,592</b>	<b>299,743</b>
<b>Income</b>																						
User charges and fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	207	63	23,644	22,833	1,397	4,869	1,330	1,242	3,085	3,743	1,417	707	1,338	3,125	32,418	36,582
Commonwealth grants and contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	490	0	0	0	55	2,120	1,718	0	44	53	0	0	2,182	2,316	
Other grants and contributions	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,324	2,383	3,191	3,959	921	29	18,650	16,542	117	201	984	368	0	0	28,187	23,482
Interest revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	231	211	231	205	1,484	1,314	122	98	6	0	0	0	2,080	1,828
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	61	7,013	5,864	3,406	2,875	158	110	2,647	2,230	332	399	287	383	13,878	11,922
Gains on disposal of non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	103	(13)	43	(62)	4	(18)	60	9	212	266	165	58	595	242
<b>Total income other than income from State Government</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,598</b>	<b>2,999</b>	<b>34,182</b>	<b>32,854</b>	<b>5,998</b>	<b>7,971</b>	<b>23,746</b>	<b>20,908</b>	<b>6,031</b>	<b>6,281</b>	<b>2,995</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>3,566</b>	<b>79,340</b>	<b>76,372</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>7,983</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,043</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,542</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,201</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>66,728</b>	<b>53,222</b>	<b>54,088</b>	<b>59,319</b>	<b>(2,041)</b>	<b>3,710</b>	<b>10,642</b>	<b>13,758</b>	<b>50,464</b>	<b>49,010</b>	<b>28,602</b>	<b>31,552</b>	<b>240,252</b>	<b>223,371</b>
<b>Income from State Government</b>																						
Service appropriation	7,983	0	6,043	0	6,542	0	11,000	12,556	67,575	53,416	56,881	60,337	0	0	13,928	16,334	43,489	36,927	27,210	27,210	240,651	206,780
Services received free of charge	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	12	598	36	442	174	38	0	39	492	190	0	43	0	1,370	714
Royalties for Regions Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,403	4,743	862	810	0	0	0	5,280	5,200	0	0	0	21,545	10,753
<b>Total income from State Government</b>	<b>7,983</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,043</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,542</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,020</b>	<b>12,568</b>	<b>83,576</b>	<b>58,195</b>	<b>58,185</b>	<b>61,321</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13,967</b>	<b>16,826</b>	<b>48,959</b>	<b>42,127</b>	<b>27,253</b>	<b>27,210</b>	<b>263,566</b>	<b>218,247</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) for the period</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(181)</b>	<b>(232)</b>	<b>16,848</b>	<b>4,973</b>	<b>4,097</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>(3,710)</b>	<b>3,325</b>	<b>3,068</b>	<b>(1,505)</b>	<b>(6,883)</b>	<b>(1,349)</b>	<b>(4,342)</b>	<b>23,314</b>	<b>(5,124)</b>

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

(a) Note: The service includes transactions only to the extent that the Department has provided direct funding to the statutory authority. These disclosures do not represent the financial result and financial position of the Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority. For a full disclosure of the financial results and financial position of each statutory authority, refer to the annual report and financial statements of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority respectively. As this is the first year of this structure, there are no comparatives for these services.

# Financial statements

## 2.3 Schedule of assets and liabilities by service

As at 30 June 2018

	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	
	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2018 \$'000	2017 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>																						
Current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,236	6,298	27,477	24,990	6,313	4,738	67,274	67,666	3,952	5,654	3,756	2,728	2,359	3,648	115,367	115,722
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	19,927	3,593	1,089,339	1,078,532	724,065	861,937	14,717	16,860	1,263,633	1,220,109	84,550	74,812	53,878	57,080	3,250,109	3,312,923
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,163</b>	<b>9,891</b>	<b>1,116,816</b>	<b>1,103,522</b>	<b>730,378</b>	<b>866,675</b>	<b>81,991</b>	<b>84,526</b>	<b>1,267,585</b>	<b>1,225,763</b>	<b>88,306</b>	<b>77,540</b>	<b>56,237</b>	<b>60,728</b>	<b>3,365,476</b>	<b>3,428,645</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>																						
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	757	2,949	13,120	14,133	12,360	12,587	2,428	3,390	2,997	3,505	6,344	6,822	797	1,267	38,803	44,653
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	79	311	2,181	2,034	2,098	2,042	454	510	342	493	1,185	1,222	128	210	6,467	6,822
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>15,301</b>	<b>16,167</b>	<b>14,458</b>	<b>14,629</b>	<b>2,882</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>3,998</b>	<b>7,529</b>	<b>8,044</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>45,270</b>	<b>51,475</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,327</b>	<b>6,631</b>	<b>1,101,515</b>	<b>1,087,355</b>	<b>715,920</b>	<b>852,046</b>	<b>79,109</b>	<b>80,626</b>	<b>1,264,246</b>	<b>1,221,765</b>	<b>80,777</b>	<b>69,496</b>	<b>55,312</b>	<b>59,251</b>	<b>3,320,206</b>	<b>3,377,170</b>

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. As this is the first year of the this structure, there are no comparatives for these services.

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## 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.

	Notes	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
Employee benefits expense	3.1(a)	162,448	161,547
Employee related provisions	3.1(b)	38,719	39,304
Grants and subsidies	3.2	28,956	7,269
Other expenses	3.3	103,083	104,125
		142,360	146,295
Wages and salaries		6,853	1,469
Termination benefits		13,235	13,783
Superannuation – defined contribution plans <sup>(a)</sup>		<b>162,448</b>	<b>161,547</b>

(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 \$11.59 million (2017: \$12.29 million).

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

**Termination benefits:** Payable when employment is terminated before normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the agency 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 agency to GESB extinguishes the agency'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 agency to the GESB.

The GESB and other fund providers administer public sector superannuation arrangements in Western Australia in accordance with legislative requirements. Eligibility criteria for membership in particular schemes for public sector employees vary according to commencement and implementation dates.

### 3.1b) Employee related provisions

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

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
<b>Current</b>		
<u>Employee related provisions</u>		
Annual leave <sup>(a)</sup>	12,358	11,673
Long service leave <sup>(b)</sup>	19,524	20,436
	<b>31,882</b>	<b>32,109</b>
<u>Other provisions</u>		
Employment on-costs <sup>(c)</sup>	370	373
<b>Total current employee related provisions</b>	<b>32,252</b>	<b>32,482</b>
<b>Non-current</b>		
<u>Employee related provisions</u>		
Long service leave <sup>(b)</sup>	6,391	6,742
<u>Other provisions</u>		
Employment on-costs <sup>(c)</sup>	76	80
<b>Total non-current employee related provisions</b>	<b>6,467</b>	<b>6,822</b>
<b>Total employee related provisions</b>	<b>38,719</b>	<b>39,304</b>
<b>(a) Annual leave liabilities:</b> classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:		
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	8,503	8,477
More than 12 months after the end of the reporting period	3,855	3,196
	<b>12,358</b>	<b>11,673</b>

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 agency 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 agency 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:



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	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	7,924	8,556
More than 12 months after the reporting period	17,991	18,622
	<b>25,915</b>	<b>27,178</b>

The long service leave liabilities are 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, 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 agency's 'employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'

#### **Employment on-costs provision**

Carrying amount at start of period	453	412
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	(7)	41
<b>Carrying amount at end of period</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>453</b>

#### **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 agency'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.

#### **3.2 Grants and subsidies**

##### **Recurrent**

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
State Government <sup>(a)</sup>	24,150	3,499
Private organisations	2,735	1,728
Local Government	2,054	2,023
Federal Government	17	19
<b>Total grants and subsidies</b>	<b>28,956</b>	<b>7,269</b>

(a) Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority \$8.68 million in 2018 (2017: NIL), Zoological Parks Authority \$7.80 million in 2018 (2017: NIL), Rottneest Island Authority \$6.04 million in 2018 (2017: NIL), Department of Water and Environmental Regulation \$1.62 million in 2018 (2017: \$2.55 million), Western Australian Museum \$0.71 million in 2018 (2017: \$0.55 million) and Department of Finance \$0.05 million in 2018 (2017: \$0.68 million).

Transactions in which the agency 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	3,614	3,589
Consultants and contractors	4,065	4,850
Services and contracts	40,246	34,349
Materials	13,947	14,034
Repairs and maintenance	5,028	6,333
Travel	4,058	4,233
Regional employee housing	2,328	2,477
Staff Costs (including uniforms & protective clothing)	4,072	4,566
Other	153	9
<b>Total supplies and services expenses</b>	<b>77,511</b>	<b>74,440</b>

##### **Accommodation expenses**

Lease rentals	2,079	2,744
Electricity, power and water	2,081	1,978
<b>Total accommodation expenses</b>	<b>4,160</b>	<b>4,722</b>

##### **Other expenses**

Employment on-costs	1,457	4,262
Operating lease – motor vehicle	7,731	8,079
Other lease, rental and hire expenses	12,224	12,622
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>21,412</b>	<b>24,963</b>
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>103,083</b>	<b>104,125</b>

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

During the year the Department's transactions with government related entities on supplies and services amount to \$9.09 million (2017: \$12.89 million)

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

Repairs, maintenance and cleaning costs are recognised as expenses as incurred.

Transactions with the Department of Finance was \$0.84 million in 2018 (2017: \$1.16 million), transactions with the Department of Finance Building Management and Works was \$0.30 million in 2018 (2017: \$0.32 million) and transactions with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development was \$0.09 million in 2018 (2017: \$0.06 million).

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

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

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

During the financial year transactions with State Fleet amounted to \$3.77 million (2017: \$4.39 million) and with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services amounted to \$0.64 million (2017: \$0.45 million).

## 4. Our funding sources

### How we obtain our funding

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

		2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
Income from State Government	4.1	263,566	218,247
User charges and fees	4.2	32,418	36,582
Other revenue	4.3	13,878	11,922
Commonwealth grants and contributions	4.4	2,182	2,316
Other grants and contributions	4.5	28,187	23,482
Gains	4.6	595	242
<b>4.1 Income from State Government</b>			
Appropriation received during the period:			
Service appropriation <sup>(a)</sup>		240,651	206,780

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
Assets transferred from/(to) other State government agencies during the period: <sup>(b)</sup>	0	0
Inventories	0	0
<b>Total assets transferred</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

- Department of Justice	933	314
- Landgate	267	260
- Department of Finance	86	85
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	55	41
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	17	0
- Department of Transport	10	12
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	2	2

<b>Total services received</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>714</b>
Royalties for Regions Fund:		
Regional Community Services Account <sup>(c)</sup>	<b>21,545</b>	<b>10,753</b>

<b>Total income from State Government</b>	<b>263,566</b>	<b>218,247</b>
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(a) **Service Appropriations** are recognised as revenues at fair value in the period in which the agency gains control of the appropriated funds. The Department gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited in the bank account or credited to the 'Amounts receivable for services' (holding account) held at Treasury.

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

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

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

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

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

(c) **The Regional Community Services Accounts** are sub-funds within the over-arching 'Royalties for Regions Fund'. The recurrent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas and are recognised as revenue when the agency gains control on receipt of the funds.

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	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
<b>4.2 User charges and fees</b>		
User charges	21,202	20,436
Fees	11,216	16,146
	<b>32,418</b>	<b>36,582</b>

During the financial year the Department's transactions with other government related entities on user charges and fees amounts to \$6.18 million (2017: \$9.39 million).

Revenue is recognised and measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

*Sale of goods*- Revenue is recognised from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets when the significant risks and rewards of ownership transfer to the purchaser and can be measured reliably.

*Provision of services*- Revenue is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

*Interest*- Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

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

## 4.3 Other revenue

Mining compensation	7,236	5,742
Insurance refunds <sup>(a)</sup>	607	1,292
Forest and beach shack leases	1,093	1,134
Other	901	692
Plant fund expenditure recoup	469	600
Communication sites	543	465
Workers compensation payroll recoup <sup>(a)</sup>	487	690
Publications	357	389
Apiary sites	324	289
Diesel fuel rebate	323	266
Sale of minor assets	79	45
Assets found during the period:		
-Buildings	1,072	0
-Property, plant and equipment	387	318
	<b>13,878</b>	<b>11,922</b>

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

## 4.4 Commonwealth grants and contributions

Recurrent	2,182	2,316
	<b>2,182</b>	<b>2,316</b>

The Department received revenue from the Commonwealth Government during the period in relation to 27 separate conservation projects.

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
<b>4.5 Other grants and contributions</b>		
Capital	5,609	705
Recurrent	22,578	22,777
	<b>28,187</b>	<b>23,482</b>

The Department received revenue from a range of private and state granting entities in 2018 in relation to 158 separate conservation projects. The state grants revenue amounted to \$12.82 million (2017: \$4.49 million). Any unspent funds remaining at the conclusion of individual projects are returned to the relevant granting entity.

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

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

## 4.6 Gains

### Net proceeds from disposal of non-current assets

Plant, equipment and vehicles	965	682
Buildings	0	0
Trade-in	0	126

### Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed

Plant, equipment and vehicles	(248)	(547)
Buildings	(122)	(19)
<b>Net gain/(loss)</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>242</b>

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

	Notes		
Property, plant and equipment	5.1	3,085,101	3,167,331
Depreciation	5.1.1	25,105	26,802

# Financial statements

## 5.1 Property, plant and equipment

Year ended 30 June 2017	Land (\$000)	Buildings (\$000)	Assets under construction (\$000)	Plant, equipment (\$000)	Vehicles (\$000)	Infrastructure (\$000)	Works of art (\$000)	Total (\$000)
<b>1 July 2016</b>								
Gross carrying amount	2,844,227	121,513	25,651	131,443	37,771	72,706	555	3,233,866
Accumulated depreciation	0	0	0	(69,325)	(20,854)	(39,014)	0	(129,193)
Accumulated impairment loss	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Carrying amount at start of period</b>	<b>2,844,227</b>	<b>121,513</b>	<b>25,651</b>	<b>62,118</b>	<b>16,917</b>	<b>33,692</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>3,104,673</b>
Additions	2,094	1,056	24,540	2,581	4,214	2,912	0	37,398
Transfers(a)	480	736	(12,333)	10,559	0	732	0	174
Assets not previously identified	0	0	0	318	0	0	0	318
Other disposals	0	(19)	0	(205)	(342)	0	0	(566)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	51,537	600	0	0	0	0	0	52,137
Impairment losses(b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	(9,922)	0	(9,466)	(2,464)	(4,950)	0	(26,802)
<b>Carrying amount at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>2,898,338</b>	<b>113,965</b>	<b>37,857</b>	<b>65,905</b>	<b>18,325</b>	<b>32,386</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>3,167,331</b>

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

(b) Impairment losses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Where an asset measured at cost is written-down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised as profit or loss. Where a previously revalued asset is written down to recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement in other comprehensive income. Information on fair value measurements is provided in Note 8.3

# Financial statements

## 5.1 Property, plant and equipment (cont.)

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

(a) The Department received \$ 0.81million of assets in 2017-18 and \$0.19 million of assets in 2016-17 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 agency accounts for the transfer as a distribution to owner.

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

Information on fair value measurement is provided in Note 8.3

# Financial statements

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

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

The cost of a leasehold improvement is capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the remaining term of the lease or the estimated useful life of the leasehold improvement.

The initial cost for a non-financial physical asset under a finance lease is measured at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased asset or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease.

## 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 2017 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuations and Property Analytics). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2018 and recognised at 30 June 2018. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$195,148,600 (2017: \$189,036,500) and buildings: \$2,126,800 (2017: \$2,181,300). For the remaining balance, fair value of buildings was determined on the basis of depreciated 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).

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 assets and in determining estimated economic life. Professional judgment by the valuer is required where the evidence does not provide a clear distinction between market type assets and existing use assets.

## 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 agency 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.

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
<b>5.1.1 Depreciation and impairment</b>		
Depreciation		
Plant, equipment	9,190	9,335
Vehicles	2,820	2,464
Buildings	10,183	9,922
Infrastructure	2,861	4,950
Software	51	131
<b>Total depreciation for the period</b>	<b>25,105</b>	<b>26,802</b>

As at 30 June 2018 there were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment or infrastructure.

All surplus assets at 30 June 2018 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.

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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
Software <sup>(a)</sup>	2.5-4

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

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

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

## Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of property, plant and equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised.

Where an asset measured at cost is written down to its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised through profit or loss.

Where a previously revalued asset is written down to its recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement through other comprehensive income.

As the Department is a not-for-profit entity, unless a specialised asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount of regularly revalued specialised assets is anticipated to be materially the same as fair value.

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

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

## 6. Other assets and liabilities

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

	Notes	2018 (\$'000)	2017 (\$'000)
Inventories	6.1	1,236	914
Receivables	6.2	8,695	15,447
Amounts receivable for services	6.3	172,668	154,092
Other assets	6.4	6,869	8,298
Payables	6.5	(2,382)	(8,081)
Other liabilities	6.6	(4,169)	(4,090)

### 6.1 Inventories

Inventories held for resale:

Souvenirs 739 419

Inventories held for distribution:

Publications 497 495

**Total Inventories 1,236 914**

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

Receivables 5,854 12,403

Allowance for impairment of receivables (6) (1)

GST receivable 1,756 2,090

Accrued revenue 1,091 955

**Total receivables 8,695 15,447**

As at 30 June 2018 receivables from other government related entities amounted to \$3.57 million (2017: \$2.31 million)

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

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.

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	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
<b>6.2.1 Movement of the allowance for impairment of receivables</b>		
<b>Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:</b>		
Balance at start of period	1	2
Amounts recovered during the period	(1)	0
Doubtful debts expense	23	3
Amounts written off during the period	(17)	(4)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>

The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off against the allowance account. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the agency will not be able to collect the debts.

## 6.3 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

Current	8,859	9,098
Non-current	163,809	144,994
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>172,668</b>	<b>154,092</b>

**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. The Department receives funding on accrual basis. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (holding account receivable). The accrued amount receivable is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover leave entitlements and asset replacement.

## 6.4 Other assets

<u>Current</u>		
Prepayments	6,869	8,298
<b>Total current</b>	<b>6,869</b>	<b>8,298</b>

## 6.5 Payables

<u>Current</u>		
Trade payables	160	4,971
Accrued expenses	1,580	1,899
Accrued salaries	504	1,036
Accrued superannuation	50	83
Parental payment	88	92
<b>Total current</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>8,081</b>

As at 30 June 2018 payables to the Office of the Auditor General amounted to \$0.21 million (2017: \$0.18 million) and NIL payable to Department of Finance, Building Management and Works in 2018 (2017: \$0.17 million)

**Payables** are recognised at the amounts payable when the Department becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as settlement is generally within 30 days.

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

The accrued salaries suspense account (See Note 7.1.1 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually, from agency 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.

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
<b>6.6 Other liabilities</b>		
<u>Current</u>		
Unearned revenue	4,169	4,090
<b>Total current</b>	<b>4,169</b>	<b>4,090</b>

As at 30 June 2018 unearned revenue from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage amounted to \$0.2 million (2017: NIL) and there was a Related Party Transaction with Burswood Park Board in 2017 amounting to \$1.01 million, NIL in 2018.

## 7. Financing

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

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



# Financial statements

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
<b>7.1 Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
<b>7.1.1 Reconciliation of cash</b>		
<i>Current</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	15,046	5,355
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
– Cash amounts in Special Purpose account <sup>(a)</sup>	74,662	76,610
	<b>89,708</b>	<b>81,965</b>
<i>Non-Current</i>		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		
– Accrued salaries suspense account <sup>(b)</sup>	1,199	598
	<b>1,199</b>	<b>598</b>
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>90,907</b>	<b>82,563</b>

(a) Cash held in the account is to fund the three special purpose accounts disclosed at note 9.5 'Special Purpose Accounts' and a range of specific purpose accounts.

(b) Funds held in the suspense account for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a reporting period that occurs every 11th year. This account is classified as non-current for 10 out of 11 years.

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

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

	Notes		
Net cost of services		(240,252)	(223,371)
<b>Non-cash items</b>			
Depreciation expense	5.1.1	25,105	26,802
Services received free of charge	4.1	1,370	714
Adjustments for other non cash items		(1,459)	(318)
(Gain)/Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	4.6	(595)	(242)
<b>(Increase)/decrease in assets</b>			
Current receivables <sup>(a)</sup>		6,418	820
Inventories		(322)	367
Other current assets		1,429	(162)
<b>Increase/(decrease) in liabilities</b>			
Current payables and other current liabilities <sup>(a)</sup>		(5,621)	6,600
Provisions		(585)	3,225
Net GST receipts/(payments) <sup>(b)</sup>		334	835
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>		<b>(214,178)</b>	<b>(184,730)</b>

(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.

The mandatory application of AASB 2016-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 107* imposed disclosure impacts only. The Department is not exposed to changes in liabilities arising from financing activities, including both changes arising from cash flows and non-cash changes.

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
<b>7.2 Commitments</b>		
<b>7.2.1 Non-cancellable operating lease commitments</b>		
Commitments for minimum lease payments are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	4,816	4,720
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	8,278	6,327
Later than 5 years	1,762	1,622
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>14,856</b>	<b>12,669</b>

The Department's fleet leases with the Department of Finance accounts for \$8.0 million of the non-cancellable operating lease commitments for 2018 (\$7.2 million in 2017). The Department's accommodation leases with the Department of Finance accounts for \$2.0 million (Nil in 2017). The lease term varies depending on the vehicle. The lease payments are fixed for the term of the lease and are payable monthly.

## 7.2.2 Capital commitments

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

Within 1 year	2,209	2,636
	<b>2,209</b>	<b>2,636</b>

The totals presented for capital commitments are GST inclusive

## 7.2.3 Other expenditure commitments

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

Within 1 year	9,988	8,371
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	8,066	535
	<b>18,054</b>	<b>8,906</b>

The totals presented for capital commitments are GST inclusive

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

The Department has entered into a number of leases for buildings for office accommodation. Some of these leases relate to buildings of a temporary nature and it has been determined that the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Accordingly, these leases have been classified as operating leases.

# Financial statements

## 8. Risks and Contingencies

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

	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.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period in relation to each class of recognised financial asset is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any allowance for impairment as shown in the table at Note 8.1(c) 'Aging analysis of financial assets' and Note 6.2 'Receivables'.

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. 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:

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	15,046	5,355
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	75,861	77,208
Loans and receivables <sup>(a)</sup>	179,607	167,449
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>270,514</b>	<b>250,012</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	2,382	8,081
<b>Total financial liability</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>8,081</b>

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

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## (c) Ageing analysis of financial assets

	Carrying amount (\$000)	Not past due and not impaired (\$000)	Past due but not impaired				More than 5 years (\$000)	Impaired financial assets (\$000)
			Up to 1 month (\$000)	1-3 months (\$000)	3 months to 1 year (\$000)	1-5 years (\$000)		
<b>2018</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	15,046	15,046	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	75,861	75,861	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables <sup>(a)</sup>	6,939	5,648	422	643	219	7	0	0
Amounts receivable for services	172,668	172,668	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>270,514</b>	<b>269,223</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2017</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	5,355	5,355	0	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	77,208	77,208	0	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables	13,357	10,543	2,437	164	207	6	0	0
Amounts receivable for services	154,092	154,092	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>250,012</b>	<b>247,198</b>	<b>2,437</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

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## (d) Liquidity Risk and Interest Rate Exposure

The following table details the agency'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 %	Carrying amount (\$000)	Interest rate exposure			Nominal amount (\$000)	Maturity dates				
			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)
<b>2018</b>											
<u>Financial assets</u>											
Cash and cash equivalents	1.97	15,046	0	15,046	0	15,046	0	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	1.97	75,861	0	75,861	0	75,861	0	0	0	0	0
Receivables <sup>(a)</sup>		6,939	0	0	6,939	6,939	0	0	0	0	0
Amounts receivable for services		172,668	0	0	172,668	172,668	0	0	8,859	40,379	123,430
		<b>270,514</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90,907</b>	<b>179,607</b>	<b>270,514</b>	<b>6,939</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,859</b>	<b>40,379</b>	<b>123,430</b>
<u>Financial liabilities</u>											
Payables		2,382	0	0	2,382	2,382	2,382	0	0	0	0
		<b>2,382</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

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## (d) Liquidity Risk and Interest Rate Exposure (cont.)

The following table details the agency'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)
<b>2017</b>											
<u>Financial assets</u>											
Cash and cash equivalents	1.97	5,355	0	5,355	0	5,355	5,355	0	0	0	0
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	1.97	77,208	0	77,208	0	77,208	77,208	0	0	0	0
Receivables <sup>(a)</sup>		13,357	0	0	13,357	13,357	13,357	0	0	0	0
Amounts receivable for services		154,092	0	0	154,092	154,092	0	0	9,098	43,727	101,267
		<b>250,012</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82,563</b>	<b>167,449</b>	<b>250,012</b>	<b>95,920</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,098</b>	<b>43,727</b>	<b>101,267</b>
<u>Financial liabilities</u>											
Payables		8,081	0	0	8,081	8,081	8,081	0	0	0	0
		<b>8,081</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,081</b>	<b>8,081</b>	<b>8,081</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

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## (e) Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the Department's financial assets and liabilities at the end of the reporting period on the surplus for the period and equity for a 1% change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

	Carrying amount (\$000)	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)	Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)
<b>2018</b>					
<u>Financial assets</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents	15,046	(150)	(150)	150	150
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	75,861	(758)	(758)	758	758
Total increase/(decrease)		<b>(908)</b>	<b>(908)</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>908</b>
	Carrying amount (\$000)	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)	Surplus (\$000)	Equity (\$000)
<b>2017</b>					
<u>Financial assets</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents	5,355	(53)	(53)	53	53
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	77,208	(772)	(772)	772	772
Total increase/(decrease)		<b>(825)</b>	<b>(825)</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>825</b>

## 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 nominal value.

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

The Department has not 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 3 litigation claims and 1 arbitration claim against it that may affect the Department's financial position if all claims are successful to the value of \$2,480,000 having regard to the excess payable under the Department's general liability insurance policy. The total contingent liability for the Department's insurer is \$81,891,994. The Department has denied liability and any legal claim will be defended.

#### Native title claims

The agency's land is subject to a number of native title claims that have yet to be assessed by the National Native Title Tribunal. The financial effect should these claims be successful cannot be estimated at this time.

## Contaminated sites

Under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*, the agency 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 on the basis of the risk to human health, the environment and environmental values. Where sites are classified as *contaminated – remediation required* or *possibly contaminated – investigation required*, the agency may have a liability in respect of investigation or remediation expenses.

The Department has 7 sites classified as "contaminated – remediation required", 4 sites classified as "contaminated – restricted use" and 73 sites classified as "possibly contaminated - investigation required." It is not practicable to estimate the potential financial effect or to identify the uncertainties relating to the amount or timing of any outflows in relation to these sites.

### 8.3 Fair value measurement

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

Assets measured at fair value:	Level 1 (\$000)	Level 2 (\$000)	Level 3 (\$000)	Fair Value At end of period (\$000)
<b>2017</b>				
Land (Note 5.1)	0	189,036	2,709,302	2,898,338
Buildings (Note 5.1)	0	2,181	111,784	113,965
	<b>0</b>	<b>191,217</b>	<b>2,821,086</b>	<b>3,012,303</b>

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.

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

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

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

## 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.

## Amendments to AASB 136

Mandatory application of AASB 2016-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Recoverable Amount of Non Cash Generating Specialised Assets of Not-for-Profit Entities has no financial impact for the Department as the Department is classified as not for profit and regularly revalues specialised land and buildings. Therefore, fair value of the recoverable amount of such assets is expected to be materially the same as fair value.

## 9. Other disclosures

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

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

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## 9.1 Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

The Department cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements or by an exemption from TI 1101. Where applicable, the Department plans to apply the following Australian Accounting Standards from their application date.

		Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after			
			AASB 1059	<p><i>Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors</i></p> <p>This Standard addresses the accounting for a service concession arrangement (a type of public private partnership) by a grantor that is a public sector entity by prescribing the accounting for the arrangement from the grantor's perspective. Timing and measurement for the recognition of a specific asset class occurs on commencement of the arrangement and the accounting for associated liabilities is determined by whether the grantee is paid by the grantor or users of the public service provided. (The Department has not identified any public private partnerships within scope of the Standard.)</p>	1 Jan 2019
AASB 9	<i>Financial Instruments</i>	1 Jan 2018	AASB 2010-7	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 1023 &amp; 1038 and Int 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 &amp; 127]</i></p> <p>This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010.</p> <p>The mandatory application date of this Standard has been amended by AASB 2012-6 and AASB 2014-1 to 1 January 2018. (Other than the exposures to AASB 9 noted above, the Department is only insignificantly impacted by the application of the Standard)</p>	1 Jan 2018
AASB 15	<i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	1 Jan 2019	AASB 2014-1	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards</i></p> <p>Part E of this Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 and consequential amendments to other Standards. (These changes have no impact as the Appendix E has been superseded and the Department was not permitted to early adopt AASB 9)</p>	1 Jan 2018
			AASB 2014-5	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to the consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 15. The mandatory application date of this Standard has been amended by AASB 2015-8 to 1 January 2018. (The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard)</p>	1 Jan 2018
AASB 16	<i>Leases</i>	1 Jan 2019	AASB 2014-7	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014)</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to the consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 9 (December 2014). (The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard)</p>	1 Jan 2018
AASB 1058	<i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	1 Jan 2019	AASB 2015-8	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of AASB 15</i></p> <p>This Standard amends the mandatory application date of AASB 15 to January 2018 (instead of 1 January 2017). It also defers the consequential amendments that were originally set out in AASB 2014-5. There is no financial impact arising from this standard.</p>	1 Jan 2018



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AASB 2016-3	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarifications to AASB 15</i>	1 Jan 2018
	This Standard clarifies identifying performance obligations, principal versus agent considerations, timing of recognising revenue from granting a licence, and, provides further transitional provisions to AASB 15. <i>(The Department has not yet determined the application or the potential impact when the deferred AASB 15 becomes effective from 1 January 2019)</i>	
AASB 2016-7	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferral of AASB 15 for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	1 Jan 2018
	This Standard defers, for not-for-Profit entities, the mandatory application date of AASB 15 to 1 January 2019, and the consequential amendments that were originally set out in AASB 2014-15. There is no financial impact arising from this standard.	
AASB 2016-8	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	1 Jan 2019
	This Standard inserts Australian requirements and authoritative implementation guidance for not-for-profit entities into AASB 9 and AASB 15. This guidance assists not-for-profit entities in applying those Standards to particular transactions and other events. There is no financial impact.	

## 9.2 Key management personnel

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

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

Compensation band (\$)	2018	2017
390,001 – 400,000	1	0
380,001 – 390,000	1	0
350,001 – 360,000	0	1
250,001 – 260,000	1	0
240,001 – 250,000	0	1
220,001 – 230,000	3	0
210,001 – 220,000	0	1
200,001 – 210,000	0	3
190,001 – 200,000	0	1
180,001 – 190,000	0	1
170,001 – 180,000	1	0
150,001 – 160,000	0	1
110,001 – 120,000	1	1
80,001 – 90,000	0	1
40,001 – 50,000	1	0
30,001 – 40,000	1	0
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>(\$000)</b>	<b>(\$000)</b>
Short term employee benefits	1,342	1,680
Post employment benefits	194	267
Other long term benefits	161	212
Termination benefits	372	0
<b>Total compensation of senior officers</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>2,159</b>

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

## 9.3 Related party transactions

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

Related parties of the Department include:

- all cabinet ministers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- other departments and statutory authorities, including related bodies that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements (i.e. wholly-owned public sector entities)
- associates and joint ventures, of a wholly-owned public sector entity; and

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- the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

## Significant transactions with Government-related entities

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

- income from State Government (Note 4.1);
- equity contribution (Note 9.7);
- superannuation payments to GESB (Note 3.1(a));
- services received free of charge from other State government agencies (Note 4.1);
- Royalties for Regions Fund (Note 4.1) and equity injections from Royalties for Regions Funds (Note 9.7);
- operating leases on motor vehicles, other lease, rental and hire expense transactions with State Fleet and Department of Fire and Emergency (Note 3.3);
- supplies and services transactions with government related entities (Note 3.3);
- other grants and contributions received from other state government agencies (Note 4.5);
- services rendered and user fees charged by the Department to other government agencies (Note 4.2);
- accommodation expense transactions with the Department of Finance, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Department of Finance Building Management and Works (Note 3.3);
- insurance payments from the Insurance Commission and Riskcover fund (Note 4.3);
- grants and subsidies to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Zoological Park Authority, Rottnest Island Authority, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australian Museum and Department of Finance (Note 3.2); and
- remuneration for services provided by the Auditor General (Note 9.6).

## Significant outstanding balances with government related entities

Significant balances include:

- receivables from government related entities (Note 6.2)
- payables to government related entities (Note 6.5)
- unearned revenue from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and Burswood Park Board (Note 6.6)

## Significant outstanding commitments with government related entities

Significant commitments include:

- lease rental payments in fleet and accommodation leasing to the Department of Finance (Note 7.2.1)

## Material transactions with other related parties

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

## 9.4 Affiliated body

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.

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
Conservation and Parks Commission	805	976
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>976</b>

## 9.5 Special purpose accounts

### Nature Conservation and National Parks Account <sup>(a)</sup>

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

Balance at start of period	274	187
Receipts	84	87
Payments	0	0
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>274</b>

### Barrow Island Net Conservation Benefit Account <sup>(b)</sup>

The purpose of the account is to fund ongoing programs that will provide demonstrable and sustainable additions to or improvements in biodiversity conservation values of Western Australia targeting, where possible, the biodiversity conservation values affected or occurring in similar bioregions to Barrow Island.

Balance at start of period	3,847	5,792
Receipts	2,448	2,479
Payments	(3,731)	(4,424)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>2,564</b>	<b>3,847</b>

### National Parks Essential Works Account <sup>(c)</sup>

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.*

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## 9.6 Remuneration of auditors

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

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
Auditing the accounts, financial statements, controls, and key performance indicators	212	190
	<b>212</b>	<b>190</b>

## 9.7 Equity

### Contributed equity

Balance at start of period	3,045,631	3,021,528
<i>Contributions by owners</i>		
Capital appropriation	2,426	642
<i>Other contributions by owners</i>		
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Account	2,069	17,751
Royalties for Regions Fund – Regional Community Services Account	2,688	5,520
<i>Transfer of net assets from other agencies</i>		
Western Australia Police	805	0
National Trust Western Australia	0	190
<b>Total contributions by owners</b>	<b>3,053,619</b>	<b>3,045,631</b>

### *Distributions to owners*

Transfer of net assets to other agency:

Zoological Parks Authority	(734)	0
<b>Total distributions to owners</b>	<b>(734)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>3,052,885</b>	<b>3,045,631</b>

### Asset revaluation surplus

Balance at start of period	295,467	243,330
Net revaluation increments/(decrements):		
Land	(91,395)	51,537
Buildings	3,863	600
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>207,935</b>	<b>295,467</b>

### Accumulated surplus

Balance at start of period	36,072	41,196
Result for the period	23,314	(5,124)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>59,386</b>	<b>36,072</b>

## 9.8 Supplementary financial information

### (a) Write-offs

During the financial year \$16,639 (2017: \$3,839) was written off as bad debts and \$105,054 (2017: \$189,179) of the Department's asset and public property register under the authority of:

	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
The Accountable Authority	122	91
The Minister	0	102
Executive Council	0	0
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>193</b>

The amount approved for write off during the year of \$105,366 (2017: \$189,179) relates to losses through theft, defaults and other causes disclosed at note 9.8 (b) below.

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

Losses of public money and other property through theft or default	105	189
Amounts recovered	0	(227)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>(38)</b>

# Financial statements

## 9.9 Explanatory statement (Controlled Operations)

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2018, and between the actual results for 2018 and 2017 are shown below. "2018 Estimate" refers to the Department's (excluding Zoological Parks Authority, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority) budget estimates. Narratives are provided for key major variances, which are generally greater than:

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

### 9.9.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income Variances

	Variance note	Estimate 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2017 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2018 and 2017 (\$000)
<u>Expenses</u>						
Employee benefits expense		166,393	162,448	161,547	(3,945)	901
Supplies and services	1	91,407	77,511	74,440	(13,896)	3,071
Depreciation and amortisation expense		28,174	25,105	26,802	(3,069)	(1,697)
Accommodation expenses		5,660	4,160	4,722	(1,500)	(562)
Grants and subsidies	2,A	4,450	28,956	7,269	24,506	21,687
Other expenses	3	28,250	21,412	24,963	(6,838)	(3,551)
<b>Total cost of services</b>		<b>324,334</b>	<b>319,592</b>	<b>299,743</b>	<b>(4,742)</b>	<b>19,849</b>
<u>Income</u>						
<u>Revenue</u>						
User charges and fees		35,777	32,418	36,582	(3,359)	(4,164)
Commonwealth grants and contributions		1,157	2,182	2,316	1,025	(134)
Other grants and contributions		25,666	28,187	23,482	2,521	4,705
Interest revenue		1,988	2,080	1,828	92	252
Other revenue		14,504	13,878	11,922	(626)	1,956
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>79,092</b>	<b>78,745</b>	<b>76,130</b>	<b>(347)</b>	<b>2,615</b>

# Financial statements

	Variance note	Estimate 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2017 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2018 and 2017 (\$000)
<i>Gains</i>						
Gain on disposal of non-current assets		0	595	242	595	353
<b>Total Gains</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>353</b>
<b>Total income other than income from State Government</b>		<b>79,092</b>	<b>79,340</b>	<b>76,372</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>2,968</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>		<b>245,242</b>	<b>240,252</b>	<b>223,371</b>	<b>(4,990)</b>	<b>16,881</b>
<b>Income from State Government</b>						
Service appropriation	4,B	217,814	240,651	206,780	22,837	33,871
Services received free of charge		1,493	1,370	714	(123)	656
Royalties for Regions Fund	C	26,503	21,545	10,753	(4,958)	10,792
<b>Total income from State Government</b>		<b>245,810</b>	<b>263,566</b>	<b>218,247</b>	<b>17,756</b>	<b>45,319</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>568</b>	<b>23,314</b>	<b>(5,124)</b>	<b>22,746</b>	<b>28,438</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>						
<b>Items not reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</b>						
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	5,D	0	(87,532)	52,137	(87,532)	(139,669)
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>(87,532)</b>	<b>52,137</b>	<b>(87,532)</b>	<b>(139,669)</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD</b>		<b>568</b>	<b>(64,218)</b>	<b>47,013</b>	<b>(64,786)</b>	<b>(111,231)</b>

# Financial statements

## 9.9.2 Statement of Financial Position Variances

	Variance note	Estimate 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2017 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2018 and 2017 (\$000)
<b>ASSETS</b>						
<u>Current Assets</u>						
Cash and cash equivalents		2,890	15,046	5,355	12,156	9,691
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		75,350	74,662	76,610	(688)	(1,948)
Inventories		914	1,236	914	322	322
Receivables		16,324	8,695	15,447	(7,629)	(6,752)
Amounts receivable for services		8,859	8,859	9,098	0	(239)
Other current assets		8,775	6,869	8,298	(1,906)	(1,429)
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>113,112</b>	<b>115,367</b>	<b>115,722</b>	<b>2,255</b>	<b>(355)</b>
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>						
Restricted cash and cash equivalents		1,800	1,199	598	(601)	601
Amounts receivable for services		164,309	163,809	144,994	(500)	18,815
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		3,125,213	3,085,101	3,167,331	(40,112)	(82,230)
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>3,291,322</b>	<b>3,250,109</b>	<b>3,312,923</b>	<b>(41,213)</b>	<b>(62,814)</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>3,404,434</b>	<b>3,365,476</b>	<b>3,428,645</b>	<b>(38,958)</b>	<b>(63,169)</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
<u>Current Liabilities</u>						
Payables		695	2,382	8,081	1,687	(5,699)
Employee related provisions		30,004	32,252	32,482	2,248	(230)
Other current liabilities		5,387	4,169	4,090	(1,218)	79
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>36,086</b>	<b>38,803</b>	<b>44,653</b>	<b>2,717</b>	<b>(5,850)</b>

# Financial statements

	Variance note	Estimate 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2017 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2018 and 2017 (\$000)
<u>Non-Current Liabilities</u>						
Employee related provisions		6,129	6,467	6,822	338	(355)
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>6,129</b>	<b>6,467</b>	<b>6,822</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>(355)</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>42,215</b>	<b>45,270</b>	<b>51,475</b>	<b>3,055</b>	<b>(6,205)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>3,362,219</b>	<b>3,320,206</b>	<b>3,377,170</b>	<b>(42,013)</b>	<b>(56,964)</b>
<u>EQUITY</u>						
Contributed equity		3,163,015	3,052,885	3,045,631	(110,130)	7,254
Reserves	6,E	243,330	207,935	295,467	(35,395)	(87,532)
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		(44,126)	59,386	36,072	103,512	23,314
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>3,362,219</b>	<b>3,320,206</b>	<b>3,377,170</b>	<b>(42,013)</b>	<b>(56,964)</b>

# Financial statements

## 9.9.3 Statement of Cash Flows Variances

	Variance note	Estimate 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2017 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2018 and 2017 (\$000)
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</u>						
Service appropriation	7,F	189,640	212,977	186,906	23,337	26,071
Capital appropriations		1,692	2,427	642	735	1,785
Holding account drawdown		9,098	9,098	8,503	0	595
Cash and cash equivalents transferred from / (to) owner		0	(735)	0	(735)	(735)
Royalties for Regions Fund	8,G	55,782	26,301	34,024	(29,481)	(7,723)
Net cash provided by State Government		<b>256,212</b>	<b>250,068</b>	<b>230,075</b>	<b>(6,144)</b>	<b>19,993</b>
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u>						
<u>Payments</u>						
Employee benefits		(166,121)	(163,598)	(157,294)	2,523	(6,304)
Supplies and services	9,H	(90,334)	(81,062)	(69,163)	9,272	(11,899)
Accommodation		(5,359)	(4,142)	(4,654)	1,217	512
Grants and subsidies	10,I	(4,450)	(29,122)	(7,139)	(24,672)	(21,983)
GST payments on purchases		(11,322)	(11,467)	(13,377)	(145)	1,910
GST payments to taxation authority		(0)	(172)	(4)	(172)	(168)
Other payments	11	(28,136)	(20,577)	(25,355)	7,559	4,778
<u>Receipts</u>						
User charges and fees	J	36,289	32,195	38,919	(4,094)	(6,724)
Commonwealth grants and contributions		1,157	1,787	2,315	630	(528)
Interest received		1,988	2,007	1,806	19	201



# Financial statements

	Variance Note	Estimate 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2018 (\$000)	Actual 2017 (\$000)	Variance between estimate and actual (\$000)	Variance between actual results for 2018 and 2017 (\$000)
GST receipts on sales		5,500	4,893	5,318	(607)	(425)
GST receipts from taxation authority		5,827	7,079	8,898	1,252	(1,819)
Other receipts	12,K	39,580	48,001	35,000	8,421	13,001
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>		<b>(215,381)</b>	<b>(214,178)</b>	<b>(184,730)</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>(29,448)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>						
<u>Payments</u>						
Purchase of non-current physical assets	13,L	(37,863)	(28,512)	(37,256)	9,351	8,744
<u>Receipts</u>						
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		578	966	682	388	284
<b>Net cash provided by /(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(37,285)</b>	<b>(27,546)</b>	<b>(36,574)</b>	<b>9,739</b>	<b>9,028</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		3,546	8,344	8,771	4,798	(427)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		76,494	82,563	73,792	6,069	8,771
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD</b>		<b>80,040</b>	<b>90,907</b>	<b>82,653</b>	<b>10,867</b>	<b>8,344</b>

# Financial statements

## **Major Estimate and Actual (2018) Variance Narratives**

1. Supplies and services under estimates by \$13.90 million (15%) mainly due to underspend on several Royalties for Regions projects, lower expenditure on externally funded projects and Treasury driven budget repair measures during the year.
2. Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by \$24.51 million (551%) 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.
3. Other expenses under estimates by \$6.84 million (24%) mainly due to underspend on several Royalties for Regions projects, lower expenditure on externally funded projects and Treasury driven budget repair measures during the year.
4. Service appropriation exceeded estimates by \$22.84 million (10%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
5. Changes in asset revaluation surplus under estimates by \$87.53 million (100%) mainly due to a write down of the Department's land values by the Valuer General.
6. Reserves under estimates by \$35.40 million (15%) mainly due to the movement of land values assessed by Valuer General.
7. Service appropriation exceeded estimated by \$23.34 million (12%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
8. Royalties for Regions fund revenues were under estimates by \$29.48 million (53%) due to project completion extensions which resulted in funding being deferred to future years.
9. Supplies and services under estimates by \$9.27 million (10%) mainly due to underspend on several Royalties for Regions projects, lower expenditure on externally funded projects and Treasury driven budget repair measures during the year.
10. Grants and subsidies exceeded estimates by \$24.67 million (554%) due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
11. Other payments under estimates by \$7.56 million (27%) mainly due to underspend on several Royalties for Regions projects, lower expenditure on externally funded projects and Treasury driven budget repair measures during the year.
12. Other receipts exceeded estimates by \$8.42 million (21%) due to receipt of grant funding from Main Roads WA and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for the purchase of conservation land and also due to increase in the revenue from mining compensation.
13. Purchase of non-current assets under estimates by \$9.35 million (25%) due to lower expenditure incurred on Royalties for Regions capital projects.

## **Major Actual (2018) and Comparative (2017) Variance Narratives**

- A. Grants and subsidies expenses increased by \$21.69 million (298%) due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
- B. Service appropriation increased by \$33.87 million (16%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottneest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
- C. Royalties for Regions Fund increased by \$10.79 million (100%) mainly due to receipt of funding of \$9 million for Murujuga Joint Management project.

# Financial statements

- D. Changes in asset revaluation surplus by \$139.67 million (268%) is mainly due to changes in the Department's land values assessed by the Valuer General.
- E. Reserves decreased by \$87.53 million (30%) mainly due to movement in the Department's land values assessed by Valuer General.
- F. Service appropriation increased by \$26.07 million (14%) due to receipt of appropriation for Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
- G. Royalties for Regions fund decreased by \$7.72 million (23%) mainly due to funding received for Kalbarri Skywalk and Koombana Parks Facilities projects in 2016-17.
- H. Supplies and services increased by \$11.90 million (17%) mainly due to higher expenditure incurred on prescribed burning and fire management activities and a one-off payment of \$9 million to Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation.
- I. Grants and subsidies increased by \$21.98 million (308%) due to payment of annual grants (appropriation) to Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority.
- J. User charges and fees reduced by \$6.72 million (17%) mainly due to loss of bureau services revenue from former Department of Environmental Regulation as a result of Machinery of Government (MOG) changes.
- K. Other receipts increased by 13 million (37%) mainly due to receipt of grant funding from Main Roads WA and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for the purchase of conservation land and also due to increase in revenue from mining compensation.
- L. Purchase of non-current assets is under by \$8.74 million (23%) due to lower expenditure incurred on Royalties for Regions capital projects.

# Financial statements

## 10. Other disclosures

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

	<b>Notes</b>
Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service	10.1
Explanatory statement for administered items	10.2

# Financial statements

## 10.1. Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service

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

<sup>(a)</sup> Transfer payments represent the transfer of non-retainable regulatory fees to the Consolidated Account.

# Financial statements

## 10.1. Disclosure of administered income and expenses by service

	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings and Bold Park	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at the Swan and Canning Riverpark	Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities	Research and Conservation Partnerships	Implementation of the Forest Management Plan	Prescribed Burning and Fire Management	Bushfire Suppression	Total
	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)
<b>INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS</b>											
<u>Income</u>											
For transfer:											
Regulatory fees and other charges	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	35
Other revenue	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	28
<b>Total administered income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>
<u>Expenses</u>											
Transfer payments <sup>(a)</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	63
<b>Total administered expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Net income from Administered Items</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Transfer payments represent the transfer of non-retainable regulatory fees to the Consolidated Account.

# Financial statements

## 10.2. Explanatory statement for administered items

All variances between estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2018, and between the actual results for 2018 and 2017 are shown below.

Narratives are provided for key major variances, which are generally greater than 5% and \$1,260.

	Variance note	Estimate	Actual	Actual	Variance between estimate and actual	Variance between actual results for 2018 and 2017
		2018 (\$000)	2018 (\$000)	2017 (\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
<b>INCOME FROM ADMINISTERED ITEMS</b>						
<u>Income</u>						
For transfer:						
Regulatory fees and other charges	A	30	31	35	1	(4)
Other revenue	1,B	60	20	28	(40)	(8)
<b>Total administered income</b>		<b>90</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>(12)</b>
<u>Expenses</u>						
Transfer payments <sup>(a)</sup>	2,C	90	51	63	(39)	(12)
<b>Total administered expenses</b>		<b>90</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>(12)</b>
<b>Net income from Administered Items</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Major estimate and actual (2018) variance narratives

- 1) Other revenue was under estimates by \$0.040 million (67%) due to fewer kangaroo shooter royalty tags being issued than was estimated.
- 2) Transfer payments were under estimates by \$0.039 million (43%) and mainly reflect payments to the Consolidated Account of income items mentioned in the Variance Notes 1.

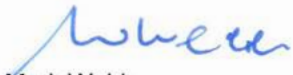
### Major actual (2018) and comparative (2017) variance narratives

- A. Regulatory fees and other charges reduced by \$0.004 million (11%) compared to the prior year due to decreased enforcement activity.
- B. Other revenue in 2017-18 was \$0.008 million (29%) less than the prior year due to a reduction in kangaroo shooter tags being issued.
- C. Transfer payments in 2017-18 were \$0.012 million (19%) less than prior year due to items mentioned in the Comparative Notes A and B.

# Certification of 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 2018.



Mark Webb  
Accountable Authority  
17 September 2018



# Key performance indicators

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### Outcome Based Management Structure

Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services and performance indicators
A quality environment with liveable and affordable communities and vibrant regions.	1. Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care.	<b>1. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park*</b>
		<b>2. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Rottnest Island*</b>
		<b>3. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Perth Zoo*</b>
		<b>4. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark</b>
		Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark
		Key efficiency indicators KPI 4.1 Average Cost per Hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark
		<b>5. Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters.</b>
		Key effectiveness indicator: 2. Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters
		Key efficiency indicators KPI 5.1 Average Cost per Hectare in national parks and other lands and waters
		<b>6. Conserving Habitats, Species and Ecological Communities</b>
		Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan 2. Area of land baited for introduced predators
		Key efficiency indicators KPI 6.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat
		<b>7. Research and Conservation Partnerships</b>
		Key efficiency indicators KPI 7.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat

	3. Sustainable use of forest resources.	<b>8. Implementation of the Forest Management Plan</b>
		Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Cumulative removal of jarrah and Karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan
		Key efficiency indicators KPI 8.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Forest
Government goal	Desired outcomes	Services and performance indicators
	4. Lands under the Department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives	<b>9. Prescribed Burning and Fire Management</b>
		Key effectiveness indicator: 1. Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved
		Key efficiency indicators KPI 9.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt
		<b>10. Bushfire Suppression</b>
		Key effectiveness indicator: 2. Proportion of South West bushfires contained to less than two hectares
		Key efficiency indicators KPI 10.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt

\*The Key Performance Indicators for Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided at Kings Park and Bold Park, Rottnest Island and Perth Zoo are reported in the annual reports of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Rottnest Island Authority and Zoological Parks Authority respectively.

# Key performance indicators

## 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

	<u>2017-18</u>
Target	95.00%
Actual	86.80%

**Note to indicator:** This is a new indicator, thus no comparative figures are available. The variance between the target and actual for 2017-18 is due to the target having been based on overall satisfaction and not the average satisfaction. The latter takes into consideration both satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

#### 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.

	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Target	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%	85.00%	95.00%
Actual	89.10%	87.90%	91.40%	92.50%	92.50%

**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 (977 in 2017-18; confidence level 95%; margin of error 0.77%) 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-managed land and waters of a park or protected area for purposes mandated for the area. The statewide surveys are administered via a structured interview via department staff and volunteers. Respondents contact details are collected for audit purposes on an opt-in basis. The interview is voluntary. All 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.

The level of satisfaction for 2017-18 remained consistent with previous years.

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

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

	<u>2013-14</u>	<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Target	69.00%	68.00%	69.00%	71.00%	73.00%
Actual	69.40%	68.90%	69.40%	72.90%	72.36%

**Note to indicator:** The number of critically endangered and endangered species and ecological communities varies each year due to the addition of new species and ecological communities to the lists, the removal of species and ecological communities from the lists, and movements of species and ecological communities between categories on the lists. During the year there has been a net increase of 14 to the number of critically endangered and endangered species as a result of new additions and a review of the conservation status of flora and fauna species. The preparation of recovery plans takes a finite amount of time as data needs to be collated about the species, its threats and management requirements. There were an additional eight species covered by recovery plans for the financial year, however, given the time lapse required to prepare a recovery plan, with the increase in the number of species requiring a recovery plan the indicator has dropped to a value slightly less than last year, and less than the target.

#### 2. Area of land baited for introduced predators

	<u>2017-18</u>
Target	4,404,138 ha
Actual	4,404,138 ha

**Note to indicator:** This is the first year this indicator has been used. Introduced predators have been implicated in the extinction and decline of dozens of native animal species across Australia. Broad-scale baiting is conducted by DBCA on a routine basis to reduce the threat of introduced predators to native wildlife of Western Australia. The area baited relates to the footprint of fox and feral cat baiting by DBCA as part of Western Shield and Western Shield-related projects. Western Shield-related projects are delivered by DBCA but are funded by external means e.g. environmental offsets. The annual program area is based on baiting which occurs during the period 1 September – 31 August of a given year (i.e. spring baiting round through to the end of winter baiting round). Area baited is calculated to the boundary of a parcel of land noting that non-baiting buffers are in place for all cells to comply with State legislative requirements for use of 1080. There is no variance between the target area and actual area baited in 2017/18 as baiting of cells has been conducted as planned.

# Key performance indicators

## Outcome 3: Sustainable use of forest resources:

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

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18
Target	191,000 m <sup>3</sup>	382,000 m <sup>3</sup>	573,000 m <sup>3</sup>	764,000 m <sup>3</sup>
Actual	111,775 m <sup>3</sup>	253,850 m <sup>3</sup>	381,941 m <sup>3</sup>	497,503 m <sup>3</sup>

**Note to indicator:** From 2014-15 and successive years, the Target figure is a cumulative annual figure of 10 per cent (that is 10, 20, 30 and 40 per cent for year one, two, three and four respectively) of the total first and second grade jarrah and karri sawlog resource available for removal for the 10 year life of the 2014-2023 Forest Management Plan, which commenced on 1 January 2014. The annual and cumulative removals are lower than the pro-rata limits for both jarrah and karri sawlogs, reflecting market conditions for both sawlog and non-sawlog grades of timber. Adjustments to these removal figures to account for variations over time in product specifications and utilisation will be made in the mid-term performance review of the Forest Management Plan.

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

### 1. Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18
Target	45%	50%	55%	55%
Actual	42%	64%	49%	67%

**Note to indicator:** Introduction of a more objective means of determining prescribed burn priorities, including restriction of Priority 1 to no more than one third of prescribed burns, and providing enhanced criteria for prioritization decisions, resulted in less Priority 1 prescribed burns as a proportion of the total program. Direct comparison with recent years is therefore less meaningful. In addition, conditions in both spring and autumn were favourable and allowed a focus on Priority 1 prescribed burns.

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

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

**Note to indicator:** Like 2016-17, the 2017-18 fire season was relatively mild, and conditions were generally conducive to the success of rapid initial attack

## Key Efficiency Indicators

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

#### 4.1 Average Cost per Hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark

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

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18
Target	\$2,350	\$2,310	\$2,052
Actual	\$2,250	\$2,158	\$2,158

**Note to indicator:** The area used in the calculation consists of the number of hectares of Riverpark for which the Department is responsible under the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006 (the SCRIM), 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. Actual average cost per hectare was slightly higher than the target in 2017-18 Budget Statements mainly due to the actual expenditure on a major foreshore project being higher in 2017-18. It should be noted that other state and local government authorities listed in Schedule 5 of the SCRIM also carry out management functions in the Riverpark.

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

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

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Target	\$2.85	\$2.99	\$3.40
Actual	\$2.73	\$2.73	\$3.18

**Note to indicator:** The actual average cost per hectare is lower compared to the target in the 2017-18 Budget Statement mainly due to underspend on several Royalties for Regions project, although the revenue received for Royalties for Regions has increased.

### 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.

# Key performance indicators

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Target	\$2.55	\$2.55	\$2.21
Actual	\$2.24	\$2.14	\$1.90

**Note to indicator:** There has been a 10.7% reduction in the expenditure plus an increase in the area managed, primarily through the inclusion of four marine park areas in the Kimberley, resulting in a reduction in the indicator above that which was anticipated.

## Service 7: Research and Conservation Partnerships

### 7.1 Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Target	\$1.15	\$1.04	\$0.91
Actual	\$0.91	\$0.78	\$0.69

**Note to indicator:** While there has been a 13% increase in funding to this Service, there has been a reduction in expenditure from the previous year. Change is due to funding being provided for multiple years, or projects that run across the end of the financial year. With the increase in area managed, this has resulted in a net reduction in the efficiency indicator for this year.

## 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. The area managed is less than the area gazetted, as State forest and timber reserves that are proposed to become part of the formal conservation reserve system in the *Forest Management Plan 2014-2023* are being managed as if the land category change had already occurred.

	2017-18
Target	\$18.65
Actual	\$12.91

**Note to indicator:** Forest Management Plan Implementation and Provision of Services for Commercial Forestry services have been merged to create this new service, thus no comparative figures are available. The higher historical allocation used to set the target for this measure does not align with the actual allocation for this service which results in a variation between actual and 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.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Target	\$10.86	\$15.69	\$15.70
Actual	\$18.61	\$15.70	\$10.89

**Note to indicator:** Suitable conditions and significantly higher prescribed burning achievements in the non-forest regions (4,692,079 hectares, compared to 2,988,394 hectares in 2016-17), particularly the Kimberley, Pilbara and Midwest, led to substantial efficiencies of scale in 2017-18.

## Service 10: Bushfire Suppression

### 10.1 Average Cost per Hectare Burnt

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

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

**Note to indicator:** A very significant increase in the area burnt by bushfires (2,780,972 hectares, compared to 1,062,958 hectares in 2016-17), most of which occurred in remote regions where active suppression is usually limited, led to an unusually low average cost per hectare.

# *Ministerial directives*

No Ministerial directives were received during the financial year.

# Other financial disclosures

## Pricing policies

The Department is largely funded by appropriations; however, fees are charged for a range of goods, services and licensing arrangements on a full or partial cost recovery basis. Fees and charges are determined in accordance with Costing and Pricing Government Services: Guidelines for Use by Agencies in the Western Australian Public Sectors published by Treasury. Fees are reviewed annually.

## Capital works

The Department's planned capital works program of \$28.512 million for 2017–18 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**

Work in progress	Expected year of completion	Estimated expenditure remaining \$'000	Estimated total project cost \$'000
Koombana Park Facilities	2018–19	3260	11,404
Kalbarri Skywalk and National Park Tourist Infrastructure	2018–19	6000	20,033
Public Recreation and Joint Management Arrangements for the Ningaloo Coast	2018–19	1820	3255
Roebuck Bay Marine Park	2019–20	290	590
Lake Kepwari	2019–20	2775	3000

Recurring capital programs	Expected year of completion	2017–18 expenditure \$'000
Conservation Land Acquisition	Ongoing	2680
Fire Related Bridge Maintenance and Replacement	Ongoing	1238
Firefighting Fleet Replacement	Ongoing	2705
Park Improvement Program	Ongoing	3685
Plant and Equipment purchases and replacement	Ongoing	3792
Tourism Road Improvement Program	Ongoing	2147

# Other financial disclosures

## Employment and industrial relations

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

	2017–18	2016–17
Full-time permanent	956	1021
Full-time contract	203	205
Part-time measured on a FTE basis	209.4	221
On secondment	3	4
Total	1371.4	1451

### Industrial relations

People Services Branch provides strategic industrial relations advice, manages employee relations issues and represents the Department in industrial relations tribunals. During 2017–18, the Rangers (National Parks) General Agreement was negotiated and signing is expected to take place in July 2018.

### Staff development

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

#### Nationally recognised training

During 2017–18, the Department as a Registered Training Provider (National ID 0397) had 980 active enrolments and issued 29 qualifications, 35 accredited courses and 330 Statements of attainment.

#### Corporate training

The Department received 927 enrolments for corporate training programs delivered in 2017–18, with 588 being for face-to-face training and 339 for training delivered by e-learning.

#### Leadership training

The Department's Management and Leadership Development Framework is a three-tier approach to leadership training. In 2017–18 intakes were delivered and completed for the Effective Supervisors Program, tier one, and the Executive Leadership Development Program, tier 3.

#### E-learning

In 2017–18 the Department offered the majority of its mandatory training programs via its Learning Management System. The system has gone from five courses in either development or running live in 2016–17 to 54 courses in 2017–18.

# Governance disclosures

## Unauthorised use of purchasing cards

During the 2017–18 financial year, there were 52 personal transactions charged to Government Purchasing Cards, with the majority being small transactions where a PIN was not required.

In each case, the cardholder provided written advice to their cost centre manager, chief finance officer and notifiable authority of the personal use as required in accordance with *Treasurer's Instruction 321-2*.

**Table 15: Unauthorised use of purchasing cards**

	2017–18
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure for the reporting period	\$3045
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled by the due date (within five working days)	\$524
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure settled after the period (after five working days)	\$2491
Aggregate amount of personal use expenditure outstanding at balance date	\$30

## Contracts with senior officers

At the date of reporting, senior officers of the Department held no contracts with the Department other than normal employment contracts. No senior officers of the Department had substantial interests in entities with existing or proposed contracts or agreements with the Department.



# Governance disclosures

## Board and committee remuneration

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

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

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Simon Woodley	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	4980
Member	Keith Morris	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Fiona Bartlett	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Katie Gwyne	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Milani Chaloupka	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2700
Member	Kellie Pendoley	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2510
Member	Col Limpus	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
<b>Total</b>				<b>10,190</b>

# Governance disclosures

## Roadside Conservation Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Ken Atkins	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Jeff Anderton	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	827
Member	Glenice Batchelor	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Matthew Bowdler	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Christine Jung	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	John Morrell	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Michael Norman	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Nicole Matthews	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Rachael Parkes	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Rodney Safstrom	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Martine Scheltema	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Anne Mathews	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/10/17	0
Member	Adrian Wiley	Not eligible for remuneration	1/11/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Kingsley Dixon	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	340
<b>Totals</b>				<b>1167</b>

# Governance disclosures

## 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	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Category A	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2100
Member	Category A	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1750
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Category B	Not eligible for remuneration	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Category C	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2100
Member	Category C	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1750
Member	Category D	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1750
Member	Category D	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2100
Member	Category E	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2100
<b>Total</b>				<b>13,650</b>
(Members not identified by name due to privacy reasons)				
Categories:				
A – Veterinarian				
B – Scientist				
C – Animal Welfarist				
D – Layperson				
E – Other				

# Governance disclosures

## Conservation and Parks Commission

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Marion Fulker	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	40,570
Deputy Chair	Christopher Doepel	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	25,538
Member	Kim Colero	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 6/5/18	16,438
Member	Ingrid Cumming	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	19,427
Member	Ross Dowling	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	19,427
Member	Regina Flugge	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 6/5/18	16,438
Member	Jo-anne Lanagan	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2914
Member	Brian Middleton	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 6/5/18	16,438
Member	Fiona Valesini	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2914
Member	Alan Walker	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2914
<b>Total</b>				<b>163,018</b>

## Swan River Trust Board

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Hamish Beck	Fortnightly	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	15,865
Member	Vanessa Davies	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2421
Member	Susan Harwood	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1759
Member	Joanna Pearce	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2297
Member	Victoria Rasmussen	Sessional	1/7/17 to 13/9/17	538
Member	Darryl Trease	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	952
<b>Total</b>				<b>23,832</b>

# Governance disclosures

## Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Simon Woodley	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	8758.75
Member	Hazel Walgar	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1734.50
Member	Anthony Evans	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1109.00
Member	Anthony Dowling	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1734.50
Member	Frazer McGregor	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1459.50
Member	Dorothy Ann Preest	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	Jacqueline Hine	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
Member	William Humphreys	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1734.50
Member	Leonie McLeod	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	0
<b>Total</b>				<b>16,530.75</b>

## Shark Bay World Heritage Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Thomas Day	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1274
Member	Phillip Scott	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	834
Member	Diana Walker	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	834
Member	Peter Green	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	950.80
Member	Robert Morgan	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	625.50
<b>Total</b>				<b>4518.30</b>

# Governance disclosures

## Purnululu World Heritage Area Advisory Committee

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Christopher Done	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	4650
Member	Dwayne Butters	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1925
Member	Paul Butters	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	3022
Member	Glen Chidlow	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1366
Member	Tanba Banks	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1097
Member	Dennis Williamson	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1097
<b>Total</b>				<b>13,157</b>

# Governance disclosures

## Yoorrooyang Dawang Regional (Miriuwung Gajerrong) Park Council

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (\$)
Chair	Margaret Moore	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	6067
Member	Agnes Armstrong	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	2310
Member	Kenneth Bidwee	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	880
Member	Stephanie Boombi	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1430
Member	Nathan Boxer	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1210
Member	Chunama Dempsey	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	220
Member	Alfred Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	770
Member	Franklin Scott Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1312.50
Member	Ralph Gerrard	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1320
Member	Tanya Hill	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	880
Member	Melissa McLean	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	550
Member	Carter Merle	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	550
Member	Phyllis Ningamarra	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1210
Member	Janelle Ningamarra	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	660
Member	Loretta Ningamarra	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	880
Member	Jimmy Paddy	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1100
Member	Joan Simon	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	3740
Member	Pamela Simon	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	330
Member	Jessica Webster	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	3520
Member	Jenny Wilson	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1210
Member	Juju Wilson	Sessional	1/7/17 to 30/6/18	1650
<b>Total</b>				<b>31,799.50</b>

# Other legal requirements

## 2018–19 annual estimates

In accordance with *Treasurer's Instruction 953*, the 2018–19 annual estimates for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions must be published in the 2017–18 Annual Report. Actual results will be reported against these estimates in the 2018–19 Annual Report.

### INCOME STATEMENT 2018-19

	DEPARTMENT ITSELF \$'000
<b>COST OF SERVICES</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>	
Employee benefits	178,616
Grants and subsidies	4,250
Supplies and services	70,914
Accommodation	5,361
Depreciation and amortisation	29,174
Other expenses	16,276
<b>TOTAL COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>304,591</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Sale of goods and services	20,071
Regulatory fees and fines	-
Grants and subsidies	26,835
Other revenue	32,279
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>79,185</b>
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>	<b>225,406</b>
<b>INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>	
Service appropriations	210,412
Resources received free of charge	1,493
Royalties for Regions Fund: Revenue from Regional (RfR) - Recurrent	16,513
Revenue from Regional Infrastructure & Headworks Fund (RfR) - Recurrent	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>228,418</b>
<b>SURPLUS/ (DEFICIENCY) FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>3,012</b>

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2018-19

	DEPARTMENT ITSELF \$'000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Cash assets	9,278
Restricted cash	60,027
Holding account receivables	8,717
Receivables	14,492
Other	10,167
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>102,681</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Holding account receivables	184,266
Property, plant and equipment	3,171,221
Intangibles	-
Restricted cash	2,398
Other	1,000
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>3,358,885</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,461,566</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Current employee provisions	31,600
Payables	5,063
Other current liabilities	7,545
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>44,208</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	
Non current employee provisions	6,605
Other non-current liabilities	-
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>6,605</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>50,813</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Contributed equity	2,985,389
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	129,897
Reserves	295,467
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>3,410,753</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>3,461,566</b>



**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS 2018-19**

	DEPARTMENT ITSELF \$'000
<b>CASHFLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT</b>	
Service appropriations	181,238
Capital appropriation	3,027
Holding account drawdowns	8,859
Royalties for Regions Fund:	
Receipt from Regional Community Services Fund (RfR)	19,263
Receipt from Regional Infrastructure & Headworks Fund (RfR)	10,991
<b>Net cash provided by State Government</b>	<b>223,378</b>
<b>CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Payments</b>	
Employee benefits	(178,344)
Grants and subsidies	(4,250)
Supplies and services	(54,921)
Accommodation	(5,359)
Other payments	(42,105)
<b>Receipts</b>	
Regulatory fees and fines	-
Grants and subsidies	26,835
Sale of goods and services	20,583
GST receipts	11,327
Other receipts	31,767
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>(194,467)</b>
<b>CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Purchase of non-current assets	(30,170)
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	500
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>(29,670)</b>
<b>CASHFLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>	<b>(759)</b>
Cash assets at the beginning of the reporting period	72,462
<b>Cash assets at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>71,703</b>

Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators 2018-19	DEPARTMENT ITSELF
<b>Outcome: Community enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of attractions under the Department's care:</b>	
Average level of visitor satisfaction in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	90.00%
Average level of visitor satisfaction in national parks and other lands and waters	90.00%
<b>Outcome: Plants and animals are conserved and habitat, ecosystem and landscape-scale conservation utilises evidenced-based science:</b>	
Proportion of critically endangered and endangered taxa and ecological communities that have a recovery plan	72.00%
Area of Land baited for introduced predators	4,347,107 ha
<b>Outcome: Sustainable use of forest resources:</b>	
Cumulative removal of jarrah and karri sawlogs by approved harvesting operations compared to limits in the Forest Management Plan	955,000 m3
<b>Outcome: Lands under the Department's care are managed to protect communities, visitors and built and natural assets from bushfire damage and planned fire is used to achieve other land, forest and wildlife management objectives:</b>	
Proportion of planned Priority 1 prescribed burns achieved	55.00%
Proportion of South West bushfires contained to less than two hectares	75.00%

Services and Key Efficiency Indicators 2018-19	DEPARTMENT ITSELF
<b>Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in the Swan and Canning Riverpark</b>	
Average Cost per Hectare in the Swan and Canning Riverpark	\$1,896.75
<b>Visitor Services and Public Programs Provided in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters</b>	
Average Cost per Hectare in National Parks and Other Lands and Waters	\$2.92
<b>Conserving habitats, species and ecological communities</b>	
Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat	\$2.08
<b>Research and conservation partnerships</b>	
Average Cost per Hectare of Wildlife Habitat	\$1.02
<b>Implementation of the Forest Management Plan</b>	
Average Cost per Hectare of Forest	\$16.98
<b>Prescribed Burning and Fire Management</b>	
Average Cost per Hectare Burnt	\$16.57
<b>Bushfire Suppression</b>	
Average Cost per Hectare Burnt	\$17.10

# Other legal requirements

## Advertising

(Electoral Act 1907, s175ZE)

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

**Total expenditure for 2017–18 was: \$236,325.59 (inc GST)**

**Expenditure was incurred in the following areas:**

<b>Advertising agencies</b>	<b>\$83,314.30</b>
Adcorp Australia Limited	\$83,314.30
Direct mail organisations	NIL
Market research organisations	NIL
Polling organisations	NIL

**Media advertising organisations** **\$153,011.29**

Albany and Great Southern Weekender	\$297
Andimaps	\$1323
Aussie Drawcards Pty Ltd	\$280
Australia's South West Inc.	\$5440
Aviation Trader	\$644.27
Budsoar Pty Ltd	\$465
Carat Australia Media Services Pty Ltd	\$96,286
City of Albany	\$6259.60
Denmark Bulletin	\$560
Denmark Printers	\$317
Denmark Thrills Adventure Park	\$550
Email Media	\$660
Executive Media Pty Ltd	\$3050
Facebook	\$18.01
First National Real Estate Broome	\$269
Google ADWS	\$452.50
Holiday Guide Pty Ltd	\$990
Jurien Bay Community Resource Centre Inc.	\$85

Linkedin	\$134.05
Mandurah & Peel Tourism Organisation Inc	\$200
Marsh Advertising Agencies	\$874.50
Pemberton Discovery Tours	\$880
Penguin Island Cruises Pty Ltd	\$6129.69
Pinnacles Express	\$10
Premium Publishers	\$2489.20
Roro Graphic Design	\$1727
Shire of Exmouth	\$13
State Law Publisher	\$9551.15
Telstra - Sensis White Pages	\$5189.80
The Examiner	\$35.52
The West Australian Newspapers	\$3866.41
Tourism Council Western Australia	\$280.01
Visual Publication	\$2200
Walpole Community Resource Centre	\$824.50
Walsh Media	\$660

# Other legal requirements

## 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 2015–20 (DAIP), work continued in 2017–18 to improve access to facilities and services with participatory inclusion being the primary and ongoing aim.

The plan is monitored by the Department's Diversity and Access Committee, which includes representatives from four divisions, and two Corporate Executive representatives.

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

In 2017–18, accessible (including assisted access) infrastructure was completed. Planning, design and construction of recreation facilities and buildings to provide universal access is considered in 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.

This consisted of the following:

Through the completion of the Parks for People initiative accessible (including assisted access) infrastructure has been constructed at Jarrahdene campground including camp sites, access to toilets and access to camp shelters. The final stages of planning for the interpretative walk in Jarrahdene will enable assisted access to the interpretive story about the historic timber mill in the area. Campground redevelopment at Mesa campground in Cape Range National Park includes accessible toilets and improved opportunities for those with limited mobility.

Design and engineering has been undertaken for Deep Gorge in Murujuga, which when constructed will allow access up close to the rock art that the site is known for. Construction of accessible paths and infrastructure have been completed at Meanarra Hill (as part of the Kalbarri National Park project) and assisted access paths at Cape Peron (Rockingham).

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

- where practical and appropriate, all new recreation facilities are accessible to people with disability
- using a nationally-agreed system of bushfire alerts and warnings
- employing people with disability on fee-for-service contracts through Australian Disability Enterprises – this currently includes Activ, Intelife and Westcare
- using a range of disability recruitment specialists and continuing to email all advertised positions to recruitment agencies
- holding an annual event to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of staff with disability
- ensuring staff are aware of the plan by making it available on the Department's intranet, through broadcast emails and the induction program
- organising events accessible to people with disability
- Department reception areas which are accessible to people with disability
- ACROD parking provisions which meet the needs of people with disability in terms of quantity and location
- ensuring the Department's website continues to meet contemporary good practice and applicable legislative requirements for access for people with disability
- continuing to provide information in alternative formats upon request
- generating and sustaining staff awareness of disability and access issues by providing regular information on access and inclusion in the Department's internal news mediums
- promoting to staff the availability of resources on the Department's intranet, such as the Access Resource Kit and Guidelines for access formats
- monitoring and addressing complaints about disability access
- ensuring consultation with the public is held in an accessible manner
- Diversity and Access Committee members attend disability forums and workshops to seek a broad range of views on disability and access issues.

# Other legal requirements

## Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes

**Table 18: Under section 31 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, the Department is required to report on its compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes.**

Compliance issue	Significant action taken to monitor and ensure compliance
<i>Public Sector Standards</i>	
There were no breach claims lodged in 2017–18.	The Department’s People Services Branch intranet site has information on the Public Sector Standards including a hyperlink to the Public Sector Commission’s website.  Policies and guidelines relevant to the standards have been reviewed and updated and are available on the People Services Branch intranet. The online Accountable and Ethical Decision Making course also provides information and links to the Public Sector Standards.
<i>Public Sector Code of Ethics</i>	
There were five reports of non-compliance with the Public Sector Code of Ethics as part of nine Code of Conduct allegations 2017–18.	The Public Sector Code of Ethics is contained within the Department’s Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct was revised and released in May 2017 and includes information on employee responsibilities regarding reporting criminal charges and convictions, use of information and related technology resources, and contact with lobbyists.
<i>Department’s Code of Conduct</i>	
Nine allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct were raised in 2017–18.  Seven of the allegations have been finalised in 2017–18.	The Department has released an online learning module for Accountable and Ethical Decision-Making in the public sector. The course assists in improving employees’ understanding of their role in relation to Code of Conduct, conflict of interest, ethical and accountable decision-making, receipt of gifts and benefits and public interest disclosure.

## Recordkeeping plans

As required under section 19 of the *State Records Act 2000*, the Department has a Recordkeeping Plan which was approved by the State Records Commission in March 2018. The Department’s recordkeeping program is supported by policy and procedures which are regularly reviewed and updated.

Completion of an online recordkeeping course by all new staff including temporary staff and contractors is mandated in the Department-wide induction program. Progression and completion rates are monitored and participants and line managers are alerted if the course has not been completed in the specified time frame. The redevelopment of the recordkeeping course is in progress with the intention of requiring all staff to undertake a refresher module. The course covers the legislative and policy framework for recordkeeping, the role of managers and supervisors and individual responsibilities of Government employees.

# Government policy requirements

## Government building training policy

DBCA has a commitment to the Government Building Training Policy (GBT Policy), which aims to increase the number of apprentices and trainees in the building and construction industry. The Department has included within its tender documentation a monitoring plan for building and construction or maintenance projects with a duration of greater than three months and a value of greater than \$2 million. During the reporting period, the Department did not have any contracts applicable to the GBT Policy.

**Table 19: Projects under the Government Building Training Policy**

Measure	Building and construction projects 2017–18	Maintenance projects 2017–18
Active contracts within the scope of the policy in the reporting period	0	0
Contracts granted a variation to the target training rate in the reporting period	Not applicable	Not applicable
Head contractors involved in the contracts	Not applicable	Not applicable
Construction apprentices/trainees required to meet target training rate across all contracts	Not applicable	Not applicable
Construction apprentices/trainees employed by head contractors; and the subcontractors they are using for the contracts	Not applicable	Not applicable
Contracts that met or exceeded the target training rate	Not applicable	Not applicable

# Government policy requirements

## Substantive equality

The Department implements the Policy Framework for Substantive Equality through the delivery of all services to and on behalf of the wider community.

This includes management planning processes associated with the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*. Management plans cover a 10-year period over specific conservation areas and are developed with input from public and stakeholder engagement and broad public invitations to comment on draft plans.

The Department's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2015–20 provides a framework to ensure everyone in the community can access mainstream facilities, services and programs. The Department's access-for-all principles and the planning and design of universally accessible recreation areas and facilities provide equitable access opportunities to visitors, including people with disabilities and the aged.

The Department's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) strongly supports the requirements of the State's Substantive Equality Policy Framework. The Department is committed to national reconciliation and building better relationships between Aboriginal people and the wider community for the benefit of all Australians.

In 2017–18, RAP key outcomes included:

- The 2018–20 RAP was developed and 22 internal RAP Champions across the State supported the RAP Working Group.
- The Department engaged 30 traditional owner groups to undertake conservation works across the State under fee-for-service arrangements. These arrangements offer the opportunity for Aboriginal people to be involved and employed in land management on-country, including work such as aerial prescribed burning, biodiversity surveys, park maintenance, advice on Aboriginal heritage values, and feral animal and weed control.
- Reconciliation Week events were attended by 120 staff across the State.
- The 2017–19 Aboriginal Employment Strategy aims increase the representation of Aboriginal staff employed across levels, roles and locations, with a target of six per cent by 2019. At 30 June 2018, Aboriginal staff represented 5.4 per cent (not including the Statutory Authorities). This is the highest number recorded since 2010.
- A \$400,000 bilby and rare flora management program started at the Bidjidanga Aboriginal community near Broome.
- The Western Australian Herbarium undertook a plant survey with Aboriginal rangers between Broome and Kununurra.
- Elders from the Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation, the traditional custodians of the Matuwa Kurrara Kurrara Indigenous Protected Area, contributed to the naming of a new plant species. *Ptilotus yapukatja* is only known from one remote location north of Lorna Glen station. The name derives from the Matuwa words yapu (rock) and karatja (belonging to).

- At 30 June 2018, 1009 current Department staff had completed cultural awareness training, representing 63 per cent of staff (excluding the Statutory Authorities). Cultural awareness training increases knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and achievements.
- The Culture in the Parks program, which aims to facilitate Aboriginal tourism businesses in national parks and other conservation reserves, helped increase the number of Aboriginal businesses licensed to operate on CALM Act lands and waters to 22 operators.
- Staff training on facilitating customary activities on Department-managed land was rolled out.
- The Department participated in the development of the State Aboriginal procurement strategy.
- Acknowledgment of Country plaques were displayed on Department office buildings and properties.

DBCA's general and targeted advertisements include the Department's substantive equality statement, maximising opportunities for improving diversity by encouraging the recruitment of Indigenous Australians, young people, people with disabilities, people from culturally diverse backgrounds and women. The Department also promotes flexible working arrangements.

# Government policy requirements

## Workplace health and safety

The Department promotes a strong culture of workplace health and safety and embraces the duty of care responsibility prescribed in the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*.

The Department's health and safety system comprises strategic and operational committees, operating procedures, annual worksite inspection and audit program as well as projects to address identified hazards. To support this a comprehensive communication and consultation process has been implemented to ensure health and safety matters are addressed appropriately, effectively and in line with best-practice principles.

The Department continues to deliver wellbeing support to employees through the DBCA chaplain.

**Table 20: Health and safety performance indicators**

Measure	Actual results		Results against target	
	2015–16*	2017–18	Target	Comment on result
Number of fatalities	0	0	0	Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease incidence rate	3.75	2.1	0 or 10% reduction	Achieved
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate	10	0	0 or 10% reduction	Not achieved
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:				
(i) within 13 weeks	94%	100%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Achieved
(ii) within 26 weeks	98%	100%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Achieved
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	>80%	>80%	Greater than or equal to 80%	Achieved

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







Department of **Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions**

GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA