

DEPARTMENT OF
**PRIMARY INDUSTRY
AND RESOURCES**



2016 – 17 Annual Report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The department is grateful to the many people who assisted with the writing and production of this Annual Report and the generosity of those who contributed photographs.

Cover images: Top right: Cameron Hartley measuring black lipped oysters (Photo: Samantha Nowland); Middle: Fruit harvested from the Darwin passionfruit breeding trial. (Photo: Plant Industries Development); Bottom left: Anett Weisheit and Eloise Beyer mapping Jinka Station (Photo: Barry Reno).

This page: Menindee seedless grapes, Ti Tree (Photo: Plant Industries Development).

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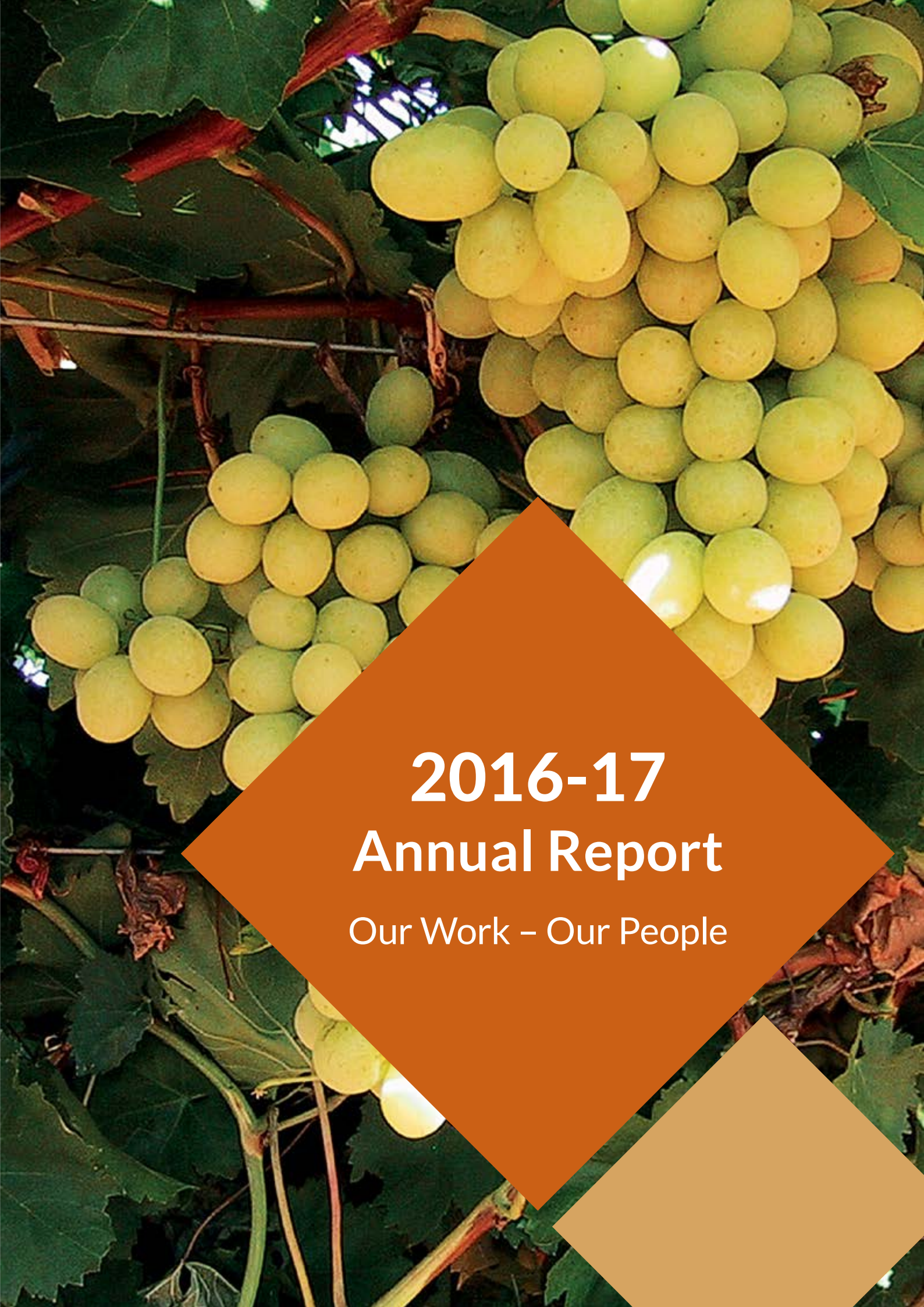
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2016-17

Annual Report

Our Work – Our People

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The Hon Ken Vowles MLA
Minister for Primary Industry and Resources
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Minister

In accordance with the provisions of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, I am pleased to present you with the annual report on the performance and achievements of the Department of Primary Industry and Resources for the year ended 30 June 2017.

Pursuant to the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the *Financial Management Act* and the *Information Act*, including in my capacity as Accountable Officer, I advise that to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- a) proper records of all transactions affecting the department are kept and that employees under their control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, the Financial Management Regulations and Treasurer's Directions
- b) procedures within the department afford proper internal control and a current description of such procedures is recorded in the accounting and property manual which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act*
- c) no indication of fraud, malpractice, major breach of legislation or delegation, major error in or omission from the accounts and records exists
- d) in accordance with the requirements of section 15 of the *Financial Management Act*, the internal audit capacity available to the department is adequate and the results of internal audits have been reported to me
- e) the financial statements included in the annual report have been prepared from proper accounts and records and are in accordance with Treasurer's Directions
- f) the employment instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment have been satisfied
- g) the department took steps to uphold all Public Sector Principles, outlined in Part 1A of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, with no significant failures to uphold them
- h) the department has implemented processes to achieve compliance with the archives and records management provisions as prescribed in Part 9 of the *Information Act*.

In addition, the Chief Executive of the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) advised me on 4 July 2017 that, in relation to items a) and e), and to the best of her knowledge and belief, proper records are kept of transactions undertaken by DCIS on behalf of the department, and the employees under her control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, the Financial Management Regulations and Treasurer's Directions. The DCIS Chief Executive also advised that the Auditor-General has conducted compliance audits during the year to provide audit assurance that DCIS has maintained appropriate controls and record keeping practices at a high level during 2016-17.

Yours sincerely



ALISTER TRIER
Chief Executive
2 October 2017

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GLOSSARY

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AGES	Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar
AZRI	Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs
BoM	Board of Management
CGMMV	Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus
CORE	Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DCIS	Department of Corporate and Information Services
DME	Department of Mines and Energy
DPIF	Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
EMG	Executive Management Group
FTE	Full-time Equivalent
GIS	Geographical Information System, a computer application used to store, view and analyse geographical information, especially maps
HR	Human Resources (internal)
IDP	Industry Development Plan 2013-2017
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
IM	Information Management
IPP	Indigenous Pastoral Program
IT	Information Technology
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTGS	Northern Territory Geological Survey
NTPS	Northern Territory Public Sector
OCPE	Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (NT)
PIF	Primary Industry and Fisheries
R,D&E	Research, development and extension
STAR	Service, Teamwork, Achievement and Results: Staff awards
VRRS	Victoria River Research Station (Kidman Springs)
WHS	Work Health and Safety
WHS MS	Work Health and Safety Management System
WHS (NUL)	<i>NT Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011</i>
WHS SC	Work Health and Safety Steering Committee
WHS WC	Work Health and Safety Workplace Committee
Wi-Fi	Wireless Fidelity / Wireless Internet for Frequent Interface



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Sunny mango orchard in
the Darwin region.

Photo: Chelsea Moore

Chief Executive's Review

Transitioning for the future

I am pleased to present the 2016–17 Annual Report for the Department of Primary Industry and Resources.

Formed on 12 September 2016, the Department of Primary Industry and Resources sits in the Economic Development Cluster under the Jobs Sub Committee of Cabinet and works to meet the relevant priorities and agenda of the Minister and elected government of economic development and jobs.

The department brings together many of the key functions that drive economic development on Northern Territory lands, coastal areas and inland waterways and represents a significant component of the Northern Territory economy.

A commitment to industry engagement and collaboration supports the department to stimulate the development of plant and animal based agriculture, commercial fishing (wild caught and aquaculture), and mining and energy based industries in order to meet government objectives.

We also have a significant role to provide access and protection to the marine estate for the long-term future of recreational and commercial activities through the administration of the *Fisheries Act*.

The department currently has regulatory responsibility for plant and animal biosecurity, animal welfare, agricultural and veterinary chemicals, administration of minerals and energy tenure, environmental and production regulation of mineral and energy projects, and the capture and appropriate assessment of the geology of the Northern Territory.

Since the department's formation in September 2016, and in meeting the priorities of government, a range of reform agendas are underway including mining regulation, animal welfare legislation,



biosecurity, emergency management and the transformation of business systems that underpin the resources sector administration. This report looks back over the year and reflects the strategic plans of both former departments, the Department of Mines and Energy, and the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

In addition, the department has contributed to whole-of-government priorities, including the development of the Economic Development Framework, the 10 Year Infrastructure Plan, and accompanying Infrastructure Strategy.

We have focused our efforts on planning for and implementing the commitments of government including:

- the \$50 million recreational fishing infrastructure package
- the transfer of environmental regulations from the resources divisions to the new Department of Environment and the Environment Protection Authority
- engaging with and supporting the growth of the resources sector
- developing the resources sector in Tennant Creek
- focusing on strategic agribusiness development in the Katherine region
- establishing new and expanding existing markets for our primary industry sectors
- delivering greater 'on farm' impact of our research and extension work
- attracting investment to and across our industry sectors.

Internal governance mechanisms have been developed through the oversight of the Board of Management. These focus on work health and safety, business improvement and risk management, people development, information management and strategic emergency management.

With the new priorities of government, the formation of the new department, and the expiration of current industry development plans and strategies, we are now focussed on developing a new strategic plan. The plan will reflect industry engagement, align with industry priorities where appropriate and provide a framework to further support our work

agenda in meeting current and future government, industry and stakeholders expectations.



Alister Trier

Chief Executive

Department of Primary Industry and Resources

2 October 2017

Fast Facts

The department:



was formed on **12 September 2016**
under an Administration Arrangements Order

had **470 staff** (full-time equivalent) as at 30 June 2017



had staff in **11** major locations across
the **Territory** as at 30 June 2017

supported **industries** estimated to be
worth **\$5 298 million** in 2016-17



had total expenditure of **\$98 million** with the majority funded
through output appropriation from the **Northern Territory
Government** (77 per cent)



collected **\$8.6 million income** through the sales
of goods and services (51 per cent), regulatory services
(12 per cent) and other sources (37 per cent)

Key Achievements for 2016-17

- Revised *Fisheries Act* and Fisheries Regulations implemented
- Finalised the Harvest Strategy for the Mud Crab Fishery
- National Banana Freckle Eradication Program completed Phase 3 and achieved national approval for the removal of internal movement controls and red zones
- Completed the Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus - Subsidised Interest Rate Scheme
- Continued the ongoing partnership for the East Kalimantan Cattle Breeder project, and completed the Precision Pastoral Management Tools project
- Developed ongoing export markets for mangoes, melons, barramundi and livestock and evaluated potential horticultural commodities for Central Australia
- Facilitated livestock and agricultural produce movement to domestic and international markets
- Facilitated NT mango exports to the United States and investment support for donkey farming
- Signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to facilitate agribusiness trade and investment
- Participated in the NT/Rizhao Economic Cooperation Forum in Shandong Province, China
- Delivered Aboriginal fisheries compliance and fishing operations training courses and supported 25 Aboriginal pastoral enterprises to increase regional employment opportunities
- Delivered a 'Buying and Selling Bush Foods' workshop involving 35 Aboriginal women harvesters from Arlparre and supported Aboriginal community forestry projects in the East Arnhem region
- Supported the livestock industry's move to revised Bovine Johnes Disease movement requirements
- Enhanced emergency response capacity through foundation level training of staff and emergency disease training for 50 veterinarians
- Promoted exploration and mining investment opportunities in East Asia, India and North America
- Collaborated with Geoscience Australia to assess resource potential of the Barkly region
- Completed round nine of the collaborative industry grants program under the *Creating Opportunities Resource Exploration* (CORE) initiative
- Granted a mineral lease and a mining authorisation to the Gulkula Mining Company for the first Australian mine owned and operated by Traditional Owners on their own country
- Researched and developed a plan, accepted by major stakeholders, to exit key priority areas on the Howard Sand Plain
- Held the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar in Alice Springs attracting an increased number of delegates, with 194 attendees, including 127 from the resources industry
- Made all open file mineral reports since 1901 available online, released the Shale Dataset, the Resource Assessment and Stratigraphic Report on the Glyde Package of the greater McArthur Basin, and acquired and released the Daly Gravity Survey
- Provided support to the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the NT, and made a submission on the department's regulatory processes and procedures
- Delivered pipeline approvals for two Major Projects: Consent to Operate for the INPEX Ichthys Fuel Gas Pipeline; and pipeline licence and Consent to Construct to Jemena for the Northern Gas Pipeline
- Continued Redbank Mine rehabilitation including a fish survey, cattle exclusion fence construction as well as stakeholder and Traditional Owner engagement through the Redbank Working Group
- Managed the machinery of government changes to combine two departments.

Key Priorities for 2017-18

- Continue to lead delivery of the \$50 million recreational fishing infrastructure program
- Ensure sustainable development of the Territory's fisheries, implement key fishery harvest strategies, and introduce electronic logbook reporting
- Facilitate fishing access agreements for waters overlying Aboriginal land
- Engage with industry partners to bolster sustainable growth of the Territory's pastoral, horticultural, fishing and aquaculture industries, with a focus on developing Katherine as an inland port and logistics hub and increasing on-the-ground support to deliver greater 'on farm' research impact
- Develop the Central Australian Bush Foods Hub
- Participate in the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia
- Support increased primary production in regional areas, including Aboriginal business development, employment opportunities and capacity building and supporting the Indigenous Pastoral Program
- Support the completion of upgrades by the NT Livestock Export Association to the Berrimah Export Yards
- Attract increased research and development funding for the department's research farms
- Progress the review of the *Livestock Act*, the *Veterinarians Act* and finalisation of the Animal Protection Bill
- Support the economic development of pastoral and agribusiness industries by establishing new and expanding existing markets
- Protect Territory primary industries from exotic pests and diseases to uphold market access
- Continue developing the mango export program, with the inclusion of melons, targeting Singapore and Hong Kong
- Facilitate new investment and pastoral lease diversification
- Finalise the masterplan under the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and commence project activities
- Develop mechanisms to enable the transfer of environmental regulatory powers under mining and petroleum legislation to the new Department of Environment and the Environment Protection Authority
- Provide support to the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing and implement subsequent decisions
- Support the development of Tennant Creek as a mining, minerals and gas services centre
- Engage with industry to support mining and energy economic growth
- Undertake a feasibility study for a common user facility for the mining industry in Tennant Creek
- Continue to engage with and strengthen relationships with the mineral and energy resources sector
- Facilitate access to extractive resources for construction of the Territory's infrastructure
- Improve the transparency of all mining related regulatory activities
- Finalise a five-year Strategic Plan for legacy mining issues in the Northern Territory
- Develop a whole-of-government energy policy that meets the challenges of energy security, energy equity and environmental sustainability
- Support and grow the exploration sector through implementation of the CORE initiative
- Promote the Territory as an exploration destination and attract investment into the resources sector from international markets
- Transform current Mines, Energy and NT Geological Survey business process by adopting business intelligent systems that make customer interactions more efficient and effective
- Review and reform Mining Management Plan requirements, including review of mining compliance activities.

Purpose

This Annual Report describes the department's performance in 2016-17 against the framework of its key strategic documents and within its resources and approved budget. It has been prepared by the Chief Executive to meet reporting requirements under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, *Financial Management Act*, *Information Act* and subordinate legislation.

The report provides an account of the department's responsibilities, functions and operations, resource use and outputs, described in the following sections:

1. Overview
2. Corporate Governance
3. Performance Reporting
4. Our People
5. Sustainability
6. Financial Reporting.

In accordance with subsection 28(2) of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, this report includes the following information:

(a) functions and objectives	Sections 1 and 2
(b) legislation administered	Section 2
(c) organisation, including changes in employee data since 2015-16	Sections 2, 3 and 4
(d) operations, initiatives and achievements	Sections 1 to 6
(e) financial planning and performance	Sections 2 and 6
(f) adherence to the public sector principles, including measures taken, any failures, management training, staff development programs and work health and safety programs	Sections 2 and 4
(g) financial statements consistent with sections 11 and 13 of the <i>Financial Management Act</i>	Section 6

This report is intended to provide a record of achievement against the:

- NT Government's 2016-17 Budget Paper No. 3
- Industry Development Plan 2013-2017
- Strategic Plan 2014-17, and
- the department's Work Health and Safety Action Plan 2016-17.

It will also inform Parliament, industry stakeholders, employees, the community and other interested parties of the role the department has played in the economic development of the Northern Territory and northern Australia.



Feedback on this report is welcome and can be provided to info.dpir@nt.gov.au

Vision, Mission, Values



Figure 1.1. Minotaur gold mine, Tanami Desert. Photo: David Waterson

VISION

PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013-2017:

“A flourishing economy underpinned by profitable and sustainable resource-based industries.”

MINES AND ENERGY

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2017:

“The Northern Territory is the preferred destination for resource investment and development.”

MISSION

PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013-2017:

“To work with our partners to stimulate and sustain economic development throughout the Territory.”

MINES AND ENERGY

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2017:

“To enhance the wealth of the Northern Territory through responsible stewardship of its minerals and energy resources.”

VALUES

The department aligns itself with the Northern Territory Public Sector values of commitment to service, ethical practice, respect, accountability, impartiality, diversity, innovation and excellence.

These values frame appropriate behaviours in the workplace, interactions with others in everyday work, how services are delivered and promote collaboration and professionalism.

About the Department

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources was established by the Northern Territory Government on 12 September 2016. The department brings together many of the key functions that drive economic development on Northern Territory (NT) lands, coastal areas and inland waterways, and its operations cover the entire NT. Its business sector areas are mines and energy, fisheries and product integrity, primary industry development and the NT Geological Survey.

Regulatory, research, development and extension functions undertaken by the department are related to:

- Aboriginal economic development
- community engagement
- agribusiness enterprise development
- agribusiness investment attraction and market development
- agriculture including livestock and plant industries
- animal welfare
- aquaculture
- biosecurity
- fisheries management and compliance
- geological survey
- geoscience information
- energy
- gas
- mining
- mining environment remediation
- policy, strategy and compliance.

The department is structured into nine divisions encompassing four major business areas, six areas of central services, and three areas of corporate services. The organisational chart illustrates the structure with more detailed information on the alignment of key functional responsibilities across the four business areas provided below.



Figure 1.2. Cattle at Douglas Daly Research Farm. Photo: Elizabeth Stedman

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES

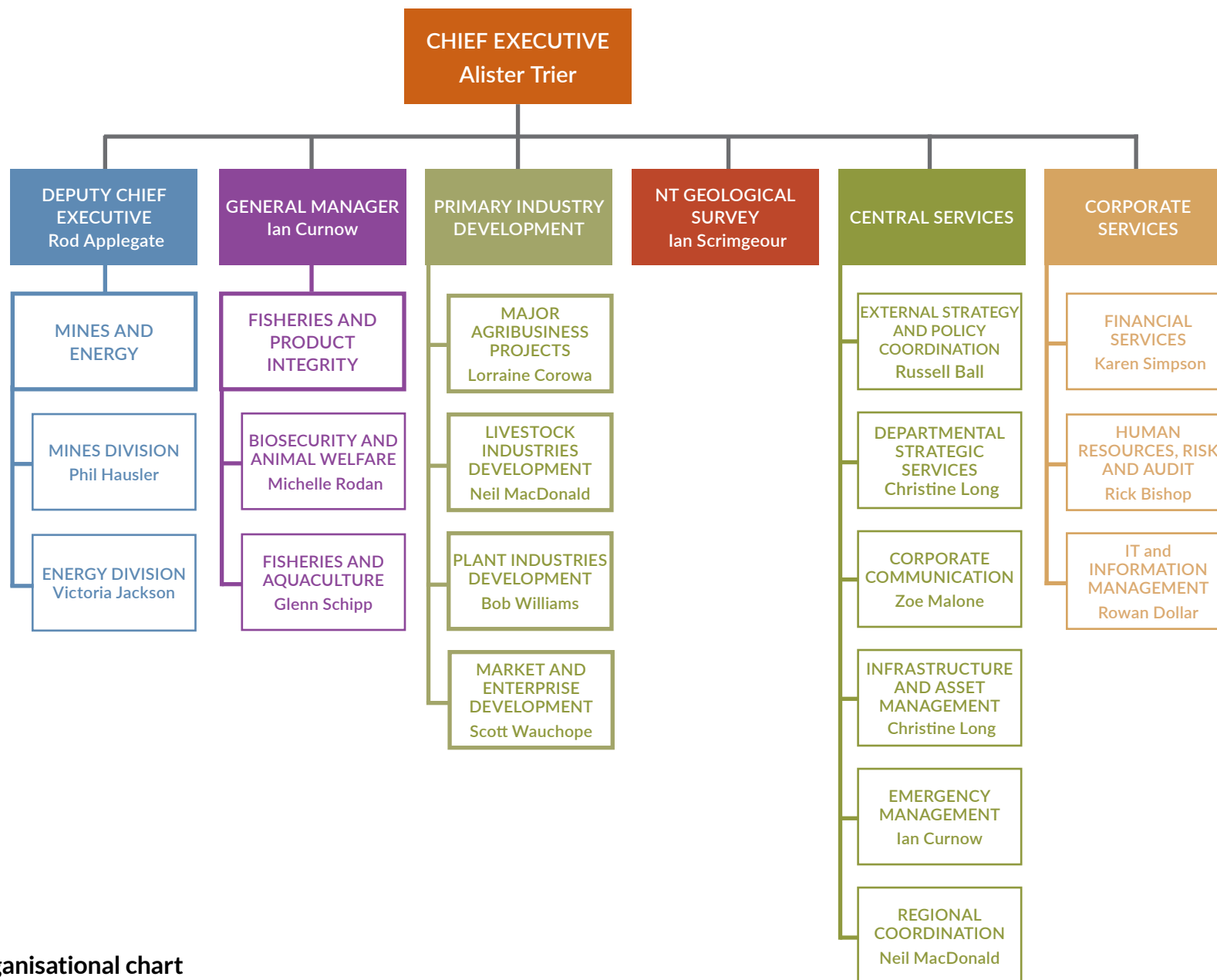


Figure 1.3. Organisational chart

Table 1.1 Department of Primary Industry and Resources functional responsibilities

FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Primary Industry Development

Market and Enterprise Development	Enterprise development and resilience Market analysis and development Aboriginal economic development Research farms/stations
Plant Industries Development	Horticultural and agricultural research, development and extension
Livestock Industries Development	Animal productivity and rangeland research, development and extension
Major Agribusiness Projects	Investment attraction and agri-precinct development
NT Geological Survey	Regional geoscience Geoscience information Project facilitation and development Investment attraction
Corporate Services and Regional Management	Whole-of-department Regional Coordination Financial Services Human Resources, Risk and Audit IT and Information Management

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Mines and Energy

Mines	Mining compliance and authorisations Remediation including Rum Jungle Mineral and Extractive titles
Energy	Petroleum resource management Petroleum, geothermal and energy pipeline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Titles • Compliance and authorisations • Legislation, strategy and policy development
External Strategy and Policy Coordination	Whole-of-department External policy coordination Strategy development Ministerial councils and standing committees Legislative review
Ministerial Liaison	Whole-of-department

GENERAL MANAGER

Fisheries and Product Integrity

Biosecurity and Animal Welfare

National Biosecurity Committee

Animal biosecurity

Plant biosecurity

Chemical regulation

Animal welfare

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Resource management, monitoring and assessment

Aboriginal and industry development

Marine Rangers

Licensing and data management

Departmental Strategic Services

Whole-of-department

Internal policy development and review

Primary Industry support services

Accredited laboratories

Agricultural gene technology

Corporate communication

Infrastructure and asset management

Emergency Management

Whole-of-department

Emergency response capability and preparedness



Figure 1.4. Testing samples in the field. Photo: Environmental Monitoring Unit

Mertens: the special truck that can

Staff of the specialist Environmental Monitoring Unit (EMU) undertake surface and groundwater monitoring as well as sampling of sediment, soil and rock to inform the environmental assessment of mine sites across the Northern Territory (NT) to support management and regulation decision-making. This includes using the data collected for monitoring against information collected and provided by mine operators.

To facilitate this important work, EMU has developed a specialised field testing vehicle known as 'Mertens'.

"Mertens plays a key role in mine site ground and surface water monitoring and compliance-related activities. Few people outside EMU know about its history, special equipment and mission" says Megan Bailey, EMU Manager and holder of the keys.

"The current version of the truck is the result of 20 years of research and development," said Megan.

"It was the first vehicle of its kind in Australia and possibly the world. It created enormous efficiencies for our field crews because we can prepare and preserve samples onsite.

"When the first version of the truck was built in the 1980s, it was only for use at the Ranger Uranium Mine in Jabiru.

"These days we take Mertens all over the Territory. Mertens takes our staff on the road for up to two weeks at a time, sometimes camping out, sometimes in the luxury of a roadhouse.

"Before we hit the road we conduct measurements on the truck's instruments and check them against laboratory quality instruments and standards. On the road, instruments are calibrated daily, then rechecked after each day's fieldwork to ensure they're still within standards.

"The use of Mertens enables laboratory quality sample preparation and sample

preservation, in a clean controlled environment. Samples collected are filtered, and preserved to accepted best practice standards, to maximise the holding times and sample quality.

"Mertens is essentially a mobile water lab, which means the view from the window of my lab can change from the tropics to desert country in less than a day or two. I can have a view of the Macdonnell Ranges one week and a view of the Arafura Sea the next, not many can say the same for their lab.

"Mertens is also a great way to engage the public and educate them about what EMU does. It generates quite a lot of interest when we take the vehicle to places like the Katherine Show," added Megan.

Board of Management



Alister Trier | CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Alister was appointed to the position of Chief Executive of the Department of Primary Industry and Resources in 2016. He works closely with industry to lead the growth of the primary industry, fishing, mining and energy sectors, and to strongly contribute to the development of northern Australia.

Alister joined the Northern Territory Public Service in 2002, working in the field of Indigenous economic development. In 2009 Alister was appointed to the position of Executive

Director Minerals and Energy with responsibility for the development of the minerals and energy sectors. In 2012, Alister was appointed Chief Executive of the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries which focused on primary industry and fisheries sectors.

Alister's early career includes strategic market and business development, gained primarily in the international trade and agribusiness sectors across northern Australia, the Middle East and South East Asia.



Rod Applegate | DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE MINES AND ENERGY

Rod was appointed Deputy Chief Executive in September 2016. He has previously undertaken the roles of the Chief Executive at the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment and the Department of Land Resource Management.

Rod is responsible for the Mines and Energy activities of the department and for providing strategic advice and support to the Chief Executive. His primary roles include progressing the transfer of environmental regulations from this department to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; developing an Energy Policy for the Territory; and championing the Mines and Energy business transformation project which will contemporise business processes. He has a strong focus on building relationships with the resources sector and improving engagement strategies.

He has extensive experience in land and water resource management, strategic planning, regulation of development, building and transport and major project facilitation. He has strong skills in negotiation, as well as policy analysis and formulation.

Rod is a graduate of the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Honours 2A); has a Post Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management; a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration (Executive) from Mt Eliza Business School; is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and is a graduate of ANZSOG's Executive Fellows Program.



Ian Curnow | GENERAL MANAGER FISHERIES AND PRODUCT INTEGRITY

Ian was appointed as General Manager Fisheries and Product Integrity in September 2016. His principal responsibilities include providing strategic support to the Chief Executive and leading the Fisheries and Product Integrity Group to deliver quality assurance, market access and sustainability outcomes.

Ian leads the department's Emergency Management Program including its responsibilities under the Territory Emergency Management Plan as

the Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Functional Group Leader. In an emergency response Ian is the conduit between the Territory and Regional Emergency Committees and the department.

Ian has a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and over 30 years of experience in federal and state governments across a range of policy and program areas, including over 20 years direct experience in the sustainable development of fisheries.



Christine Long | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEPARTMENTAL STRATEGIC SERVICES – FISHERIES AND PRODUCT INTEGRITY

Christine was appointed as Executive Director Departmental Strategic Services in 2014 and is responsible for the coordination of high level and strategic advice across the department, internal policy development and review, as well as specialist in-house services that support departmental operations including research, development and extension. These support services comprise infrastructure and facilities management, corporate communication, accredited laboratories (including the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory, Chemistry and Water Microbiology Laboratories in Darwin and Alice Springs), libraries, technical publications and biometrics.

Christine established a legislative review team as a new initiative in 2015-16 to make progress in the area

of priority regulatory reform and has continued to develop the Work Health and Safety (WHS) governance framework as Chair of the WHS Steering Committee. She is also responsible for administration of the *Gene Technology (NT) Act*.

Christine has a Bachelor Degree in Agricultural Science and postgraduate qualifications in information technology, economics and public sector leadership.

Christine has undertaken placement with the Rangelands Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as Acting Executive Director from March 2017 for a period of six months with Karen Timms as the Acting Executive Director for Departmental Strategic Services.



Russell Ball | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EXTERNAL STRATEGY AND POLICY COORDINATION – MINES AND ENERGY

Russell was appointed Executive Director External Strategy and Policy Coordination in September 2016. He leads the strategy and policy group, which provides support to regulatory areas of the department and leadership on cross-agency and multi-agency policy issues.

Russell has been with the department (in its various forms) since late 2001, including six years as the Mining

Regulator. Russell is a member of the department's Business Improvement and Risk Management Committee, one of six key governance committees for the department.

Russell started working life as a journalist with the Centralian Advocate in Alice Springs, before moving to the NT Government in various advisory roles. He completed the Public Sector Management Program in 2005.



Zoe Malone | DIRECTOR CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

Zoe joined the department as Director Corporate Communication in 2014. She provides strategic communications, marketing and media management for the department. Zoe's responsibilities include compliance with relevant accountability requirements, providing support to biosecurity incursions and emergency responses, and working closely with the Minister's Office regarding media and communications activities.

Zoe holds a Bachelor of Arts (Public Relations) and a Master in Business Administration. She completed the Australian Rural Leadership Program in March 2017.



Figure 1.5. Participants learnt a range of new skills and husbandry techniques during the Barkly Herd Management Forum.
Photo: Livestock Industries Development

Tennant Creek

The department's focus on the Barkly region intensified this year with the Territory Government committing to develop Tennant Creek as a mining and minerals and gas services centre for the Territory.

While there are no departmental Mines and Energy staff currently based in Tennant Creek, work has been underway to improve the services and facilities in the region and stimulate development and jobs in Tennant Creek. Such work includes collaborative geoscientific studies between the Northern Territory Geological Survey and Geoscience Australia, undertaking safety work on historical mine sites close to the town site, and consent to construct the first section of the 344 km Northern Gas Pipeline being approved.

This focus will continue in the coming financial year with several mining and resources projects getting underway.

Meanwhile, the Livestock Industries Development team in Tennant Creek has continued to punch well above its weight despite its small size. The team delivers animal health services to

the vast Barkly region that covers more than 322 000 km² and has a population of more than 8 000 people.

The team in the department's Tennant Creek office numbers just six – an executive officer, two stock inspectors (stockies), two pastoral production officers (PPOs) and an administrative officer.

The Dry season regularly sees Tennant staff out in the field. The stockies are out dipping cattle and inspecting those destined for southern markets for cattle ticks, and the PPOs' research projects often see them out on stations monitoring pastures or collecting cattle data.

The stockies' role also includes bleeding sentinel chickens to check for mosquito-borne diseases, conducting livestock disease investigations, and enforcing the National Livestock Identification System.

The PPOs' diverse role covers everything from delivering workshops to organising field days and writing articles for various events. They are ably assisted in their work by the executive officer and administrative officer.

One of the regular extension activities run out of the Tennant office is the Barkly Herd Management Forum, which has been held every second year since 2004.

The booked out 2017 forum was held in early-April at Brunchilly and Helen Springs stations and was attended by 17 future pastoral industry leaders who had travelled from across the Barkly to listen to some of Australia's leading industry speakers talk about best practice management options, animal husbandry, heifer and breeder management, animal welfare, rangeland management and profitability and achieving efficiency in business.

Locations



Figure 1.6. Sunset over Indiana Swamp. Photo: David Waterson

The department operates a range of facilities from research farms and stations to scientific precincts and offices in different climatic zones throughout the Territory. From Darwin to Alice Springs, staff are working on regional and across Territory projects using specialised resources.

As part of the department's economic development agenda, the specialised laboratory and field facilities facilitate the delivery of research, development and extension programs which underpin agricultural development to maximise market opportunities and protect resources, improve efficiency and productivity, and develop environmentally sound agricultural production systems.

The function of research facilities is to provide:

- secure farm land, machinery, livestock, and farm infrastructure required to conduct regionally specific research, demonstration, and extension projects
- laboratories, workshops, and other facilities required for the delivery of diagnostic, research and extension services to industry and the community

- operational bases, for the delivery of services to industry which include regulatory and biosecurity management, disease monitoring, fisheries, industry development and training programs, research and various regionally-relevant extension programs.

NT Geological Survey, Mines and Energy staff across the Territory undertake activities related to regional geological programs, the regulation of mining, petroleum and geothermal activity, as well as maintaining information services and exploration drill core libraries.

Mining Compliance officers are responsible for the enforcement of all aspects of the *Mining Management Act* throughout the Territory. This includes assessing and regulating extractive and exploration operations, as well as active and remediated mine sites.

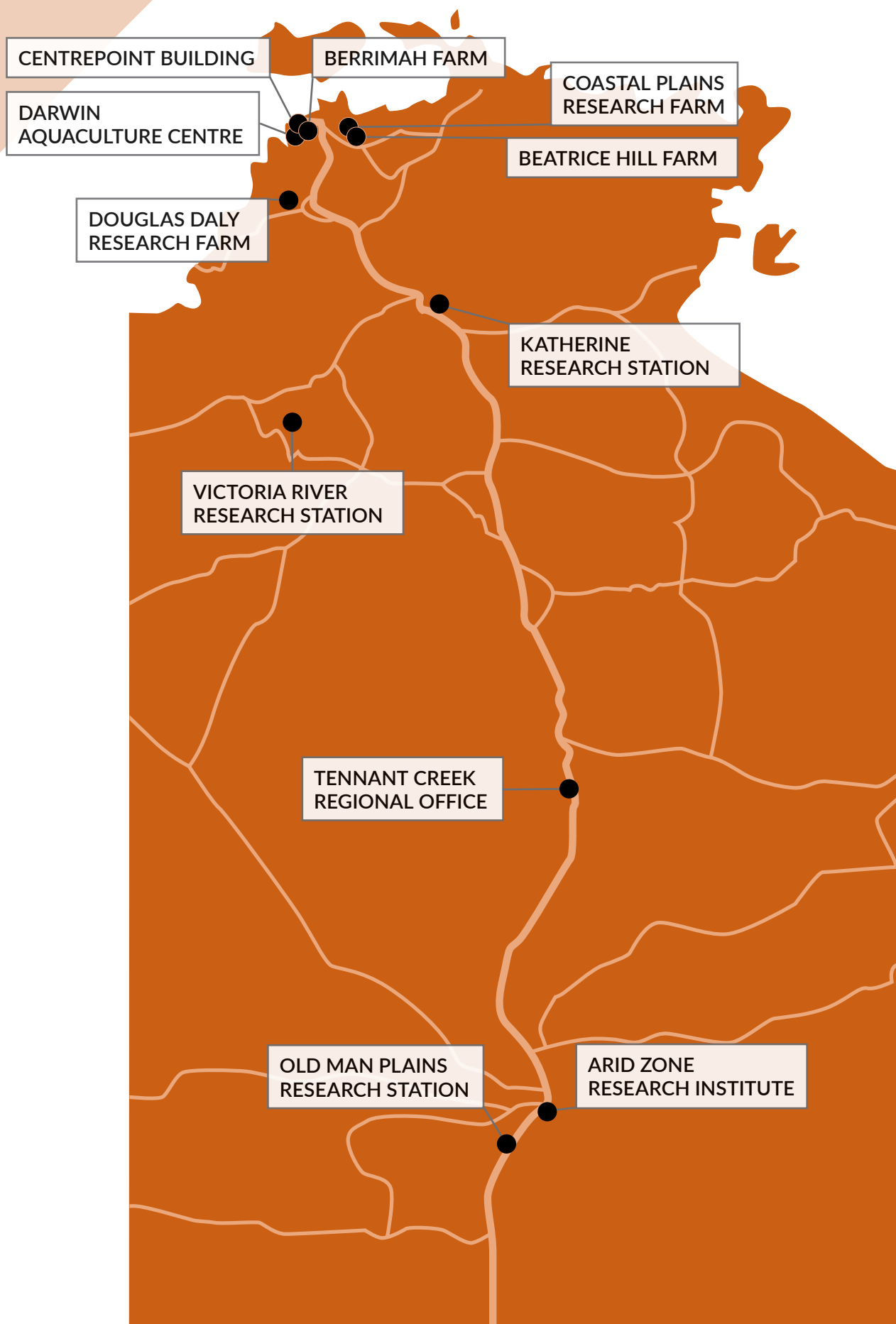


Figure 1.7. Map of locations

Arid Zone Research Institute

LOCATION: SOUTH STUART HIGHWAY, ALICE SPRINGS

Area: 256 hectares

The Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) accommodates staff from the Departments of Primary Industry and Resources; Environment and Natural Resources; Tourism and Culture; Education (Vocational Education Training - Rural Operations Program); and Police Fire and Emergency Services (Mounted Police Unit).

For the department, AZRI has a focus on research, development, extension, biosecurity and animal welfare for the pastoral and horticultural industries, and regulation and survey for mining activities in the south of the NT. The institute houses cattle and horticultural farming infrastructure, an accredited water microbiology laboratory, a library, staff interim housing and vocational education classrooms. AZRI is home to an award winning scheme to store recycled water from the town in an underground aquifer for agricultural reuse.

AZRI is also home of sentinel testing for arboviruses and avian viruses using cattle and chickens.

Research work on AZRI includes intensive horticultural trials and livestock research under the rangelands program.



Figure 1.8. Stuart Smith applying foliar fertiliser to a garlic trial.

Photo: Sarah Tsai

AZRI is the regional headquarters for geological programs, maintaining information services through the Minerals and Energy InfoCentre, and administration and enforcement of all obligations under the *Mining Management Act*. This includes assessing and regulating extractive and exploration operations, as well as active and remediated mine sites.

Beatrice Hill Farm

LOCATION: MIDDLE POINT (NEAR ADELAIDE RIVER ON THE ARNHEM HIGHWAY)

Area: 2 600 hectares

Beatrice Hill Farm is used to develop management practices for cattle and buffalo production systems on improved pasture including continued, sustainable utilisation of floodplains. Cattle projects include the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program and to compare the breeder herd efficiencies of Composite and Brahman breeder cattle.

The only buffalo research program in Australia is based at Beatrice Hill Farm. Under this program a Riverine Buffalo breeding herd has been developed

through a cross-breeding program using imported Riverine animals from the United States and an artificial insemination program using imported Italian Riverine dairy buffalo semen. For the first time since the Riverine herd's establishment, the herd number exceeded the target level in 2016. A significant number of purebred in-calf buffalo heifers were purchased by an interstate dairy this year.

Beatrice Hill Farm was the source of four purebred Riverine bulls exported as a gift from the Northern Territory Government to the Indonesian Government for use at two artificial insemination centres in Java.

Beatrice Hill Farm houses one of the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program's sentinel cattle herds, as well as sentinel chickens for human health monitoring. The farm is also the site of significant hay production for use on other departmental research facilities.

This year the Beatrice Hill Farm hosted a number of research programs including:

- Floodplain cull cow rumen sampling trial - set up to identify key micro fauna in the cow rumen and investigate how they affect cow performance. An economic study was also undertaken to determine the viability of agisting cull cows on the floodplain to increase body condition/weight for slaughter through local meatworks.
- Buffalo fly tag trial - working with a commercial operator trialling a new active ingredient in a buffalo fly ear tag. The trial is aimed at reducing the risk of buffalo fly resistance to commonly available fly tags and to provide producers with a viable rotation in buffalo fly control. Weekly fly counts were conducted for groups of buffalo wearing the trial tag, commercially available tag and a non-treated control group.
- Giant Rats Tail Grass - working in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Weeds Branch, trialling different control methods including various rates, timing and method of herbicide delivery and comparing granular to traditional liquid herbicide preparations.

Berrimah Farm

LOCATION: MAKAGON ROAD, BERRIMAH

Area: 175 hectares

Berrimah Farm is the Darwin Regional headquarters site for the Primary Industry Development and Fisheries and Product Integrity divisions of the department, located between Darwin and Palmerston in the industrial suburb of Berrimah.

The site also houses various specialist laboratories including: veterinary diagnostics, fisheries, chemistry, tissue culture, agronomy, and water testing laboratories. These laboratories have a range of roles including research, development and extension as well as the provision of specialist diagnostic services to government, industry and the community.

In 2016-17, Berrimah Farm hosted a number of research, development and extension programs including:

- passionfruit variety trials
- Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) research
- veterinary diagnostic testing for the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program.

For many years Berrimah Farm has hosted research activities in field based trials across forestry, horticulture and livestock projects. These have



Figure 1.9. Cattle at Berrimah Farm. Photo: Kaye Talbot

lessened over time as research has shifted focus or relocated activities to other sites. Recently, the surrounding environment has changed with the majority of the 175 ha footprint now under commercial development and the Berrimah Farm Area Plan beginning to shape department facilities into the future.

Farm staff are currently involved with the removal of fixed assets including gateways, end assemblies and the dismantling of cattle yards. In conjunction with the decommissioning of Berrimah Farm, there will be a site auction which will see any redundant equipment from Berrimah Farm and other research farms sold. The auction is scheduled for September 2017.

Coastal Plains Research Farm

LOCATION: MIDDLE POINT (NEAR FOGG DAM VIA ARNHEM HIGHWAY)

Area: 140 hectares

Coastal Plains Research Farm is the principal horticultural research farm in the Darwin Region evaluating of new varieties of mangoes, rambutans, passionfruit, jackfruit and other tropical fruits. It is the only testing facility in Australia for Panama Disease Tropical Race 4 that affects bananas.

In 2016-17, research programs undertaken at CPRS included:

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project - a demonstration site that investigates appropriate IPM programs for Top End trellis vegetable crops in conjunction with the NT Farmers Association
- Integrated Tropical Passionfruit Production Systems – looking to extend passionfruit vine life and selection of improved clones
- Banana Panama Disease Tropical Race 4 (TR4) disease management - looking at banana varieties that maybe tolerant or resistant to TR4
- mango rootstock and scion trial – evaluating scion material from the National Mango Breeding Program Trial
- mango trial - accounting of nitrogen uptake, cycling and mobilisation at different growth stages
- rambutan - high density clonal evaluation and germplasm collection
- jackfruit - seedling selection block for improved quality and yield, and irradiated seed block for potential seedless fruit
- cool season production of tropical grasses – evaluating fodder crops grown under irrigation during the Dry season
- African Mahogany - clone selection trial, part of a series of trials on NT Government research farms.



Figure 1.10. Arthur Cameron talking about tropical grasses.
Photo: Stuart Smith

Darwin Aquaculture Centre

LOCATION: CHANNEL ISLAND, DARWIN HARBOUR

Area: 2.9 hectares

The Darwin Aquaculture Centre is a research and development facility dedicated to supporting the Territory's aquaculture industry with research programs focused on tropical marine aquaculture and has specific areas dedicated to fish, molluscs, echinoderms, algae, live feeds and environmental control work. A bank of self-cleaning sand filters maintains a supply of suitable sea water to the site all year, a rare commodity for a tropical estuarine environment.



In 2016-17 the new solar power system saved \$18 000 in power costs compared to the previous year.

The Darwin Aquaculture Centre produces finfish such as barramundi and golden snapper for local restocking programs.

A key focus in recent years has been the research and development of species appropriate for culture in remote coastal Aboriginal communities. Species such as tropical rock oysters, giant clams and sea cucumbers may all be suitable for the establishment

Douglas Daly Research Farm

LOCATION: JUNGAWA ROAD, DOUGLAS DALY REGION

Area: 3 100 hectares

Douglas Daly Research Farm (DDRF) is a mixed farming research and demonstration facility located in the Douglas Daly region, located approximately 220 km southwest of Darwin. Its principal focus is beef cattle production from improved pasture production systems, investigating potential irrigated crops and fodder and diversification of pastoral land into more intensive agricultural production. Facilities include areas for research into improved pasture, cattle, hay, dryland and irrigated crops.

DDRF provides facilities for research, development and extension services to pastoral and mixed farming producers in the Katherine, Daly and Top End regions, and is a focal point for regional development.

of small-scale, community-based businesses. This work has created partnerships between remote communities, local industry and international research organisations.

In 2016-17 the new solar power system saved \$18 000 in power costs compared to the previous year.

The farm also hosts primary school facilities for use by the local community.

This year a number of research programs were underway including:

- a comparison of grazing methods (ranging from cell grazing to continuous set stocked), to evaluate the impacts on animal performance, pasture growth and soil carbon levels
- a study to determine whether insecticidal ear tags are effective in preventing three day sickness (Bovine Ephemeral Fever)
- a project to identify and evaluate genotype fertility traits in Brahman heifers with the aim of increasing the accuracy of Estimated Breeding Values (which will improve the rate of genetic progress through selection)
- participation in a selection program for high fertility Brahmans - young bulls are grown out on site and evaluated as part of the wider NT Government program.

Farrell Crescent Complex - Winnellie

The department has NT Geological Survey (NTGS) staff based at the Darwin Core Library located in Farrell Crescent, Winnellie. The Core Library gives explorers and researchers essential archival and reference services by providing viewing and sampling of the stored drill cores. Access to this information supports testing for new exploration activities and in formulating drilling programs and exploration strategies within the Territory. The Core Library holds samples from 2 200 different drill holes located across the Top End.



Figure 1.11. Farrell Crescent Core Library. Photo: Darryl Stacey

It also houses the HyLogger equipment for assessing the mineral content of samples via hyperspectral analysis. NTGS field vehicles and equipment are based in the facility and the staff also provide remote

technical support for NTGS geologists during the field season.

Mining Compliance staff in the Environmental Monitoring Unit and the Mertens lab truck are also based at the complex (see feature story on page 18).

Katherine Research Station

LOCATION: SOUTH STUART HIGHWAY, KATHERINE

Area: 1 260 hectares

The Katherine Research Station (KRS) is the department's headquarters for delivery of services in the Katherine Region. The facilities include regional office accommodation, laboratories, glass houses, cool rooms, animal housing and animal handling facilities, and other farm infrastructure including:

- secure paddocks and land for intensive cattle, pasture, horticulture, forestry, crop and weed control research, demonstration and extension projects
- centre pivot, lateral move and drip tape irrigation facilities
- covered pen trial facilities for intensive replicated cattle nutrition experimentation
- large bird exclusion cage for small plot cropping trials.



Figure 1.12. Quinoa crop. Photo: Ian Biggs

The Katherine Region is considered to have very good prospects for future primary industry development in the Territory, as soils and rainfall are suitable for intensification of cattle production as well as irrigated cropping and horticulture. The region is well placed to supply emerging Asian markets.

A successful online auction was held at KRS for department-bred select Brahman bulls. Seventy-two bulls were sold online at an average price of \$3 184 and a high price of \$9 050.

This year KRS hosted several on-farm events and meetings including:

- Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA): Nutrition EDGE workshops
- Weaner nutrition and management workshop
- MLA BeefUp forum
- Heytesbury Pastoral Company head stockman course
- Livestock handling course
- tours by local school students
- Grazing Fundamentals workshop

Katherine Research Station held a very successful online auction for department-bred select Brahman bulls. Seventy-two bulls were sold online at an average price of \$3 184 and a high price of \$9 050.

- NT Cattlemen's Association Katherine Branch meetings
- NT Farmers Association farm tours
- Wet-season crop and hay field walk
- Bushfires NT firefighting courses
- Katherine Pastoral Industry Advisory Committee meetings.

This year, programs undertaken at KRS included:

- cassava crops for use as an intensive cattle feed
- biosecurity sentinel herd for early disease detection
- National Mango Breeding Program - rootstock/scion trial
- mango tree physiology trials

- mango germplasm collection
- banana freckle: deflasking and hardening-off of tissue cultured disease-free plants for the NT banana industry and general community
- agricultural diversification crop trials – maize, peanut, soybean, rice, burgundy bean and cavalcade
- new crop and crop variety trials – peanuts, lucerne, hemp, chickpea and quinoa

Other research programs in the Katherine region included:

- senepol cross breeding trial using leased paddocks on nearby Manbulloo Station
- mango flowering and physiology research on local producers' farms.

Old Man Plains Research Station

LOCATION: SOUTH STUART HIGHWAY, ALICE SPRINGS

Area: 522 km²

Old Man Plains (OMP) Research Station comprises rangelands, cattle and facilities required to conduct research, development and extension programs to support the development of the Central Australian pastoral industry. This provides the arid region with a sound base to facilitate increased production and long term viability of the industry while also preserving the health and diversity of rangeland ecosystems.

Research projects at OMP for 2016-17 included:

- Quality Graze Project - investigating the impact of grazing strategy recommendations for spelling and stocking rate management on the consistent supply of premium beef in Central Australia
- investigating and evaluating management options for improving the consistency of high premium abattoir grade and Meat Standards Australia compliance from Central Australian steers
- improving breeder herd efficiency with performance recording and objective selection - investigation and fieldwork to provide genetic-based profiles on the arid rangelands for 'adapted, productive cows' and balanced genetics to produce progeny with good meat quality and fertility
- Quality Graze Producer Steer Challenge - an extension activity designed to directly involve local producers in the Quality Graze project. Participants were able to apply a grazing strategy and carrying capacity appropriate for an arid environment.

Paspalis Centrepont Building - Darwin City

Staff in Darwin city are located in the Paspalis Centrepont Building at the end of the Smith Street Mall.

Work units are predominantly from the Mines and Energy and NT Geological Survey (NTGS) areas with across agency units such as External Strategy and Policy Coordination; Financial Services; Human Resources, Risk and Audit; Information Technology and Corporate Communication also at this location.

NTGS provides high quality geoscientific information to support exploration of the Territory's mineral and petroleum resources. The Mines and Energy Divisions regulate mining and petroleum activities, respectively, to ensure the responsible development of the Territory's resources. Staff conduct inspections and audits to ensure best practice in environmental management and reduction of environmental impacts arising from exploration and development activities.



Figure 1.13. Frances Perrett and Andrew Scott reviewing a Mine Management Plan. **Photo: Michelle Kassman**

Two CSIRO researchers on a three year secondment are collaborating with NTGS for to build a greater understanding of the Territory's mineral potential (see feature story on page 84).

Power Street Core Library – Alice Springs

The department also has staff based at the NT Geological Survey Core Library located on Power Street in Alice Springs, which retains drill core samples from mineral and petroleum exploration throughout Central Australia. Containing over 500 km of core samples, the Core Library gives

explorers and researchers access to view and sample stored drill cores. As in Winnellie, the Core Library is the base for NTGS field vehicles and equipment and staff provide remote technical support for NTGS geologists during the field season.

Tennant Creek Regional Office

LOCATION: TENNANT CREEK

The department's Tennant Creek office delivers animal health services to facilitate domestic and international livestock market access and research and extension to the vast and economically important Barkly region. Staff based at the office are involved in a number of national programs to promote and maintain Australia's livestock health status as well as training of stock camp staff and managers.

Research programs carried out in the Barkly region this year included bull breeding, improved animal welfare, rangeland management, remote cattle management and data management.



Figure 1.14. Jane Douglas conducting a supplementation trial. **Photo: Casey Collier**

Victoria River Research Station

LOCATION: KIDMAN SPRINGS (WAMBARDI ABORIGINAL TRUST), VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT

Area: 31 400 hectares

In August 2016, past and present stakeholders were invited to the Victoria River Research Station (VRRS) to help mark half a century of achievement at this site. VRRS is also known as Kidman Springs and is located in the Victoria River District. This research facility runs approximately 700 breeder cattle as a typical breeding operation. Most progeny are transported to the Douglas Daly Research Farm after weaning where they are grown out in other trials and either onsold or used as replacement breeders.

VRRS is nationally significant as a semi arid tropical rangeland and cattle production research site with research programs for 2016-17 including:

- the internationally significant Shruburn fire project - established in 1993 it is the only one of its kind on grazed savannas to assess the impact of fire management on woody vegetation cover and pasture conditions
- long-term pasture measurement to monitor land condition change and test carrying capacity recommendations for land types found in the Victoria River District
- the Kidman Springs Best Bet Management System - the program has been instrumental in driving productivity gains in northern cattle production systems over the last 26 years
- investigating phosphorus nutrition in tropical cattle and improved fertility in Brahman cattle
- a study to determine and quantify the impact of phosphorus (P) supplementation on the reproductive performance of cattle on P deficient soils
- maintenance of the main breeder herd of selected high-fertility Brahmans - heifers are transferred to DDRF where they are used in studies on genomics before returning to VRRS as mature cows. The fertility of this herd is also compared to that of commercial Brahmans at VRRS.



The Kidman Springs Best Bet Management System has been driving productivity gains in northern cattle production systems over the last 26 years.

Key Contacts

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ARID ZONE RESEARCH INSTITUTE / ALICE SPRINGS REGIONAL OFFICE

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Postal Address:
GPO Box 8760, Alice Springs NT 0871
Phone: +61 8 8951 8111

BEATRICE HILL FARM

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Phone: +61 8 8988 1612

BERRIMAH FARM / DARWIN REGIONAL OFFICE

Location: 29 Makagon Road, Berrimah 0828
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Phone: +61 8 8999 2006 or +61 8 8999 5511

CENTREPOINT BUILDING

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COASTAL PLAINS RESEARCH FARM

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KATHERINE RESEARCH STATION / REGIONAL OFFICE

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OLD MAN PLAINS RESEARCH STATION

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TENNANT CREEK REGIONAL OFFICE

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VICTORIA RIVER RESEARCH STATION

Location:
13774 Buchanan Highway, Victoria River 0852
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Phone: +61 8 8975 0762



Figure 1.15. Aboriginal Fishing Mentor, Klaus Jeffrey, using a net to catch mullet and blue salmon at Milingimbi.
Photo: Fisheries and Aquaculture Division



Cattle on the Barkly Tableland.
Photo: Gabrielle Penna

2. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

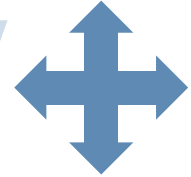
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Fast Facts



administered **28** pieces of **legislation**

delivered against **seven** key **output groups**



18 per cent reduction in **WHS** incidents since 2015-16

44 per cent reduction in workers compensation **claims** per **WHS** incident since 2014-15



executive **support** for **7** **statutory bodies**

274 veterinary surgeons **registered**
as at 30 June 2017



157 intranet news items **published**

over **1 165** subscribers to **newsletters**



integrated **2** **departments** and established new
combined management and governance systems

Governance Model

Corporate governance refers to the systems, including rules, practices and processes, under which the department is controlled and maintained, to balance the interests of various stakeholders in meeting the key priorities of government. The department's corporate governance is modelled below. Accountability to government and the community is achieved through reporting and external reviews.



Figure 2.1. Corporate Governance Framework – elements described

Operating Framework

The department's role is to serve the government of the day in undertaking its statutory functions and meeting stated priorities. Its overarching operating framework is published on the intranet and is represented in the following diagram.

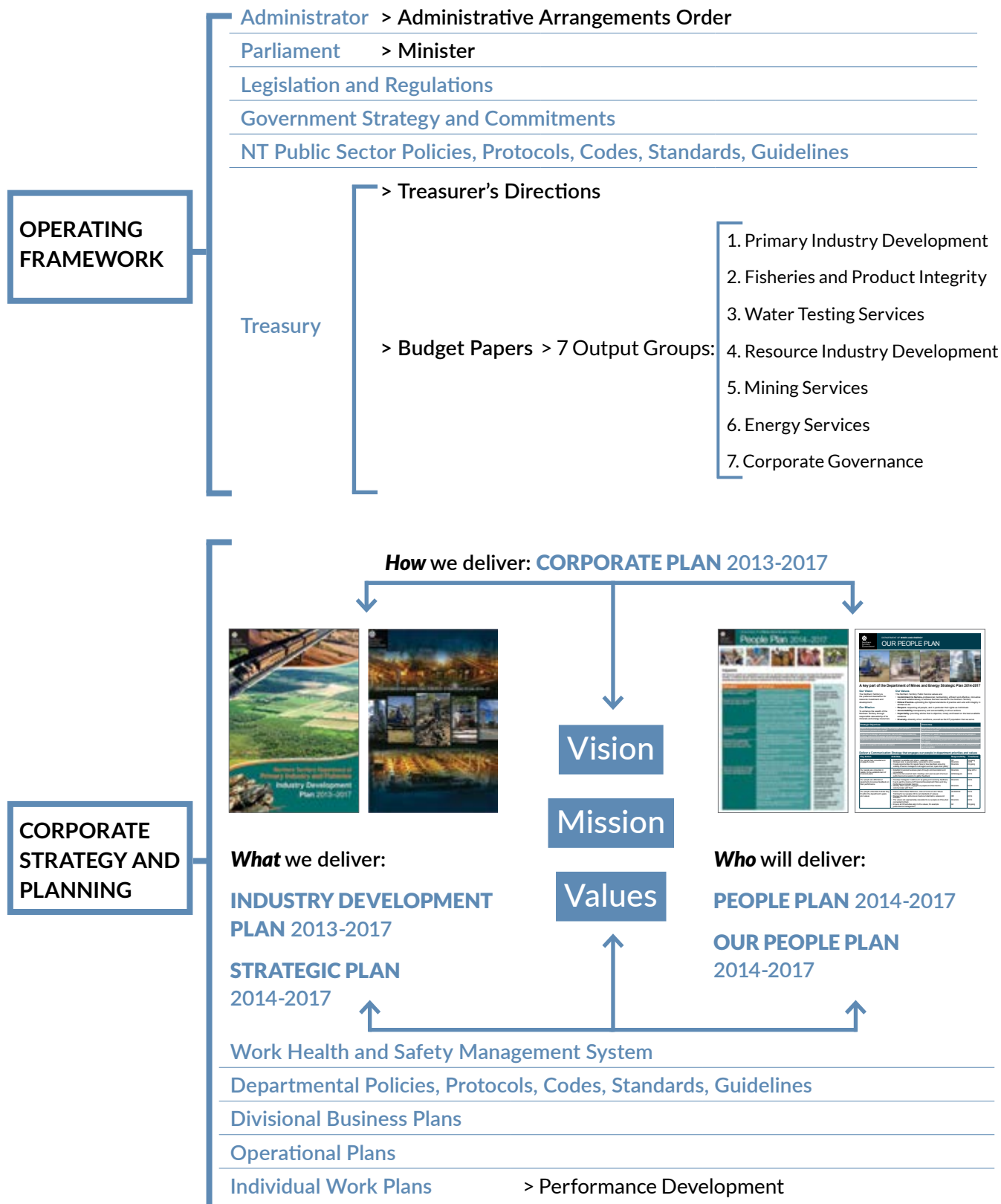


Figure 2.2. Overarching operating framework

Legislation

Under the Administrative Arrangements Order, the department's:

- principal areas of government are listed in Section 1: Overview, on page 14
- statutory responsibilities are listed below.

Table 2.1. Statutory Responsibilities

Legislation	Responsible Group/Division
<i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act</i>	Biosecurity and Animal Welfare
<i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Northern Territory) Act</i>	Biosecurity and Animal Welfare
<i>Animal Welfare Act</i>	Biosecurity and Animal Welfare
<i>Biological Control Act</i>	Biosecurity and Animal Welfare
<i>Biological Resources Act</i>	Major Economic Projects
<i>Bonaparte Gas Pipeline (Special Provisions) Act</i>	Energy
<i>Energy Pipelines Act</i>	Energy
<i>Fisheries Act</i>	Fisheries
<i>Gene Technology (Northern Territory) Act</i>	Departmental Strategic Services
<i>Geothermal Energy Act</i>	Energy
<i>Livestock Act</i>	Biosecurity and Animal Welfare
<i>McArthur River Project Agreement Ratification Act (except provisions about royalties)</i>	Mines
<i>Meat Industries Act</i>	Biosecurity and Animal Welfare
<i>Merlin Project Agreement Ratification Act (except provisions about royalties)</i>	Mines
<i>Mineral Titles Act</i>	Mines
<i>Minerals (Acquisition) Act</i>	Mines
<i>Mining (Gove Peninsula Nabalco Agreement) Act (except provisions about royalties)</i>	Mines
<i>Mining Management Act</i>	Mines
<i>National Gas (Northern Territory) Act</i>	Energy
<i>North East Gas Interconnector Pipeline (Special Provisions) Act</i>	Energy
<i>Petroleum Act (except provisions about royalties)</i>	Energy
<i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act</i>	Energy
<i>Plant Health Act</i>	Biosecurity and Animal Welfare
<i>Poppy Regulation Act</i>	External Strategic and Policy Coordination
<i>Tanami Exploration Agreement Ratification Act</i>	Mines
<i>Trans-Territory Pipeline and Blacktip Gas Projects (Special Provisions) Act</i>	Energy
<i>Validation (Mining Tenements) Act</i>	Mines
<i>Veterinarians Act</i>	Biosecurity and Animal Welfare

Statutory Bodies

Executive support is provided by the department facilitating the independent operation of seven statutory bodies. The enabling legislation, membership and responsibilities for the bodies is provided below.

Members are appointed by the Minister following nominations submitted by industry and community representatives.

A review of the roles and responsibilities of the statutory bodies was initiated following election of the new government, amalgamation of departments and pending regulatory reviews. Of the seven statutory bodies currently in existence, two are still under review: the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the Mining Advisory Committee.

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) is established under Part 7 of the *Animal Welfare Act* and constituted under Part 4 of the Regulations and comprises ten members appointed by the Minister.

The functions of AWAC include advising the Minister about animal welfare legislation and other matters relevant to animal welfare; investigating and reporting on matters relevant to the animal welfare referred to it by the Minister; participating in the development of codes of practice and the review of adopted codes of practice; providing advice to bodies, organisations or the general community on programs for the improvement of community awareness about animal welfare, and any other functions prescribed by the regulations.

AWAC members are nominated by, and represent the interests of, the following organisations:

- Animal welfare organisation incorporated in the NT (RSPCA NT Inc)
- Australian Veterinary Association Ltd
- Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
- Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Inc
- Charles Darwin University
- Parks and Wildlife Commission NT
- Pet Industry Association of Australia

- Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC).

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Under section 24 of the *Fisheries Act* the Minister can establish Management Advisory Committees for each management area or managed fishery for the purpose of assisting the Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture in preparing proposed plans and giving advice in relation to management plans.

The committees must be chaired by a person nominated by the Minister and may include members representing commercial, processing, wholesaling, retailing, recreational, consumer, or other interests in the area relating to fishing, fish, or aquatic life.

There are currently three such committees: the Mud Crab Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MCFMAC), the Offshore Snapper Fishery Management Advisory Committee (OSFAC) and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC).

OSFAC and MCFMAC provide advice to the director and the Minister on new management actions in each of these important fisheries. Membership includes representatives from industry, fishing tourism, recreational fishing, the Northern Land Council and an environmental non-government organisation.

RFAC provides advice to the Minister on key matters of importance to recreational fishing. One of its primary roles is the delivery of objectives in the Northern Territory Government's Recreational Fishing Development Plan 2012-2022. The plan identifies the key strategic issues facing recreational fishing over the next decade and contains a broad range of strategies and actions to ensure we maintain and enhance the quality of our fisheries and recreational fishing opportunities. The committee comprises of members from around the Territory with a wide range of skills and experience in recreational fishing.

MINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Mining Advisory Committee is another name for the statutory Mining Board established under Part 6 of the *Mining Management Act*. Members are appointed for their individual skills and knowledge of the mining or related industries to provide strategic advice to the Minister on issues of relevance to mining.

The Mining Advisory Committee has the functions and powers outlined in section 50 of the *Mining Management Act*. This includes if a person was to apply for review of a decision made under the Act by the Minister or his delegate, the Mining Board may be required to form a review panel. No reviews were required during the reporting period.

NORTHERN TERRITORY FISHING INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture chairs the Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund Advisory Committee consistent with section 52 of the *Fisheries Act*. Income to the Trust Fund is received from commercial fishing licence fees. Expenditure from the fund supports the development of the fishing industry or research into fish, aquatic life, fishing, fisheries, the fishing environment and other related matters.

VETERINARY BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Veterinary Board of the Northern Territory is established under Part 2 of the *Veterinarians Act*.

The board administers the *Veterinarians Act*, Regulations and the Code of Conduct. The Act charges the board with responsibility for the registration of appropriately qualified persons as veterinary surgeons and veterinary specialists, enabling them to practice veterinary surgery in the Northern Territory.

The functions of the board include:

- promoting high standards of professional conduct in the provision of veterinary services
- determining applications for registration from veterinarians and veterinary specialists wishing to practice in the Northern Territory
- exercising the disciplinary powers conferred by the Act
- investigating matters relating to the professional conduct of registered veterinarians or veterinary specialists, or the provision of veterinary services
- issuing guidelines in relation to standards to be observed by registered veterinarians and veterinary specialists in and in connection with the provision of veterinary services
- making the public aware of its existence and its functions
- giving advice, where requested, on matters relating to the professional conduct of a registered veterinarian or veterinary specialist or the provision of veterinary services
- investigating suspected offences against the Act and prosecuting such offences.

The board registered 274 veterinarians and received two complaints. One complaint was dismissed and the other resulted in a formal notification by the board of disciplinary action for a failure to comply with the keeping of clinical case records.

Government Strategies and Commitments

The department's corporate strategy and planning were aligned to key government strategies and commitments, consistent with the policy agenda for developing northern Australia.

Budget Papers

The Treasurer hands down the budget annually which outlines the fiscal and economic outlook for the year, sets government priorities and establishes agency budgets to achieve these. Regional Highlights are also published annually to reflect the delivery of programs and services in the regional areas of the Northern Territory.

The department's output groups, established to drive outcomes and key deliverables for 2016-17 were:

Primary Industry Development - Support the increased economic growth and viability of existing and emerging primary industries.

Fisheries and Product Integrity - Protect the reputation and integrity of the Territory as a producer of quality primary produce.

Water Testing Services - Provide water testing services for all Territory water supplies.

Resource Industry Development - Support the exploration and development of the Territory's mineral and energy resources by supplying quality information and advice to national and international stakeholders.

Mining Services - Facilitate project development through efficient and effective administration of laws regulating mineral titles and activities associated with mineral exploration, mining and production of mineral products.

Energy Services - Facilitate project development through efficient administration of petroleum titles and assessment of petroleum exploration applications.

Corporate and Governance - Improve organisational performance through strategic and governance leadership and provide corporate service functions.

The department's performance against the key deliverables outlined in Budget Paper No. 3 are reported in Section 3: Performance Reporting.

Sector Wide Policies, Protocols, Codes, Standards, Guidelines

The department operates within the sector wide framework of policies, protocols, Codes of Practice, Standards and Guidelines. Some examples are Treasurer's Directions, Employment Instructions and the Code of Conduct. Any documents prepared by the department were consistent with these overarching documents.

Corporate Strategy and Planning

Strategy Documents

Key strategic and corporate planning documents guide the department's business and align its operations with the NT Government's overarching strategies, policy agenda for developing northern Australia and resource allocation through Output Groups in Budget Paper No. 3.

The **Corporate Plan 2013-2017** documents the charter of the department, outlining its vision and mission and commitment to values. It describes the principles underpinning the department's work and its people. The Corporate Plan outlines **how** the department will deliver government priorities.

The **Industry Development Plan 2013-2017** and **Strategic Plan 2014-2017** outline the objectives, key strategies and key actions that will result in the delivery of outcomes to industry clients. These plans outline **what** the department will deliver in line with government priorities.

The **People Plan 2014-2017** and **Our People Plan 2014-2017** focus on the maintenance and development of the capabilities and capacities of people in the department to enable the objectives to be met. This is **who** will deliver on government priorities.

The **Work Health and Safety Management System 2016-17** is the key work health and safety (WHS) document which, together with other governance documents, establishes the department's approach to managing WHS in the workplace.

The **Industry Development Plan and Strategic Plan** were developed in partnership with stakeholders. The **Corporate Plan, People Plan and Work Health and Safety Management System 2016-17** were finalised following consultation with staff.

Outputs delivered during 2016-17 under the strategies in the Industry Development Plan and aligned with the Strategic Plan are reported in Section 3: Performance Reporting. Actions delivered under the People Plan and Our People Plan are reported principally throughout Section 4: Our People and in Appendix 1.

Work Health and Safety Planning

All high level governance documents related to work health and safety were significantly revised in 2015-16, building on the work commenced in 2014-15. Following staff consultation on the key framework documents, the new documents and 2016-17 templates were placed on the Work Health and Safety Steering Committee (WHS SC) intranet site and the online service centre by 1 July 2016. These included revised:

WHS Policy 2016-17	Outlining the shared commitment to a safe and healthy working environment.
WHS Management System 2016-17	Designed as the central element in the WHS planning system and as a useful 'how to' guide for WHS management in the department.
WHS Strategic Plan 2016-17	Setting overall goals and objectives.
WHS Action Plan 2016-17	Highlighting the areas for mandatory monitoring and reporting against <i>Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011</i> across the year.
Workplace Hazard Inspection Checklist	Form – for systematic identification and assessment of workplace hazards.
Divisional WHS Operational Risk Register Template with Safety Manual format	Template - summarising identified risks, risk analysis and evaluation, control descriptions and evaluations, post control analysis and evaluations and timelines.
Divisional WHS Quarterly Action Plan	Form for planning and addressing mandatory and specific quarterly actions to be carried out by the divisions.
Divisional WHS Quarterly Report	Form – for reporting on actions completed and not completed by the divisions each quarter.
Injury/Incident Notification Form	Form – for reporting injuries/incident and assessing risk.

The work of the WHS SC is described under Leadership and Control, later in this section.

The WHS Management System was updated and continued to operate across 2016-17 under a new WHS SC following restructure and establishment of the Board of Management.

Management of Risk

APPROACH TO RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Management is a tool which identifies strategic and operational threats to the department's objectives and enables the development of strategies to mitigate adverse consequences.

The department has established a risk management plan based on the Australian Standard on Risk Management (AS/NZ ISO 31000:2009)

It provides instructions to staff for the implementation of consistent risk management

practices through the department.

During the risk assessment process, the department:

- will identify, analyse (including likelihood and impact assessment), evaluate, treat and monitor risks
- design, implement, operate and assess controls to determine their effectiveness
- determine effectiveness by undertaking audits and reviews.

STRATEGIC BUSINESS RISK REGISTER REVIEW

The department's Strategic Business Risk Register (the Register) identifies the department's top level business risks in terms of meeting the Industry Development Plan, Corporate Plan, People Plan, Our People Plan, Strategic Plan and Budget Paper No. 3. It also contains risks related to the external operating environment that may impact on the achievement of its objectives.

The former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy Registers have been amalgamated into one Register.

The Business Improvement and Risk Management Committee is conducting a facilitated Strategic Risk Workshop in July 2017 to review the combined register. The workshop will review the department's corporate objectives, undertake risk assessments and prioritise the audit plan.

The Register is in the process of being updated in conjunction with the department's Strategic Plan.

RISK MITIGATION – INSURANCE AND INSURABLE RISK

The department is covered by the NT Government's policy of self-insurance. The overarching framework to identify, risk assess and mitigate specific risks to its business has been described above.

INSURANCE

The purchase of commercial insurance also serves to mitigate risk. In 2016-17, the department purchased commercial insurance for overseas travel and volunteers covering public liability property damage.

A summary of the department's insurance arrangements, costs and value of claims are listed below.

Table 2.2. Insurance costs 2014-15 to 2016-17

Insurance Premium Summary	2014-15*	2015-16*	2016-17
Overseas Travel	\$2 493	\$2 977	\$1 543
Volunteer**	\$1 339	\$5 804	\$0
Personal	\$780	\$0	\$0
Motor Vehicle+	\$0	\$6 142	\$5 858

* Combined data for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy

** 2015-16 includes a prepayment of \$2 238 for 2016-17

+ 2015-16 includes Motor Vehicle insurance for trailers under the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program and 2014-15 premium expensed in 2013-14 – no premium expensed in 2014-15

INSURABLE RISK

An insurable risk is a risk that may give rise to damage to the physical assets of a department or which may cause economic or physical injury and may result in the department being required to provide compensation and could normally be insured within the commercial insurance market.

The department has invested in commercial insurance to protect its assets. This investment was a result of a risk assessment, in line with Treasurer's Direction Section M2.1 Insurance Arrangements.

The risk of having our people at risk or the asset fail impacts on well-being and legislated operational activities. These risks were considered too high, hence the commercial insurance investment.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

The department is required to have appropriate strategies and processes in place to identify and minimise work health and safety risks to workers. A summary of workers compensation claims is presented below as is a listing of the department's risk mitigation measures.

Table 2.3. Workers compensation summary

Workers Compensation	2014-15*	2015-16*	2016-17
Total costs	\$227 342	\$587 817	\$135 506
WHS incidents without claim status	43	72	55
WHS incidents with claim status	9	6	5
Claims per incidents (%)	17	8	8

* Combined data for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy

Data is from WHS002 report derived from the BOXI-HR system (Department of Corporate and Information Services).

Mitigation strategies for the workers compensation insurable risk category include:

- a comprehensive WHS Management System (WHS MS) including an annual action plan and communications strategy
- a comprehensive system of WHS-related policies and procedures
- a whole-of-department Emergency Management function and emergency management procedures
- cyclone planning procedures
- an Employee Assistance Program allowing up to three free visits per year to a contracted counselling service

- a personal development system, the Personal Development Review that provides an opportunity for employees to address training and development needs
- training and support for managers, to build capability in dealing with employee safety and wellbeing.

PROPERTY, ASSETS AND VEHICLES

The department's assets are principally land, buildings, vehicles, plant and equipment, requiring active management to prevent damage, losses and/or theft.

Table 2.4. Property and assets summary

Property and Assets	2014-2015*	2015-2016*	2016-17
Total costs	\$0	\$84 183	\$49 228
New claims - vehicles and fixed incidents	7	32	22

* Combined data for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy

The range of mitigation strategies for this category of insurable risk are:

- a risk management framework to identify, manage and mitigate risks to property, assets and vehicles with applicable insurance if determined through the risk process
- secure procedures for the authorisation and oversight of procurement
- policies and procedures related to major assets and portable and attractive assets to ensure accountability and custodianship
- systems and procedures to control the allocation and monitoring of secure access to buildings and property
- security systems and procedures at government-owned and leased properties
- access control to buildings and property during operating hours
- a Vehicle Management Policy and Procedures for the vehicle fleet
- a whole-of-department Emergency Management function
- emergency procedures, reviewed after any emergency event to ensure best practice
- a comprehensive WHS MS including requirements for equipment and workplace inspections to reduce the incidence of faults and hazards causing damage to properties and injuries to people
- a comprehensive induction process relaying governance information to new and returned employees.
- building and property repair and maintenance programs
- appropriate storage and signage for hazardous materials and the maintenance of the necessary inventories for emergency services personnel
- a comprehensive WHS MS which includes the induction and management of visitors, control and monitoring of contractors and risk assessment of plant and equipment items
- commercial insurance purchased to cover liability risk of volunteers as required by individual work units
- commercial insurance to cover departmental officers whilst travelling overseas
- commercial insurance to cover key critical departmental assets as determined by the risk assessment in line with Treasurer's Directions M2.1 Insurance Arrangements
- procurement procedures related to quotes and tenders which address public liability.

PUBLIC LIABILITY

This category of insurable risk relates to liability owed to a third party which suffers loss or damage as a result of the department's activities. Therefore, the following mitigation strategies and processes are in place:

- scheduled maintenance programs for properties, including tree and other vegetation management, daily monitoring, path and roadway clearing
- internal guidelines and checklists to assist staff to determine the suitability of entering into funding agreements and contracts containing indemnity clauses
- removal of clauses imposing an indemnity where possible
- legal review of all contracts containing indemnity clauses
- a risk assessment of any indemnity provisions being relied on

INDEMNITIES

An indemnity is an agreement which provides an assurance against the consequences of a breach of duty of care or negligence. Indemnities can be issued in place of buying commercial insurance. During 2016-17, no party called upon the NT Government to indemnify against loss or damage arising from a contract under which the department provided an indemnity. The following mitigation strategies and processes were in place in the department to offset this category of insurable risk:

- application of WHS processes, as applicable
- procedures and practices that promote compliance with all applicable legislation, such as the *Information Act*
- formal adoption of the indemnity process in Treasurer's Direction G2.5 Guarantees and Indemnities.

Stakeholder Engagement

The department used formal and informal methods of stakeholder engagement. Formal methods included advisory committees such as the Fisheries Management Advisory Committees which inform fisheries and aquaculture activities and pastoral industry advisory committees which informed research and development programs.

Informal methods included meetings, activities such as field days, the work of extension officers, and ongoing client relationship management. All of these methods are valid in determining stakeholder needs to guide strategy development.

Similarly, NT Geological Survey and the Mines and Energy Divisions undertook formal and informal methods of stakeholder engagement. Formal methods included playing a key role in working groups for engagement of stakeholders, particularly the traditional Aboriginal owners, the development of Stakeholder Engagement Plans, hosting the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar 2017, hosting industry forums, development of collaborative and grant programs, and participating in inquiries and advisory committees.

Informal methods included meetings, community information sessions, and promotion of the NT at international events, and updating signage and information on the web site.

Employee Engagement

The People Matter Survey Benchmark Report measures employee perspectives on working in the department and compares the results of the department against other comparative agencies. The NT Public Sector People Matter Survey was undertaken in May 2016 with 66 per cent participation by departmental staff. The department's ratings and responses to the survey are shown in Section 4: Our People.

The current Corporate and People Plans were revised in early 2014 to support the Industry Development Plan and Strategic Plan, through a consultative process across the department.

New and revised policies were placed on the intranet for staff feedback prior to finalisation, depending on the extent of the proposed changes or impact on staff.



Figure 2.3. Staff attending WinBER training. Photo: Emergency Management

Strengthening the Territory's emergency response capacity

Increasing the Territory's capacity to respond to biosecurity and natural disaster incidents in an appropriate and timely fashion is a priority for the department, which has a team of staff members who are trained to respond in emergencies.

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources (DPIR) is the lead agency for biosecurity emergencies in the Northern Territory and is also responsible for managing animal welfare in other emergencies.

Staff who have been trained can also volunteer to assist the Northern Territory (NT) Government emergency response team by working in a control centre during natural disasters such as cyclones, bushfire and flooding.

"In the event of a natural disaster, volunteers work with the department's First Response Team to establish the Animal Welfare Coordination Centre to coordinate the relief and recovery

in respect to animal welfare for companion animals, livestock and wildlife, or provide general support to wider emergency response activities," said Jessica Arnold, Manager Emergency Management.

"In most biosecurity responses, DPIR is the controlling authority for the NT Government and is required to manage the whole emergency event. This is a long, complex process that requires many resources with understanding of how an incident is managed.

"In incident response, DPIR staff fill positions such as incident control, planning, operations, logistics and public information, and in a natural disaster may also be called on to assist in resourcing other groups' coordination centres such as working in recovery coordination, staffing emergency shelters, and welfare centres."

To ensure there is always a qualified team of people available to assist in a biosecurity emergency, the department runs regular training courses in Working in Biosecurity Emergency Response (WinBER).

Sixty-one staff members from DPIR, Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources have attended so far.

The skills gained in the course lead to five nationally accredited units as part of a Certificate III Public Safety (Biosecurity Response Operations).

The three-day WinBER course provides insight into what it means to be involved in a biosecurity emergency response, either in the field or the control centre, and sees participants collect samples and information from a property of interest as they played the part of biosecurity officers in a biosecurity response.

The Emergency Management Team has also collaborated with the Northern Territory Emergency Services to provide 40 DPIR staff with training in non-hazard specific emergency management training.

Leadership and Control

Board of Management

The main role for the Board of Management (BoM) is to:

- Shape the department's strategic process; identify priorities in line with both the NT Government's priorities and the department's business and providing responsible and accountable decision making
- Provide direction to the department on the way forward for the department to engage our industry stakeholders and jointly develop industries.

BoM MEMBERSHIP AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

- **Alister Trier** (Chair), Chief Executive
- **Rod Applegate**, Deputy Chief Executive
- **Ian Curnow**, General Manager
- **Karen Timms**, A/Executive Director Departmental Strategic Services (Christine Long to March 2017)
- **Russell Ball**, Executive Director External Strategy and Policy Coordination
- **Zoe Malone**, Director Corporate Communication

Secretariat services were provided by the Business Manager, Andrew Hurwood.

Biographies for the members are located in Section 1: Overview.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Under BoM, five key subcommittees were established as standing subcommittees of BoM. They work across the department within their respective charters, as provided by BoM. Each subcommittee has a Terms of Reference, is chaired by a Divisional Director and reports to BoM. Details of each subcommittee are outlined on pages 52 to 57.

- **Work Health and Safety (WHS):** provides oversight of the department's WHS governance framework to manage and mitigate WHS risks in departmental workplaces.
- **People Engagement and Development:** to identify and implement programs and projects to support the continuous development of our people.
- **Business Improvement and Risk Management:** provides independent advice and assistance on the effectiveness of the department's audit and risk management. It provides business improvement leadership and highlights areas of focus for improvement based on evidence provided by audit outcomes and reviews.
- **Information Management:** to identify opportunities to incorporate technology for better department service delivery, and to provide a review mechanism as required under the Treasurer's Directions.
- **Strategic Emergency Management:** to oversight the implementation and maintenance of the department's Emergency Management Framework.



5 key subcommittees
were established
under the Board
of Management

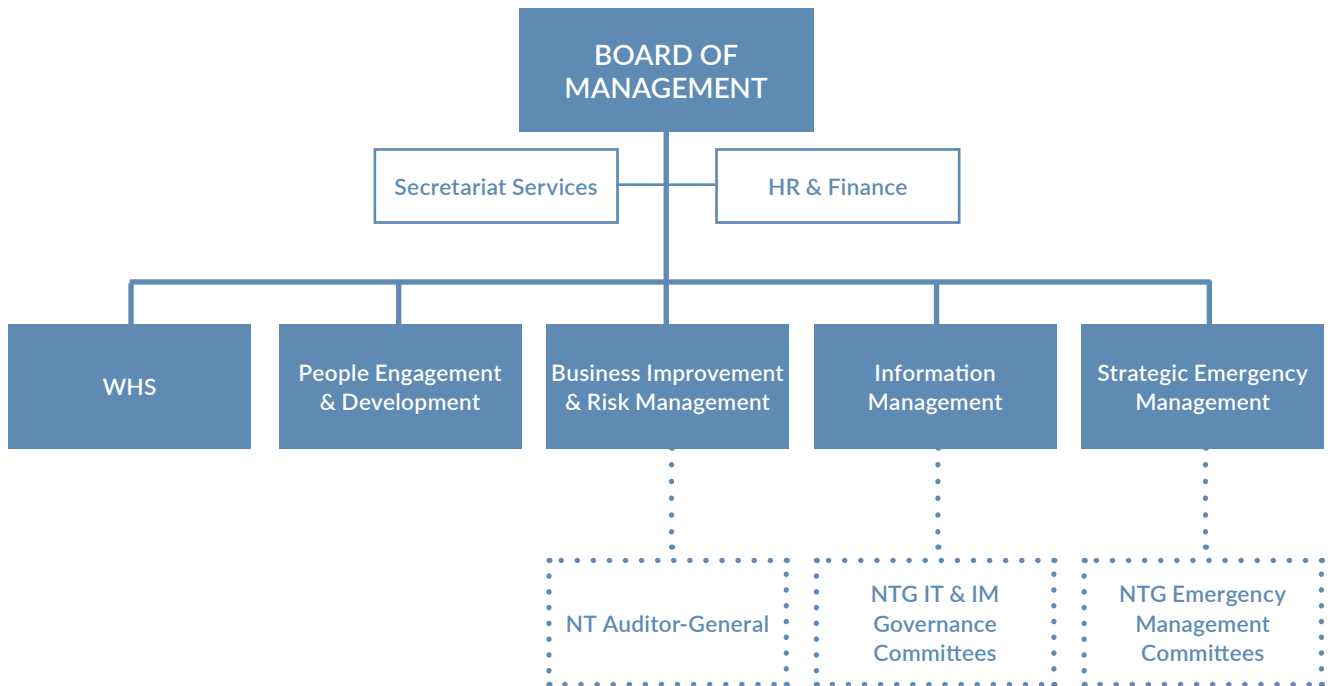


Figure 2.4. BoM, subcommittees, corporate support and external relationships

DIRECTORS MEETINGS AND FORUMS

Directors meet regularly, on a weekly, monthly and biannual basis. The majority of the coordination, collaboration and discussion around the business of the department takes place in the Director's meetings.

Twice per year, a whole-of-department Directors Forum is organised and chaired by a director on a rotating basis. This forum deals with particular issues related to the strategic business of the department and is timed for that purpose. The first meeting was held in April 2017, after the 2017 Economic Development Summit. This meeting also provides a forum for discussion on a broad range of issues of common interest across the department.

The Deputy Chief Executive chairs regular meetings for directors of the mining and energy functions of the department. The General Manager Fisheries and Product Integrity chairs regular meetings for the directors of the primary industry and fisheries functions of the department.

These weekly meetings include standing items on strategic work health and safety issues, fortnightly contributions to the Project Control Group (PCG), reports to the Minister, events lists and media forecast updates. Regional participation is achieved via video conferencing.

Directors meetings are held once a month and include the central service directors from External Strategy and Policy Coordination, Departmental Strategic Services, Financial Services, Human Resources, Information Technology and Information Management, and Corporate Communication to provide updates on matters of strategic and operational interest. These meetings focus on cross-agency strategic matters.

Board of Management Subcommittees

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE

The WHS Steering Committee has taken over the role previously managed in DPIF by the Executive Management Group (EMG) and within DME by the Executive WHS Steering Committee. It provides oversight of the department's WHS governance framework to manage and mitigate WHS risks in departmental workplaces.

Membership as at 30 June 2017:

Name	Role	Position Title
Christine Long	Chair	Executive Director Departmental Strategic Services
Rick Bishop	Member	Director Human Resources, Risk and Audit
Victoria Jackson	Member	Executive Director Energy Division
Scott Wauchope	Member	Director Market and Enterprise Development
Karen Timms	Member	A/ Executive Director Departmental Strategic Services
Emma Muntz	Member	Mines Division
Phil Hausler	Member	A/Director Plant Industries Development
Eloise Beyer	Member	NT Geological Survey

The committee's Terms of Reference requires the development and maintenance of a governance framework that facilitates strategic work health and safety planning for implementation by divisional directors and the oversight of the development and promotion of standards, procedures and processes.

It aims to develop strategies to promote a positive workplace culture in relation to workplace health

and safety and monitor the department's WHS performance, risk assessment and management in terms of ongoing compliance. The committee reports to and also makes recommendations to BoM and Chief Executive in relation to the setting of annual WHS objectives, targets and performance targets that comply with legislative requirements.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The role of Business Improvement and Risk Management Subcommittee (BIRMC) is to provide independent advice and assistance to the Chief Executive (CE) on the effectiveness of the department's audit, risk management and internal controls processes. It also provides business improvement leadership and highlights areas of focus for improvement based on evidence provided by audit outcomes and other reviews.

The CE established the department's BIRMC to replace the Risk and Audit Committees (RAC) of the former DPIF and DME.

BIRMC is a subcommittee reporting to BoM with secretariat responsibilities held by the Chief

Financial Officer with support from the Manager Risk and Audit. The committee has no executive powers and is required to act objectively and be an independent source of advice to the CE.

It recognises that risk is inherent in business and that effective risk management is essential in delivering departmental outcomes and is a key component of sound corporate governance.

Part of the department's Risk Management Framework includes its Risk Treatment Plan. It is based on international risk management frameworks and provides a consistent approach to assessing the department's risks. The plan articulates the department's risk appetite.

The committee has reviewed and amalgamated the DPIF and DME Strategic Risk Registers, audit schedules and audit registers. These are key documents for BIRMC to review, action and monitor.

An internal communication plan has been implemented in collaboration with the Director Human Resources, Risk and Audit to raise the awareness of BIRMC, its function and focus. Articles generated have included 'What is Governance' and 'What is Risk'.

BIRMC also has oversight of departmental initiated audits and reviews that are aligned to an operational focus. As part of its Terms of Reference, BIRMC also monitors the Northern Territory Auditor-General's Office (NTAGO) Assurance Program. External audits may be conducted by the Auditor-General, who is independent of the department, impartial, and acting in the public interest.

BIRMC Membership as at 30 June 2017

The members of BIRMC are appointed by the CE for a two year tenure unless revised.

Name	Role	Position Title
Lorraine Corowa	Chair	Director Major Agribusiness Projects
Rick Bishop	Member	Director Human Resources, Risk and Audit
Karen Simpson	Member	Chief Financial Officer
Russell Ball	Member	Executive Director External Strategy and Policy Coordination
Karen Timms	Member	A/Director Departmental Strategic Services
Roslyn Vulcano	Member	Director Mines Policy and Engagement
Leonie Cooper*	Member	Principal Plant Biosecurity Officer
Evan Tyrrell	Member	Manager Strategic Projects and Research, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation
Jessica Arnold	Member	Manager Emergency Management

*Leonie Cooper temporary resignation

RAC Memberships as at 30 September 2016

DPIF

Name	Role	Position Title
Rick Bishop	Chair	Director Human Resources, Risk and Audit
Lorraine Corowa	Member	Director Ord Development
Glenn Schipp	Member	Director Fisheries and Aquaculture
Warren Hunt	Member	Industry Development and Extension Leader
Jessica Arnold	Member	Manager Emergency Management

DME

Name	Role	Position Title
Phil Hausler	Chair	Executive Director Mines Directorate
Rick Bishop	Member	Director Human Resources, Risk and Audit
Evan Tyrrell	Member	Manager Legacy Mines Unit
Sanja Hill	Member	Director Risk and Audit, NT Department of Education

2016-17 Meetings and Locations

Date	Location
BIRMC	
24 May 2017	Darwin
28 April 2017	Darwin
DPIF RAC	
3 October 2016	Darwin
6 July 2016	Darwin
DME RAC	
26 September 2016	Darwin
26 July 2016	Darwin

2016-17 Achievements

- implemented recommendations of the NTAGO evaluation of the former DPIF and DME Internal Audit Framework
- established its Terms of Reference, Internal Audit Charter and Internal Audit Protocol incorporating NTAGO recommendations
- implemented DPIF and DME Internal Audit Schedules
- reviewed its Gifts and Benefits Policy in line with Ombudsman NT - Accepting Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality: Policy Framework for the Northern Territory Public Sector
- established a procedure and provided training for the management of Guarantees and/or Indemnities (Contingent Liabilities) based on legislative and Treasurer's Directions.

INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act*, the department has an internal audit function to assist the Accountable Officer in the performance of their functions. A Strategic Audit Plan is managed by the Manager Risk and Audit and monitored by BIRMC. In 2016-17, the following audits and reviews were conducted to test internal controls and processes.

Internal audit/review	Objective
Mining Securities	To assess the adequacy of mining securities management and associated internal controls, processes and associated databases systems are appropriate
Legacy Mine Remediation Fund	Review the governance framework and administration of the Fund as per relevant legislation and policies
Air Travel	Assess departmental travel compliance with the whole-of-government Air Travel Policy and relevant legislation, policy and guidelines
Negotiable Instruments	Review and assess negotiable instruments are managed in accordance with relevant legislation and Treasurer's Directions.

PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The People Engagement and Development Subcommittee will identify and implement programs and projects to support the continuous development of our people. The committee's objective is to support BoM in making the department an attractive and positive place to work, recognising the importance of the wellbeing of people for the department's success.

BoM has established the People Engagement and Development Subcommittee to provide momentum to drive, support and enhance the internal employee communications, engagement and change management strategies of the department.

Specific items of business for the committee, under guidance of BoM include:

- consideration and understanding of current departmental culture and opportunities for improvement
- identification of core principles and values that define our organisational culture, including principles and values for delivering change
- the design of cultural competencies appropriate for the department
- identification of deliverables for achieving cultural change within the department to meet the objectives of BoM
- identification of ways to engage people in the growth of organisational culture to improve the attractiveness of the department as a preferred workplace and the outcomes delivered by the department
- any other item put forward by BoM relevant to people engagement and workplace culture.

Membership as at 30 June 2017

Name	Role	Position Title
Bryan McDonald	Chair	Director Aquatic Resource Policy, Fisheries
Rick Bishop	Member	Director Human Resources, Risk and Audit
Jo Whelan	Member	Manager Basement Geoscience, NT Geological Survey
Neil MacDonald	Member	Director Livestock Industries Development/Regional Director
Helena Bott	Member	Communications Manager, Corporate Communication
Debby James	Member	Director Petroleum Tenure, Energy
Stuart Smith	Member	Manager Central Australian Horticultural Development Project, Plant Industries Development
Kirsten Johnston	Member	Mining Team Manager – Central Australia, Mines
Brenton Cardona	Member	Aquatic Resource Management Officer, Fisheries

2016-17 Achievements

- establishment of the committee following amalgamation of the former DPIF and DME
- drafting of the committee's Terms of Reference for endorsement by BoM.

STRATEGIC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Emergency Management is a whole-of-department function reporting to BoM.

The Strategic Emergency Management Subcommittee was established in May 2017 as a subcommittee of BoM to provide strategic oversight to emergency management. The committee replaced the former DPIF Strategic Emergency Management Committee.

Membership as at 30 June 2017

Name		Position Title
Michelle Rodan	Chair	Director Biosecurity and Animal Welfare
Zoe Malone	Member	Director Corporate Communication
Karen Simpson	Member	Chief Financial Officer
Rowan Dollar	Member	Chief Information Officer
Jop van Hattum	Member	Senior Director Petroleum Technology and Operations, Energy
Sally Strohmayer	Member	Manager Uranium Team, Mines
Jessica Arnold	Member	Manager Emergency Management

2016-17 Achievements

- establishment of the committee following the amalgamation of the former DPIF and DME
- drafting the committee's Terms of Reference for endorsement by BoM.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Information Management Subcommittee was established to identify opportunities to incorporate technology for better departmental information management and service delivery, and to provide an ICT¹ governance model and review mechanism as required under the Treasurer's Directions.

As a subcommittee of BoM, the committee's role is to:

- develop and implement an ICT governance model for the department, as required under Treasurer's Direction ICT 1.4
- develop and document an ICT strategic direction for the department for approval by BoM
- monitor the development of new technologies that may be appropriate for implementation by the department
- monitor and review the department's ICT systems and architecture to ensure the business needs and strategic objectives continue to be met, and that synergies and sharing of ICT resources occur where appropriate
- assess technology proposals and solutions to ensure they meet departmental ICT objectives and business requirements
- monitor and consider issues and developments arising from the NT Government ICT governance groups that will, or are likely to, impact the department and provide advice to BoM on any significant implications
- monitor information technology and information management projects and practices to ensure consistency with the department's strategic direction and governance framework
- refer decisions to BoM, management groups and appropriate bodies within the NT Government ICT governance framework as required.

Membership as at 30 June 2017

Name	Role	Position Title
Ian Scrimgeour	Chair	Executive Director NT Geological Survey
Glenn Schipp	Member	Director Fisheries and Aquaculture
Vanessa Madrill	Member	Multimedia Manager, Corporate Communication
Myrene Lyle	Member	Executive Officer, Mines and Energy Executive
Alison Wiercinski	Member	Librarian, Departmental Strategic Services
Callen Thompson	Member	Senior Extension Agronomist, Plant Industries Development
Rowan Dollar	Member	Chief Information Officer

2016-17 Meetings and Locations

Date	Location
29 May 2017	Darwin

2016-17 Achievements

- establishment of the committee following amalgamation of the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy
- review of business systems to identify key areas in which to focus improvement
- revised the assessment and approval process of ICT proposals through the committee.

¹ ICT (information and communications technology) refers to the software applications, computer hardware and networks used to create and deliver computerised, electronic information systems. (Definition sourced from Treasurer's Directions)

INFORMATION ACT

The Northern Territory *Information Act* 2002 came into operation on 1 July 2003. It combined freedom of information (FOI), privacy and records management legislation and provides the framework for how the department collects, uses and stores government and personal information. Under section 11 of the *Information Act*, the department is required to publish the following information at least once per calendar year, in a document, database or any other material form. It must be available in at least one of those forms for inspection and purchase by members of the public.

Table 2.5. Information Act reporting requirements

Requirement under subsection 11(1) of the <i>Information Act</i>	Availability
Structure and Functions	Section 1: Overview and Section 2: Corporate Governance in this report.
A description of the types of government information held and specific information about inspection of the information and charges levied (if any).	<p>The department produces a wide range of information that is available free of charge from its website: www.dpir.nt.gov.au</p> <p>A document describing the types of information held and charges levied can be obtained from: foi-privacy-dpif-dme@nt.gov.au</p>
A description of procedures for providing access to information under Part 3 of the Act (Access and correction rights) including who to make an initial enquiry to and how to lodge a request.	<p>There is no application fee for personal information. For other types of information there is an application fee of \$30 (including GST) that must be made before an application is accepted. In addition to application fees (if any), search, processing and copying fees apply to all types of application.</p> <p>A document describing access procedures for information can be obtained upon request from: foi-privacy-dpif-dme@nt.gov.au</p>
A description of procedures for correcting information under the above Part including who to make an initial enquiry to and how to lodge an application.	<p>Further information regarding procedures for correcting information can be obtained upon request from: foi-privacy-dpif-dme@nt.gov.au</p>

Details about how to apply for access to information can be obtained from the above email address or further assistance can be provided by contacting the department's Information Officer:

INFORMATION OFFICER
Department of Primary Industry and Resources

GPO BOX 3000
DARWIN NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8999 2314
Email: foi-privacy-dpif-dme@nt.gov.au

// 22 formal access applications for government and personal information were received under the *Information Act*.

During the year, the department received 22 formal access applications for government and personal information under the *Information Act*. Table 2.6 provides statistical data about these applications and trends over the previous two years.

Table 2.6. *Information Act* - Formal access applications 2014-15 to 2016-17

Type of request	2014-15*	2015-16*	2016-17
Applications received this year	17	24	22
Carried over from previous year	4	5	4
Finalised	7	22	25
Transferred	3	3	0
Carried forward into next year	5	4	1
Internal review, finalised	1	1	1
Applications received this year	17	24	22

* Combined data for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy.

The department also received requests for information that could be dealt with under normal administrative processes. This is the preferred method for information to be obtained and these requests are not included in the above data.

PRIVACY

The department's Privacy Policy is available upon request from foi-privacy-dpif-dme@nt.gov.au. No privacy complaints were received in 2016-17.

Organisation Structure

The department was created in September 2016, with the combining of the former DPIF and DME.

The department's top level organisation chart was published on its website in October 2016, showing positions, occupants, functional responsibilities and reporting lines. It was updated in May 2017 to reflect changes in titles and occupancy of key positions.

Divisional organisational charts were updated periodically to reflect significant personnel changes and published regularly on the department's intranet where they were accessible to all staff.

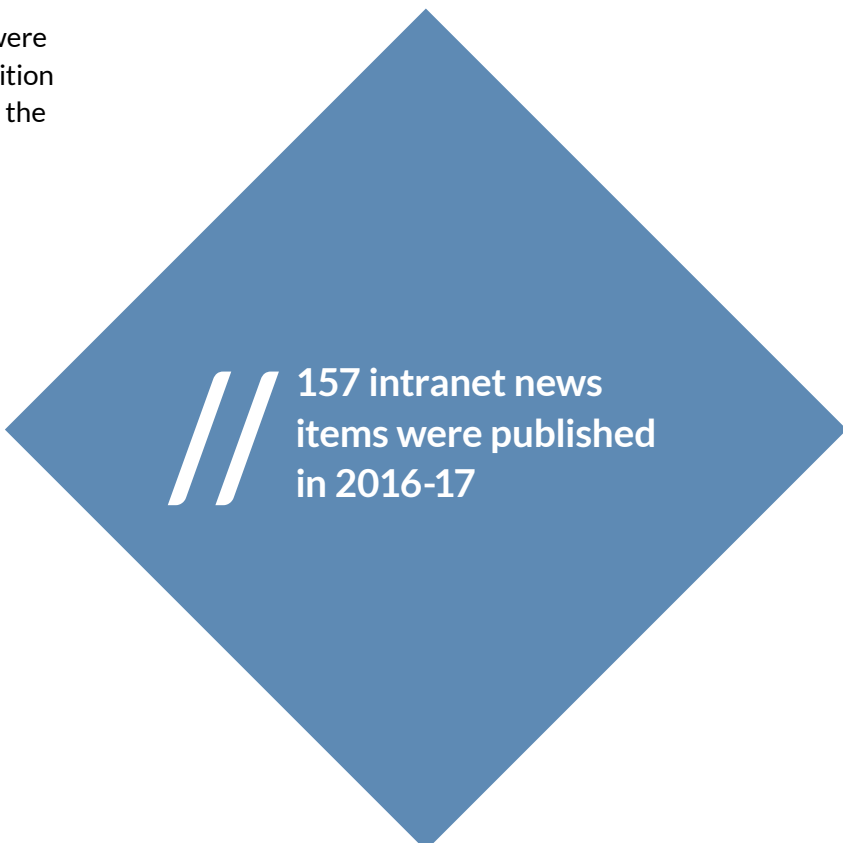
Internal Communications

The principal method of staff communication and engagement was information flow within divisions. Divisional directors were charged with relaying information to staff from weekly Director's meetings and other forums. This may have been through regular formal meetings or ongoing communication via email and other methods.

The Chief Executive produced a newsletter on items of general interest, opening with his personal update on matters of interest. From September 2016, the combined department published the Chief Executive eNews fortnightly with a total of 15 editions published during the 2016-17 period. All staff were able to suggest and contribute articles. Each edition of the newsletter included an article promoting the importance of WHS.

Divisional directors produced monthly reports on activities in their divisions and these were available on the intranet for all staff to view.

News items of general interest were also published on the intranet. In 2016-17, 157 news items were published on a range of topics.



// 157 intranet news
items were published
in 2016-17

Operations and Performance

Divisional Business Plans

Divisions produced annual business plans which reflected the key deliverables required by the operating framework. Prior to business plan development, a template was agreed by divisional directors for consistency. Outputs in these plans were aligned to the key departmental strategy documents. Budgets were then allocated and milestones set. Top level business plans were signed off by the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive

or General Manager prior to implementation and were published on the department's intranet.

Divisions also discussed elements of their proposed business plans with external stakeholders, as appropriate.

From 2016-17, business plan reports were developed quarterly for submission to EMG and later BoM.

Operational Plans and Individual Work Plans

Depending on the size of the division, operational and/or program plans were also produced. Individual

officers in some areas developed their own work plans as a subset of overall business planning processes.

Personal Development Reviews

Discussions with supervisors enabled the preparation of personal development plans using the department's Personal Development Review (PDR) forms as the conversation starter. These discussions were about shared commitment, agreeing to objectives, and improving relationships and provided a formal opportunity for the employee and supervisor to provide each other with feedback. Discussions were recorded and specific development needs identified and agreed, along with an action plan for progressing these.

Completion of these discussions was monitored using the MyPDR online tool. A discussion was considered current if it occurred in the previous 365 days and was recorded in MyPDR. In 2016-17, 39 per cent of staff had current PDR discussions recorded. The department will aim to improve this measure in 2017-18.

External Communications

The department's operations were reported to its clients through a range of mechanisms. Regular newsletters reported regional departmental activities and extension information to industry clients. In 2016-17, the department produced the following newsletters:

Newsletter Name (frequency)	Published	Audience	Distribution method circulation numbers
Alice Springs Rural Review	July, September, December 2016	Alice Springs region producers	eNewsletter, website, hard copy – 97 subscribers, 236 hard copies distributed.
Barkly Beef (quarterly)	September, December 2016, March, June 2017	Barkly region producers, some producers in other regions (including QLD)	website, hard copy – 110 hard copies distributed within NT and interstate.
Katherine Rural Review (quarterly)	September, December 2016, March, June 2017	Katherine region producers	eNewsletter, website, hard copy – 188 subscribers, 100 hard copies distributed within NT and interstate.
Top Paddock (quarterly)	September, December 2016, March, June 2017	Top End producers	eNewsletter, website – 334 subscribers, distributed within NT and interstate.
Animal Health eNews (quarterly)	September, December 2016, March, June 2017	Pastoral producers	Newsletter inserted into above two publications.
Pastoral Market Update (monthly)	Every month	Pastoral industry, Meat and Livestock Australia, other government agencies	eNewsletter, website – 162 subscribers within NT, interstate and overseas. Latest edition included in Top Paddock newsletter.
NT Veterinary Surgeon's Board	December 2016 and June 2017	Veterinarians/ other Veterinary Boards	eNewsletter and hard copy to around 274 veterinarians within the NT and interstate.

The CORE (Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration) program produces the Investor News newsletter which is distributed to local, interstate and international subscribers. No newsletters were distributed during 2016-17 but will recommence in 2017-18. Fact sheets on commodities and investment opportunities were available through the department's website.

// Over 1 165
subscribers to
departmental
newsletters

Six technical videos were uploaded to the department's YouTube channel, attracting a combined total of over 15 000 views.

The Fisheries NT Facebook page (@FisheriesNT) communicated key messages to fishing stakeholders and other interested followers. The Facebook page now has over 6 000 followers.

The department also contributed stories to NT Government eNewsletters, The Pulse, Developing the Centre, Developing the Top End, the NT Government Facebook page and industry newsletters, such as the NT Farmer's Association newsletter, the NT Seafood Council newsletter and the Animal Health Surveillance Quarterly report (compiled quarterly by Animal Health Australia).

The department hosted the 18th Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) in Alice Springs on 28 - 29 March 2017, where a mix of NTGS and industry presentations showcased the rich minerals and petroleum potential of the Northern Territory. The event was attended by 194 delegates, including representatives from 50 exploration companies, as well as government and Aboriginal organisations.

STRIKE (Spatial Territory Resource Information Kit for Exploration) is a web-mapping application for geoscientific data and minerals and energy tenure information in the NT for both government and industry use, and is available through the department's website.



Figure 2.5. Presentation at AGES 2017. Photo: NTGS

Monitoring and Compliance

Internal Audits

Internal audits are scheduled to determine the effectiveness of risk management in the department and are part of a strong risk and compliance structure. An internal audit is an independent and objective assurance activity which adds value to the department's operations, towards meeting its objectives.

External Audits

External audits are conducted by outside organisations, including the Northern Territory Auditor-General.

Internal and external audits and reviews conducted in 2016-17 are listed on page 55.

Estimates Hearings

The Minister presented to the Estimates Committee at the annual Estimates Hearings on 20 June 2017 which examined the department's seven output groups. This appearance was supported by the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, General Manager and Chief Financial Officer with briefings, data analysis and other information supplied by the department.

Accountability, Reporting and Review

Ongoing accountability measures have been described in the preceding subsections.

Reports to Government and Minister

The department had established reporting arrangements in place as part of its corporate governance framework to enable monitoring and review of activity.

Legislative Assembly briefings provided updates on key issues of community interest.

The weekly Directors meeting reviewed, updated and produced a weekly report provided to the Minister on key projects and events.

Regular media, marketing and communications forecasts were developed and provided to the Minister and the Department of the Chief Minister.

Overseas travel reports were provided to the Minister within 14 days of the traveller returning.

The Departmental Liaison Officer (DLO) located in the Minister's Office facilitated the two way flow of information and services. In 2016-17, the following staff worked in this capacity: Dionne Walsh continued in this position to January 2017, Mitchell Rider (September 2016 to March 2017), with Jonathan Sumner (March 2017) and Pieter Conradie (February 2017) continuing in the DLO role as at 30 June 2017.

Annual Report

For the Chief Executive as the Accountable Officer, the Annual Report formed one of the important mechanisms for reporting to the Minister and Parliament.

Reports to BoM

As part of the BoM meeting schedule, all divisional and Corporate Services directors provided reports on activities. Divisional director reports and WHS quarterly reports were also available on the intranet.

Milestones in divisional Business Plans were reported to BoM.

Performance Measures and Performance Reporting

Performance Measures and Reporting are covered in the next section, Section 3: Performance Reporting.

WHS Performance Reporting

The department's performance against its WHS Action Plan 2016-17 is outlined in Section 4: Our People - Work Health and Safety.

Other Reporting

The department publishes an Annual Research Achievements Report which includes information on primary industries research and development projects, collaboration with partner individuals and agencies, scientific publications and overseas travel. This is available free of charge from the department's internet page.

The Mines and Energy Divisions have numerous reports, publications, information and statistics

available through the department's website for use by government, industry and the public. These include advertisements for applications and grants of mineral titles, announcements on grant or cessation of mineral titles, petroleum fields and production facts and statistics, onshore and nearshore seismic surveys and petroleum wells, geological maps and explanatory notes, geological reports, GIS data, abstracts, gravity survey data, and Hylogger data packages.



Figure 2.6. Maurice Thompson with sentinel banana plants prior to distribution. Photo: Bill Whittington

National Banana Freckle Eradication Program

In May 2017 the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program (NBFEP) entered its final phase – Assessment of Proof of Freedom (Phase 4).

A strain of banana freckle (*Phyllosticta cavendishii*) was first detected in the Northern Territory in 2013. This banana freckle strain is known to severely limit commercial banana production, making its eradication highly significant for the sustainability of the \$600 million national banana industry, and for the potential expansion of the Territory's banana industry.

In October 2014, a \$26 million nationally cost-shared response plan to eradicate banana freckle was agreed to and the NBFEP was formed to implement the four-phase eradication program. Banana growers across Australia are funding half the cost of the eradication program via a compulsory levy, with the other half funded by Federal, State and Territory Governments. Financial and in-kind support was also provided by the Department of Primary Industry and Resources.

The 2016-17 year saw the program complete Phase 3 – the sentinel planting.

During the initial two phases, all banana plants in the six red zones (areas where banana freckle had been found) were destroyed (Phase 1), followed by a host-free period where no planting of bananas was allowed and any regrowth was destroyed (Phase 2). The host-free period was designed to break the life cycle of the pest and ensure the banana freckle fungus had no host plant material to survive on.

During Phase 3, which ran from May 2016 to April 2017, disease-free, sentinel plants were established in the six red zones. Owners of properties in the red zones that were not part of the sentinel planting program could obtain permits and buy disease-free tissue culture banana plants from authorised suppliers.

Phase 3 saw sentinel plants distributed to 3 215 properties across the Top End to properties that had banana plants destroyed during Phase 1 or were in close proximity to those properties. Many Territorians also applied for permits and purchased their own banana plants during this phase, meaning altogether more than 4 000 properties commenced growing bananas again.

The sentinel plants were sourced from accredited interstate suppliers in areas that were free of banana freckle and were brought into the NT under permit.

The sentinel banana plants were monitored over the 12 month period to provide evidence that banana freckle was no longer present in the NT. At the end of Phase 3 there were 33 700 banana plants being cultivated in the NT and more than 6 200 inspections of the sentinel plants had been undertaken with no detections of banana freckle.

The 2016-17 Wet season saw near perfect conditions for the banana freckle fungus to thrive but no signs of freckle were detected. Instead, the conditions saw

fantastic looking, healthy plants grown across the Territory.

Phase 4 commenced on 1 May, paving the way for quarantine restrictions, including the banana freckle permit conditions, to be lifted in July 2017. The movement of banana plants and fruit into and out of the Territory remains prohibited without a permit.

Two rounds of verification surveillance is required on high risk properties to cement statistical confidence that the pest is eradicated in the NT. The first round of additional inspections was completed by 30 June 2017, and the final round of inspections will take place during the 2017-18 Wet season on sentinel plants on more than 300 properties that were previously infected with banana freckle or were in close proximity to infected areas.

A submission to the national biosecurity authorities for National Proof of Freedom from banana freckle will be progressed after the successful completion of Phase 4 surveillance in 2018.

The NBFEP has been Australia's largest cost-sharing emergency plant pest response under the National Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed to date and involved Federal, State, industry and community support. Great outcomes for biosecurity in the NT have been achieved through this program and the contribution by industry and the broader community is truly recognised.



Figure 2.7. Loading manganese ore at Groote Eylandt. Photo: Peter Waggitt



3. PERFORMANCE REPORTING

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Territory caught red snapper

Photo: Fisheries and
Aquaculture Division

Fast Facts



combined **primary industry and fisheries** commodities value is **\$736 million** – an **8.1 per cent increase** from the previous year

combined **mines and energy** commodities value is **\$4 562 million** – a **5.5 per cent increase** from the previous year

2 per cent of NT workforce **employed** in agriculture, forestry and fisheries



3.4 per cent of the NT workforce is **employed** in the **mining sector**

634 Territory businesses were **engaged** in agriculture, forestry and fishing



65 businesses directly engaged in the **mining sector**

5 525 animal welfare **complaints** investigated – **7 successful prosecutions**



781 property visits to inspect, treat and **certify 86 991** head of livestock for the NT cattle **tick control program**

176 properties across the Territory **surveyed** for high priority plant pest and diseases

2 nationally accredited training courses delivered for **Aboriginal Marine Rangers**



reviewed 2 004 operational **Energy Titles** compliance reports

regulated over **3 000 km** of energy pipelines



Continued the **\$23.8 million CORE initiative** managed by NTGS

\$509 227 invested in **3 legacy mines** areas across the Territory

Introduction

The total value of the Northern Territory's combined primary industries (agriculture, forestry and fishing) and resources (mining, energy and manufacturing) commodities was estimated at \$5 298 million for 2015-16, an increase of 5.9 per cent since 2014-15¹.

The major agricultural industries in the Territory are cattle, other livestock such as crocodiles, buffalo, horses, camels and goats; horticulture including fruit, vegetables, turf, nursery and cut flowers; and plantation forestry such as sandalwood, teak and African mahogany.

The fishing industry includes the harvesting of wild catch fish in Territory waters, prawns in the NT Zone of the Northern Prawn Fishery, and aquaculture. It also includes a substantial recreational fishing component, generating tourism and providing lifestyle amenity for Territorians.

The total value of the Territory's combined primary industry commodities was estimated at \$736 million for 2015-16, an increase of 8.1 per cent since 2014-15^{2,3}. This is forecast to rise a further 2.8 per cent to an estimated \$756.6 million in the 2016-17 reporting period due to increases in

the livestock, fisheries, forestry and horticulture industries. In 2015-16, agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries provided a total of 2 623 jobs for Territorians, with the majority in rural and remote areas.

Onshore Petroleum Exploration activity slowed in 2016-17, partly due to the drop in commodity prices but also due to the Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing of onshore unconventional gas reservoirs. On 14 September 2016, the moratorium was announced and on 3 December 2016 the NT Government announced an independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Onshore Unconventional Reservoirs in the NT.

The total value of the Territory's combined mines and energy commodities was estimated at \$4 562 million for 2015-16, an increase of 5.5 per cent on 2014-15^{2,3}. This is forecast to rise a further 3.7 per cent to an estimated \$4 729 million in the 2016-17 reporting period due to increases in the mining, energy and manufacturing industries. In 2015-16, mining, energy and manufacturing industries provided a total of 4 432 jobs for Territorians, with the majority in rural and remote areas⁴.

Industry Development Plan 2013-2017

This plan was developed in close consultation with industry and stakeholders and guides the department towards achieving its vision of a flourishing economy underpinned by profitable and sustainable resource based industries. It provides the framework to align all departmental activities with the needs of primary industries, and ensures that the department works towards supporting industry growth. It has a clear focus on addressing industry priorities as well as removing impediments to industry expansion, so that the department plays a relevant role in economic development.

The value of Territory agricultural and fishing industries has reached the anticipated increase to over \$700 million by 2017. However, in the longer term, there could be significantly greater opportunity if industry and government work together collectively. The Industry Development Plan outlines the strategies to reach that goal, and contains key measures to support this projected growth.

¹ Departmental estimate, 2016-17 economic data figures are not available until early 2018

² Departmental estimate, 2016-17 economic data figures are not available until early 2018.

³ Figures cited in this report represent farm gate values reflecting gross value of production. Prices received by growers and therefore total industry values, can vary significantly from farm gate values.

⁴ Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5220.0.

Strategic Plan 2014-2017

This plan identified areas of focus to establish the Northern Territory as the preferred destination for resource investment and development enabling the Mines and Energy Divisions and NT Geological Survey to develop and deliver services to its stakeholders. Five strategic themes of Economic Development, Balanced Outcomes, Relationships and Stakeholders, Governance and Business Systems, and Our People are underpinned by 19 strategic objectives to achieve delivery of quality services.



The total value of the Northern Territory's combined primary industries (agriculture, forestry and fishing) and resources (mining, energy and manufacturing) commodities was estimated at \$5 298 million for 2015-16, an increase of 5.9 per cent since 2014-15 ⁵.

⁵ Departmental estimate, 2016-17 economic data figures are not available until early 2018

Key Industry Sectors–Trends and Analysis

Industry Descriptions

The Northern Territory economy is dominated by the construction (20.1 per cent) and mining (15.1 per cent) sectors with the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector accounting for 2.9 per cent of the Territory economy in 2015-16⁶. These industries impact on the economic and social well-being of thousands of owners, managers, employees, service people and families in urban and rural communities, across all Territory regions.

The agriculture, forestry and fishing industries are a capital intensive sector and its growth patterns over the last two decades have seen the sector expand along with the NT economy. Industry trends

show that after a period of decreasing in the early 2000s, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector contributions to the Territory economy expanded, initially in early 2005-06 on the back of the cattle industry, and more recently horticulture.

The mining sector is capital intensive, and its growth pattern over the last two decades has been tracking with the NT economy. Industry trends show that after a period of stability up to the late 1990s, the mining sector contribution to the Territory economy rapidly expanded almost four fold, initially on the back of oil, and mineral expansions and more recently gas and condensate.

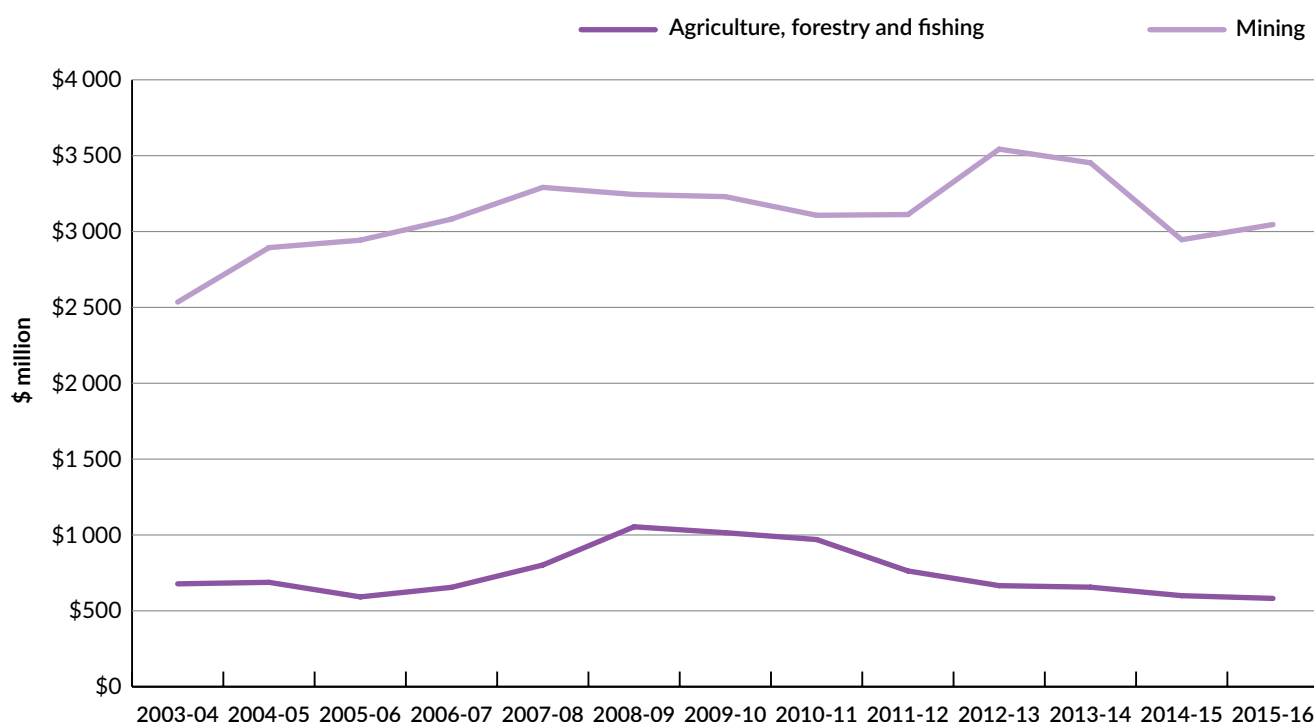


Figure 3.1. Contribution by the mining and agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors to the Northern Territory economy ⁶

⁶ Source: ABS Cat No. 5220.0

Employment

Almost 2.0 per cent of the NT workforce (full-time and part-time) is employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing with the mining sector employing 3.4 per cent. The vast majority of jobs are located in the rural and remote areas and provide employment opportunities in the Territory's regional economies.

Table 3.1. Employment by sector in the Northern Territory 2015-16 ⁷

Sector	Employment By Industry 2015-16			
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Percentage of Total Employment
Public administration and safety	18 101	2 679	20 780	15.8%
Health care and social assistance	12 908	4 713	17 621	13.4%
Construction	12 788	1 765	14 553	11.1%
Education and training	8 342	3 463	11 804	9.0%
Retail trade	7 230	3 688	10 918	8.3%
Accommodation and food services	4 878	4 112	8 990	6.8%
Professional, scientific and technical services	5 775	1 219	6 994	5.3%
Transport, postal and warehousing	6 177	778	6 955	5.3%
Other services	3 851	1 130	4 981	3.8%
Mining	4 432	0	4 432	3.4%
Manufacturing	3 631	95	3 726	2.8%
Administrative and support services	2 177	1 505	3 682	2.8%
Arts and recreation services	3 065	335	3 401	2.6%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2 274	350	2 623	2.0%
Wholesale trade	2 323	291	2 614	2.0%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	2 354	255	2 609	2.0%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	1 885	188	2 073	1.6%
Financial and insurance services	1 180	278	1 458	1.1%
Information media and telecommunications	1 141	164	1 305	1.0%
Total Employment	104 510	27 008	131 519	

⁷ Source: ABS Cat No. 6291.0. Figures are as at August 2016

Businesses

As at June 2016, 634 NT businesses were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing, making it the fourth largest sector (by business count) in the NT economy. At the other end of the scale, the 65 businesses engaged in the mining sector for the same period contributed the fourth smallest number of businesses to the Territory economy.

The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector businesses are dominated by locally based companies represented by a high proportion of independently owned/family owned and run business ventures.

The mining sector is dominated by a smaller number of local operators, with national and multinational businesses employing a smaller number of locally based employees reflective of mining enterprises being listed as businesses in other jurisdictions outside the Territory.

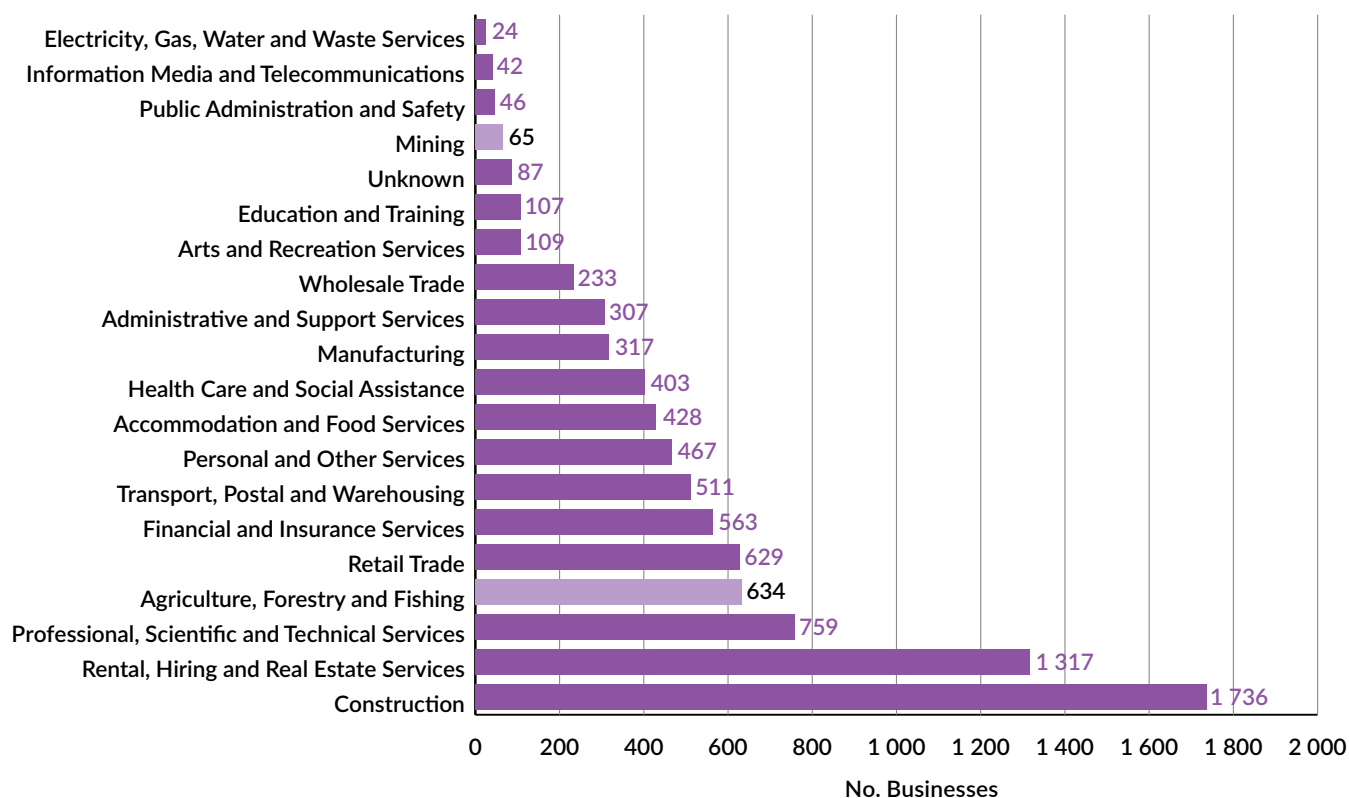


Figure 3.2. Number of Northern Territory businesses by sector, June 2012-2016⁸

⁸ Source: ABS Cat. No. 8161.0 – Counts of Australian Businesses, June 2012 to June 2016

Primary Industry and Fisheries

The primary industries in the Northern Territory include cattle, other livestock (crocodiles, buffalo, horses, camels, and goats), horticulture (fruit, vegetables, turf, nursery and cut flowers) and mixed farming (field crops, hay, and forestry).

The fishing industry includes harvesting of wild catch in Territory waters, harvesting prawns in the NT Zone of the Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF), and aquaculture. The sector includes a substantial recreational fishing component generating tourism activity and lifestyle amenity.

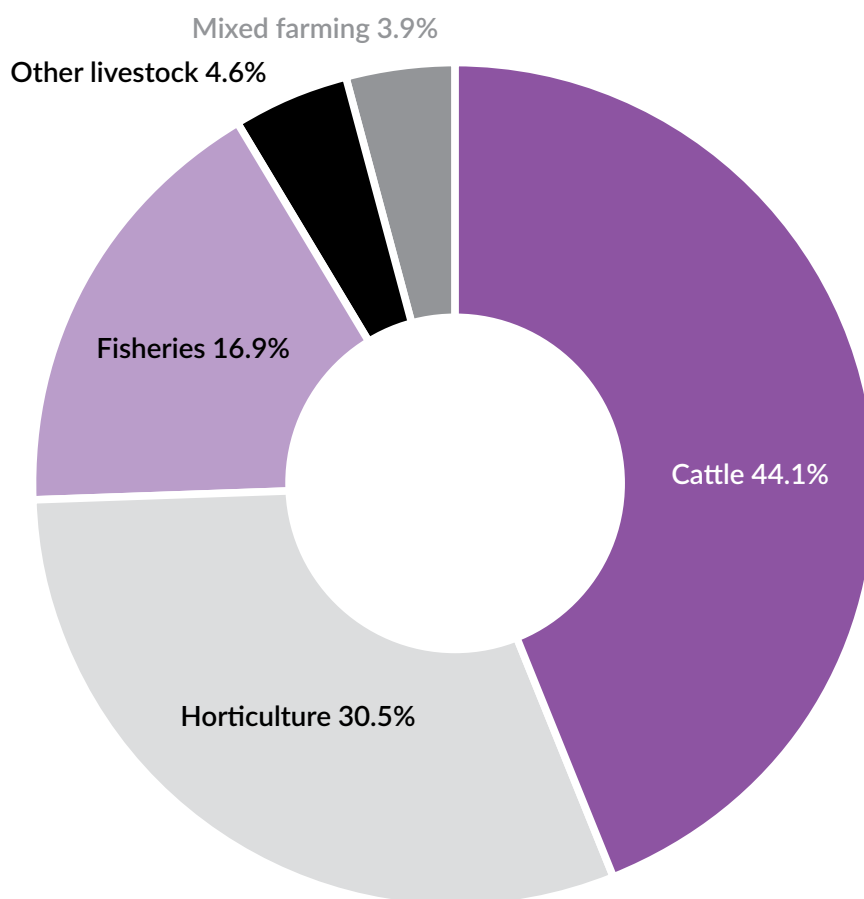


Figure 3.3. Industry contributions to total Northern Territory production value for agricultural industries, 2015-16 ⁹

In 2015-16 the department estimates the Territory agriculture, forestry and fishing sector was valued at \$736 million, which is an increase of 8.1 per cent from 2014-15. The sector is forecast to rise a further 2.8 per cent to \$756.6 million in 2016-17 due to expected increases in the cattle, fisheries and horticulture sectors.

The Territory beef cattle industry decreased in value by 5.9 per cent to \$324.4 million in 2015-16, with a 21.9 per cent decrease in the value of live cattle exports while values for interstate movement and slaughterings were up. The live export trade to

Indonesia continues to be a challenging market for exporters. Department projections indicate the Territory cattle industry will increase to \$335.6 million in 2016-17.

The horticulture industry production value increased by 23.4 per cent to \$224.5 million in 2015-16, with increased values for melons, grapes, vegetables, other fruits and nursery-cut flowers and turf. These increases were offset by a marginal decrease in mango value. The horticulture industry value is estimated to rise to \$231.2 million in 2016-17.

⁹ Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources Economic Data Collections

The fishing industry rose by 21.5 per cent to \$124.3 million in 2015-16, with increases in the value of aquaculture, wild caught fish, NPF crustaceans, mollusc and echinoderm production, while the production value of Territory crustaceans fell.

In 2015-16 other livestock output (predominately crocodile production \$29.6 million) increased 24.5 per cent to \$34 million due to increased sales of premium crocodile skins and live crocodile sales.

Mixed farming (field crops) increased in value by 17.7 per cent to \$28.8 million in 2015-16, with decreases forecast for 2016-17 to \$26 million due to a combination of no poppy production data and a smaller reported shipment of Tiwi wood chips. No seed production data was collected in 2015-16.

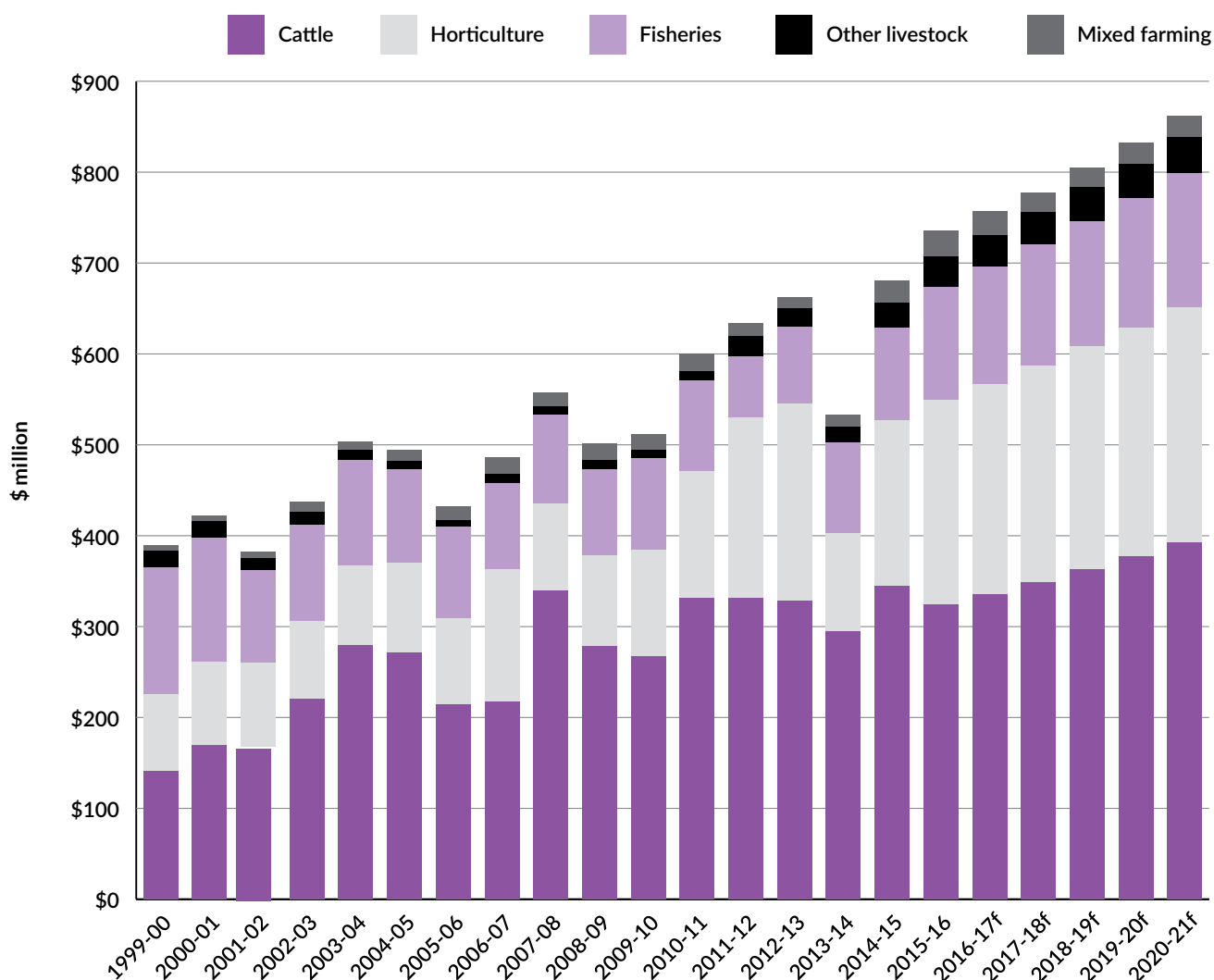


Figure 3.4. Northern Territory primary industry and fisheries value of production (f=forecast) ¹⁰

¹⁰ Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources Economic Data Collection

Resources

In 2015-16, the total value of mineral and energy production (extraction) and processing (manufacturing) was estimated to increase by 5.5 per cent to \$4 562 million before easing to 3.7 per cent in 2016-17 with modest growth forecast for 2017-18. The value of uranium production is forecast to rise to \$342 million in 2016-17.

Drivers of growth are the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) manufacturing plant at Wickham Point, condensate out of the Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA), manganese and uranium production which are expected to offset declines in oil and on-shore gas production and the end of alumina production. These estimates include the value of production from the JPDA and Blacktip gas field in the Timor Sea.

Table 3.2. Value of Northern Territory mining (minerals and energy) and manufacturing 2015-16 to 2017-18 (f = forecast) ¹¹

	Value (\$ million)		
	2015-16	2016-17 (f)	2017-18 (f)
Mining and Energy	3 614	3 721	3 810
Manganese	832	858	886
Other Minerals	543	535	542
Gold	769	751	723
Zinc / Lead concentrate	452	501	544
Total Mining	2 597	2 646	2 695
Oil	88	95	99
Gas and liquids	595	637	664
Uranium	333	342	352
Total Energy	1 017	1 075	1 116
Liquefied natural gas	948	1 008	1 042
Alumina	0	0	0
Total Manufacturing	948	1 008	1 042
Total Mining and Energy and Manufacturing	4 562	4 729	4 852

¹¹ Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources Economic Data Collections. NB Figures include Blacktip and JPDA

Budget Paper No. 3

- Key Deliverables

The department was created on 12 September 2016 by an Administrative Arrangements Order, and it is not possible to benchmark Key Performance Indicators for 2016-17 against output groups for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy in prior years. Therefore, data for 2016-17 and 2017-18 (estimate) only is provided in the table below.

Table 3.3. Performance against Key Performance Indicators in Budget Paper No. 3 and variation explanations

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2016-17 ACTUAL	2016-17 BUDGET	2017-18 BUDGET	NOTES ON VARIATIONS
Primary Industry Development				
MARKET AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT				
Enterprise and market development projects for the Territory agriculture sectors	13	13	12	
Aboriginal economic development and producer support programs	3	3	2	
PLANT INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT				
Programs that develop plant industries	19	19	19	
LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT				
Programs to support the development of the Territory livestock industry and its major markets	9	9	9	
MAJOR ECONOMIC PROJECTS				
Regional agriculture precinct development projects	0	1	1	Three precincts are under consideration, however no investment decision by private sector interests to date

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2016-17 ACTUAL	2016-17 BUDGET	2017-18 BUDGET	NOTES ON VARIATIONS
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Fisheries and Product Integrity

BIOSECURITY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

Biosecurity projects and programs that support preparedness, monitoring and responses to pest and disease incursions, animal welfare and chemical use

13

13

13

FISHERIES

Projects that facilitate Aboriginal economic development opportunities

8

8

8

Proportion of fish stocks assessed as sustainable

82%

82%

82%

Water Testing Services

Client satisfaction

90%

90%

No metrics available for 2016-17

Resource Industry Development

INDUSTRY REPORTING

Statutory industry reports and sample submissions processed

2 926

2 800

2 800

Varies depending on company decisions and cannot be accurately forecast

GEOSCIENCE AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Geoscience products developed or updated

118

115

80

Target rating for geological database FIAS¹²

10th

10th

10th

Investment attraction and promotional events

12

12

14

¹² The Fraser Institute Annual Survey (FIAS) is an annual global survey of mining companies that ranks the attractiveness of jurisdictions for exploration and mining investment

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2016-17 ACTUAL	2016-17 BUDGET	2017-18 BUDGET	NOTES ON VARIATIONS
Mining Services				
MINERAL TITLES MANAGEMENT				
Mineral exploration licences granted	851	870	850	Estimated reduction due to the continuing downturn in the exploration industry, combined with significant levels of title amalgamations.
MINING OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT				
Mine planning documents assessed	521	465	480	Increased number associated with increased number of amendments to Mining Management Plans and increased activity associated with exploration.
General inspections conducted ¹³	209	300	315	Decreased number due to increased workload and focus on assessing Mining Management Plans.
LEGACY MINES				
Number of projects	5	6	6	Deferred activities pending resolution of liability issues
Energy Services				
Energy applications assessed	55	300	100	The estimated decrease in assessments is due to operators amending Work Programs resulting in future onground activities being minimal.

¹³ Includes inspections and audits conducted by operations, legacy and environmental monitoring Excludes Rum Jungle rehabilitation site visits.

Outputs Framework - Alignment

The Industry Development Plan 2013-2017 (IDP) sets the scope and direction of the work that the department's Primary Industry Development and Fisheries and Product Integrity groups undertake ensuring the activities are relevant to the needs of industry and the community.

The Mines and Energy Strategic Plan guides the Energy Division, Mines Division and NT Geological Survey in delivering services to meet industry expectations.

The department's Corporate Plan is guided by these key primary industry and resource plans in meeting the strategic goals of the government. The IDP's four Objectives are aligned upwards to four of the department's seven Output Groups articulated in Budget Paper No. 3, and downwards with its Strategies. These relationships are illustrated below, along with activity by the divisions within those Strategies in 2016-17. The Corporate Services Divisions provide support to all business areas of the department and are therefore attributed against all Strategies.

Table 3.4. Alignment of the department's primary industries activity with Budget Paper No. 3 output groups and outcomes with IDP Objectives for 2016-17

BUDGET PAPER NO. 3		IDP OBJECTIVES			
Output Groups	Outputs	1. Profitable and productive Primary Industries	2. Optimal sustainable use of the Territory's natural resources	3. Biosecurity	4. Indigenous participation
Primary Industry Development	Market and Enterprise Development	•	•		
	Plant Industries Development	•	•	•	•
	Livestock Industries Development	•	•	•	•
	Major Economic Projects	•	•		
Fisheries and Product Integrity	Biosecurity and Animal Welfare	•	•	•	•
	Fisheries	•	•	•	•
Water Testing Services	Water Testing Services	•	•		
Corporate and Governance	Corporate and Governance	•	•	•	•

Table 3.5. Alignment of Industry Development Plan Objectives and Strategies

Objective	Strategy
1 Profitable and productive Primary Industries	1.1 Provide certainty and security to encourage investment 1.2 Facilitate continuous improvement in production quantity and quality 1.3 Expand market options for Territory products
2 Optimal sustainable use of the Territory's natural resources	2.1 Develop and promote more efficient and environmentally sound production systems 2.2 Manage the Territory's aquatic resources to benefit all Territorians
3 Biosecurity	3.1 Develop and implement an NT Biosecurity Strategy 3.2 Increase community involvement in biosecurity 3.3 Protect the reputation of the Territory as a producer of quality primary produce 3.4 Respond to biosecurity incursions
4 Indigenous participation	4.1 Support Aboriginal employment 4.2 Encourage business development

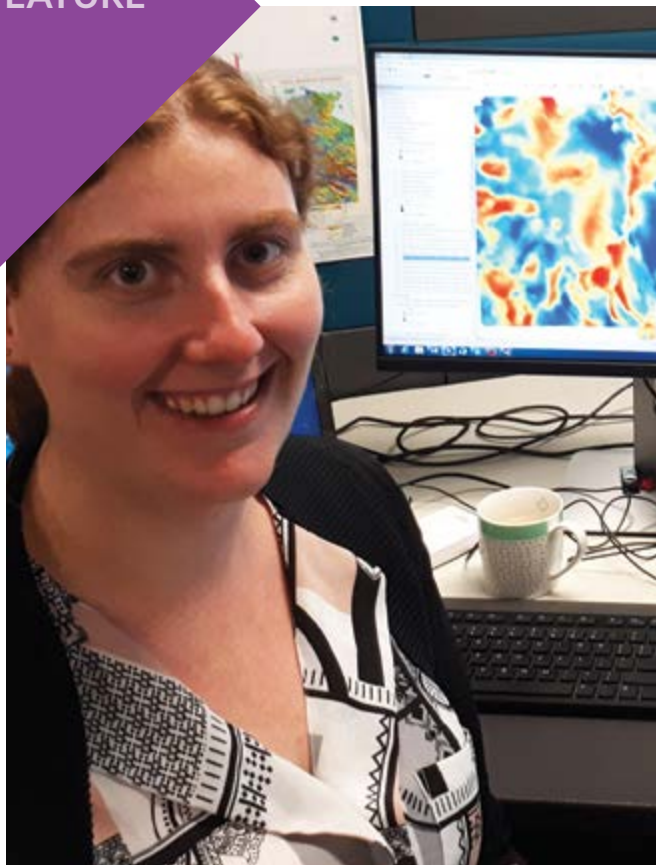


Figure 3.5. CSIRO embedded researchers Teagan Blaikie and Marcus Kunzmann involved with collaborative research with NTGS.
Photos: Tim Munson and Steen Nielson

Increasing capacity through cutting edge technology

In a first of its kind initiative, the Department of Primary Industry and Resources (DPIR) has partnered with the CSIRO to build shared capacity through an integrated partnership under the CORE (Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration) program.

A key component of the collaborative project is the integration of two post-doctorate CSIRO researchers within the NT Geological Survey (NTGS) for a three-year secondment to build a greater understanding of the base metal mineral potential in the greater McArthur Basin.

CSIRO's cutting edge technology paired with extensive NTGS geoscientific data and knowledge will allow for advanced interpretation and geoscientific modelling, producing a new understanding of the

greater McArthur Basin to be disseminated free-of-charge to the resources industry and the public.

The greater McArthur Basin is an extensive region covering approximately one third of the Territory. In this area the resource potential is poorly understood. Overcoming this exploration disincentive to build a greater understanding of the basin's architecture and evolution will make the area more attractive for exploration investment and assist industry to more effectively and

successfully target exploration activity.

This increased understanding will also provide data to guide decisions on further exploration potential into the wider Barkly Region.

The CORE program is a four year (2014-2018), \$23.8 million Northern Territory Government, exploration initiative, and is designed to maximise opportunities for the exploration and discovery of new mineral and petroleum resources.

Primary Industry Function

Primary Industry Development



Scott Wauchope | DIRECTOR MARKET AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Scott was appointed as Director Market and Enterprise Development in 2014, and works closely with industry partners to drive innovation and profitability in primary industries and fisheries.

Scott is responsible for increasing export markets for Territory agricultural commodities, supporting existing and emerging primary industry enterprises to build resilience, enabling growth and minimising risk

to investment, particularly through enterprise diversification and Aboriginal economic development.

The Market and Enterprise Development Division includes all of the research facilities (farms and stations).

Scott holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Agriculture and a Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management.

OVERVIEW

The Market and Enterprise Development Division supports industry partners to build capacity and develop new export markets for Territory produce. The division also supports the development of Aboriginal pastoral enterprises and an Aboriginal bushfoods industry.



Bob Williams | DIRECTOR PLANT INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT

Bob was appointed Director Plant Industries Development in 2010. He works with industry to build and expand the profitability and sustainability of plant industries through research, development and targeted capacity-building activities.

Bob is responsible for research, development and extension in the horticultural, agricultural and forestry sectors across the Territory. This also includes plant diagnostics (entomology,

plant pathology and molecular science) as well as technical support for the biosecurity incursions currently being managed by the department.

Bob holds a Bachelor of Applied Science.

Bob retired in February 2017 and Phil Hausler has been the Acting Director of Plant Industries Development since March 2017.

OVERVIEW

The Plant Industries Development Division works in partnership with industry to secure sustainable and profitable development across the agriculture, horticulture and forestry sectors. The major research, development and extension functions of the division focus around improving productivity and product quality, improving efficiencies and practices within the value chain to develop and maintain markets, build capacity of local producers, and strengthening business adaptability to fully capture the benefits of new technology.



Neil MacDonald | DIRECTOR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT / REGIONAL DIRECTOR KATHERINE

Neil was appointed as Director Livestock Industries Development in 2014. The Livestock Industries Development Division works with the Territory's cattle industry to increase herd productivity and to develop the industry's capacity to take advantage of improved market conditions.

He is responsible for providing research, development and extension services in the cattle and buffalo industries, rangeland management research with

a focus on maximising sustainable productivity, and technical services to the Territory's overseas markets.

Neil is based in Katherine and also holds the position of Regional Director Katherine. In this role he represents the department in the Katherine Region and oversees regional administration in Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.

Neil has degrees in zoology, tropical cattle production and biometrics.

OVERVIEW

The Livestock Industries Development Division assists the Northern Territory cattle and buffalo industries to maintain and increase their vital role in the Territory's rural economy and in the management of a large proportion of the Territory landscape. The division achieves this mainly through research, development and extension programs.



Lorraine Corowa | DIRECTOR MAJOR AGRIBUSINESS PROJECTS

Lorraine joined the department in 2010 and was appointed as Director Major Agribusiness Projects in 2014. Lorraine currently manages agribusiness investment attraction and facilitation, the Ord Stage 3 development and economic services.

Lorraine works closely with other government agencies in the areas of land development, investment facilitation and northern Australian development and administers the *Biological Resources Act*.

Lorraine has 30 years of experience in development-focused positions within the Northern Territory Government. Her previous roles in Power and Water Corporation, business and industry development, land development and regional and Indigenous economic development have provided a solid foundation for her current work facilitating agriculture development.

Lorraine has a Master of International Management and a Bachelor of Business. Lorraine serves on the NT Committee of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is a Rotarian.

OVERVIEW

The Major Agribusiness Projects Division facilitates the development of new agribusinesses in the Northern Territory by supporting the development of agricultural precincts, attracting and facilitating investment. The division also contributes to Katherine becoming an agribusiness and logistics hub and works with stakeholders to assess the viability of a new donkey industry in the Territory. The division also reports on the economic performance of the mining, oil and gas, energy, agriculture and fisheries sectors.

Fisheries and Product Integrity



Glenn Schipp | DIRECTOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

Glenn was appointed to the role of Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2014. Glenn oversees the activities of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division including aquatic resource management, Indigenous development, aquatic biosecurity, fisheries research and aquaculture industry support and development.

The objective of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, in conjunction with others, is to facilitate the development of an ecologically sustainable aquaculture industry and

to manage the optimum sustainable utilisation of the Territory's aquatic resources.

Glenn is responsible for administration of the *Fisheries Act* which recently underwent significant reforms to introduce compliance powers for Aboriginal marine rangers, strengthen its biosecurity powers and to streamline the licensing processes for industry.

Glenn has a Masters in Applied Science (Aquaculture) and a Bachelor Degree in Zoology and Biochemistry.

OVERVIEW

The Fisheries and Aquaculture Division works in partnership with Aboriginal, commercial, recreational, fishing tourism, aquaculture and conservation stakeholders and partners to deliver strategic programs and services in order to enhance the sustainable development of the Territory's fisheries resources. The division's management programs are underpinned by quality scientific research and sound public policy.



Michelle Rodan | DIRECTOR BIOSECURITY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

Michelle was appointed to the position of Director Biosecurity and Animal Welfare in March 2016. Michelle's focus is to enhance the sustainability of the northern Australian plant and livestock industries by working with stakeholders to ensure national biosecurity and animal welfare obligations are met, to enhance market access and economic development.

Michelle has over 30 years of experience in biosecurity in primary industries and was previously the Director of Livestock Biosecurity in the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food, and Chief Veterinary Officer of Western Australia.

The Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Division is principally a regulatory area and Michelle's responsibilities include administration of the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act*, *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Northern Territory) Act*, *Animal Welfare Act*, *Biological Control Act*, *Livestock Act*, *Meat Industries Act*, *Plant Health Act* and *Veterinarians Act*.

Michelle represents the Northern Territory on the National Biosecurity Committee and the Agriculture and Veterinary Chemical Task Group.

Michelle has a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, Bachelor of Science and Diploma in Project Management.

OVERVIEW

Biosecurity protects the economy, environment and community from negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds that could otherwise cause serious damage. Safeguarding our biosecurity is vital for the ongoing health, wellbeing and prosperity of the Territory. In addition, the Animal Welfare Branch supports the department to improve the welfare of animals across the Territory through administration of the *Animal Welfare Act*.

Industry Development Plan - Performance

The department's performance against the IDP Strategies is reported in the list below for the Primary Industry Development and Fisheries and Product Integrity business areas. Reference numbers in brackets at the end of each activity relate it to the specific Key Actions in the IDP reflecting activity at the local, regional, Territory-wide and international levels.

Legend:

- B** – Biosecurity and Animal Welfare
- D** – Departmental Strategic Services
- E** – Major Agribusiness Projects
- F** – Fisheries and Aquaculture
- L** – Livestock Industries Development
- M** – Market and Enterprise Development
- P** – Plant Industries Development

Objective 1 - Profitable and productive primary industries

STRATEGY 1.1. PROVIDE CERTAINTY AND SECURITY TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT

B	Maintained the Veterinary Board and associated legislation. The Territory has 274 registered veterinarians, with 127 holding primary registration, four specialists and 143 secondary registration (1.1.2)
B	Finalised an Animal Welfare Protection Bill to align with Territory and national regulatory frameworks and policies, for government consideration in 2017-18 (1.1.2/2.1.2)
B	Implemented animal welfare Standard Operating Procedures in relation to prosecutions and provided recommendations on policy and industry standards for acceptance under the <i>Animal Welfare Act</i> (1.1.2/2.1.2)
D	Established a cattle dip testing service, through purchase of equipment and training of staff in 2016-17 (1.1.1)
E	Continued facilitation of the Ord Stage 3 agricultural precinct development project including stakeholder engagement and intergovernmental liaison (1.1.5)
E	Progressed discussions with the Western Australian Government regarding an intergovernmental agreement on water regulations for the Ord Stage 3 development (1.1.5)
E	Commenced a collaborative study with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on ground water and salinity in Ord Stage 3 agricultural zone (1.1.5)
E	Worked with the NT Cattlemen's Association to develop investment information for the pastoral sector (1.1.7)
E	Provided informative responses to enquiries from 40 parties interested in establishing donkey farming and/or processing in the Territory (1.1.8)
E	Completed and published Annual Outlook economic data online, including annual production statistics for Territory primary industries and fisheries sectors (1.1.8)
E	Facilitated a collaborative agreement with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to target investment in the Territory for supply into South East Asian markets (1.1.10)
E	Continued work with local, interstate and international investors to match investment opportunity with investor interest in the Territory agribusiness sector (1.1.10)

E	Facilitated investor delegations from China, Philippines, Japan and Indonesia interested in primary industry and fisheries investment (1.1.10)
E	Developed gross margin information to support decision-making processes for prospective investors in donkey farming (1.1.10)
F	Updated <i>Fisheries Act</i> passed by Parliament and implemented on 1 January 2017 (1.1.1/1.1.2)
F	Updated Fisheries Regulations passed by Executive Council and implemented on 1 January 2017 (1.1.1/1.1.2)
F	Reviewed management arrangements for priority fisheries including Mud Crab, Coastal Line, and Offshore Net and Line fisheries (1.1.1)
F	Held all scheduled meetings and consultations with Aboriginal communities and the Fisheries Management Advisory Committees (1.1.2/4.2.2)
F	Prepared the NT Aquaculture Investment Strategy, to be finalised after feedback from industry (1.1.10)
L	Continued to provide technical advice related to the assessment of native vegetation clearing applications to agencies involved in approvals processes (1.1.4)
L	Supported Territory pastoralists to source investors and diversify pastoral lease activities (1.1.7)
L	Implemented a follow-up coaching program to the NutritionEDGE workshop to assist producers to undertake cost-benefit analysis of priority scenarios (1.1.9)
L	Continued to deliver training in the use of Breedcow and Dynama software (a herd budgeting package) (1.1.9)
M	Participated in the organising committee for the Food Futures Conference in 2018 in collaboration with the NT Farmers Association (1.1.1/1.2.2/1.2.3/2.1.1)
M	Collaborated with the NT Land Corporation to identify new land releases for agribusiness investment including Wildman River and Gunn Point (1.1.4)
M	Participated in the review of the Intergovernmental agreement on drought policy (1.1.9)
M	Continued to facilitate the delivery of Rural Financial Counselling Services in the NT, with agreement to extend the program to 30 June 2019 (1.1.9)
M	Finalised payments for seven recipients of the NT Government Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus Subsidised Interest Rate Scheme (1.1.9)
M	Worked with the Australian Government to implement the transitional Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme in 2016-17, continuing to work on the new 10-year program identified in the Australian Government's Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper (1.1.9)
M	Worked with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to develop a Katherine agribusiness and logistics hub (1.1.10)
P	Contributed to a CSIRO-led project to determine the commercial viability of agricultural opportunities, including irrigated agriculture, horticulture and forestry, in the Darwin Regional Assessment Area, in the North Australia Water Resource project (1.2.1)
P	Contributed information to update crop water requirements for the Darwin Water Control District for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) licensing of groundwater under the <i>Water Act</i> (1.2.1)
P	Contributed to the DENR-led project to update land use mapping to achieve improved biosecurity outcomes across the Territory, and communicated this to industry (1.2.1)
P	Contributed to DENR land suitability reporting with potential plant industries identifying land suitable in the Larrimah, Wildman, Ti Tree, Wadeye, and Gunn Point regions (1.2.1)
P	Provided plant diseases diagnostics service for free on samples provided by growers, nurseries, householders and other stakeholders (1.2.1)

STRATEGY 1.2. FACILITATE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN PRODUCTION QUANTITY AND QUALITY

F	Leased out Darwin Aquaculture Centre facilities to industry clients to facilitate research and development (1.2.1)
F	Digitised relevant historical research reports to enable online use (1.2.3)
F	Published Fisheries Technical Report 116, <i>A shellfish safety scoping water quality study for Warruwi, South Goulburn Island</i> (1.2.3)
L	Investigated additional market options for Territory cattle by crossbreeding Brahman cows with Senepol bulls to improve carcass quality while maintaining resilience to NT conditions. Phase 1 (Steer performance and meat quality) has been completed. Phase 2 (Female performance) is on-going (1.2.1)
L	Continued the long-running project on performance comparisons between Composite and Brahman cattle herds to determine the potential profitability of Territory beef enterprises with the use of Multibreed Composite cattle (1.2.1)
L	Continued the ongoing Brahman fertility project in Katherine, Kidman Springs and Douglas Daly with musters in May and September. Surplus bulls and heifers were sold to the Territory industry injecting superior genetics to improve Brahman fertility (1.2.1)
L	Developed a project proposal under the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia targeting sustainable irrigation farming systems using off stream water harvest (1.2.1)
L	Collected data to investigate the benefits of phosphorus supplementation on the reproductive performance of young breeding cattle (1.2.1)
L	Continued research on breeding and management practices to improve buffalo production (1.2.1)
L	Collected data for a collaborative study with University of New England and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to genotype fertility traits with the aim of increasing the accuracy of fertility estimated breeding values (1.2.1)
L	Completed studies assessing the likely impact of different management interventions to reduce foetal and calf loss in beef herds (1.2.1)
L	Completed Phase 1 of a study assessing the impacts of wild dogs on beef herds in the NT (1.2.1)
L	Provided extension services to the livestock industry to ensure that new entrants are able to access the information required to adapt to Territory conditions (1.2.2)
L	Final report submitted on the effect of weaning size, feed requirements and post-weaning growth rate in heifers (1.2.2)
L	Completed trials on the effectiveness of using insecticidal fly tags to prevent three day sickness in cattle, and evaluating a new insecticidal fly tag with a different active ingredient (1.2.2)
L	Completed trials on the effectiveness of a single-shot vaccination program to protect cattle against Clostridial diseases (1.2.2)
L	Completed Phase 1 of research into cost-effective measures for adding weight to cull cows looking at floodplain and feedlot options to supply animals to the Darwin abattoir (1.2.2)
L	Delivered a Grazing Land Management EDGE workshop to cattle producers in the Barkly region (1.2.3)
L	Completed a comprehensive technical manual for buffalo producers (1.2.3)
L	Reviewed and published livestock disease control and livestock endemic disease management extension information on the new NTG website (1.2.3)
L	Continued to provide potential stakeholders with information about livestock production opportunities in the Territory (1.2.3)

L	Produced four editions of the Quarterly Feed Advisory Bulletin for the pastoral industry available from the department's website and via targeted circulation (1.2.3)
L	Implemented a pilot whole-of-business decision-making livestock producer demonstration project, with six livestock businesses participating (1.2.5)
L	Drafted a technical guide outlining livestock profitability scenario modelling for various options e.g. improved pastures and liveweight gain for Katherine (1.2.5)
L	Completed the second year of the major project to develop a clearer understanding of the long-term effects of phosphorus deficiency in cattle and the benefit to cost ratio of supplementation (1.2.5)
M	Development of an agri-innovation project plan for Plant Industries Development (1.2.1/1.2.2/1.2.3/1.2.4/1.2.5/2.1.1)
M	Worked with the Australian Government to establish the new Developing Northern Australia Cooperative Research Centre (1.2.2)
M	Completed research funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia to understand and mitigate the aggregative behavior of the magpie goose on mango orchards in the NT (1.2.3/1.2.5/2.1.1/2.1.2)
M	Commenced investigation of technology to reduce the costs and complexity of establishing 'Judas' animals to enhance adoption of the technique in pest management regimes (1.2.3/1.2.5/2.1.1/2.1.2)
M	Completed a feasibility study of the viability of commercial harvesting of agile wallabies in the Territory, funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (1.2.5/2.1.1/2.1.2/2.1.1)
P	Completed research to develop best management guidelines for use of soil nitrous oxide emissions associated with nitrogen fertilisers in key plant industries and communicated this to industry (1.2.3)
P	Commenced industry-led research to optimise production value from mahogany plantations (1.2.3)
P	Established the second round of passionfruit hybrids at Coastal Plains Research Farm. Superior germplasm was selected complementing the advanced hybrid selections and the commercialisation of elite passionfruit genetic material for the hot monsoonal tropics (1.2.1)
P	Early quantification of key economic parameters such as yield and growth achieved from novel high density rambutan orchard system (1.2.1)
P	Continued advanced jackfruit selections made and established for industry evaluation and assessment (1.2.1)
P	Contributed a major role in the national banana Panama Disease research and development program that has led to involvement in two major Horticulture Innovation Australia projects (1.2.1)
P	Advanced integrated mixed farm production systems to compliment and diversify pastoral enterprises including introduction of improved pasture, hay and field crops (1.2.1)
P	Investigated opportunities to develop an irrigated pasture seed industry in the NT (1.2.1)
P	Analysis and write up of the project on hard mature mango as a non-fruit fly host and presentation of the results at the 11th Australia Mango Conference including participation in a panel discussion on market access (1.2.1)
P	Collaborated with Plant and Food Research, New Zealand to develop a synthetic pheromone for the mango fruit borer, <i>Citripestis eutraphera</i> (1.2.1)
P	Participated in the Agricultural Centre for International Agricultural Research funded Cambodia and Northern Territory mango project (1.2.1)

P	Conducted studies on honey bees to determine whether they can transmit Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (1.2.1)
P	Conducted research on alternative pollinators for a range of crops (1.2.1)
P	Provided in field advice and training on the control of giant northern termites (<i>Mastotermes darwiniensis</i>) in mangoes and sandalwood (1.2.1)
P	Provided information about plant diseases management to stakeholders (1.2.1)
P	Detected one new plant pathogen for the Northern Territory and two new plant pathogens nationally (1.2.1)
P	Collaborative project between the department and NT Farmers Association, funded by Landcare, demonstrated integrated pest management strategies on vegetables to growers in the Darwin area (1.2.1/1.2.3)
P	Maintained the NT Economic Insect Reference Collection (NTEIRC) which currently has 51 000 accessions, all fully databased (1.2.1)
P	Provided a diagnostic entomology and advisory service to government, industry and the public (1.2.1)
P	Provided advice to industry through publications (agnotes, etc), extension visits and telephone and email contact (1.2.3)
P	Confirmed specific chemical capability of inducing mango flowering under non-inductive weather conditions (1.2.3)
P	Improved definition of sentinel temperatures for mango flower induction for use in mango orchard management (1.2.3)
P	Applied ionic diagnosis to characterise mango nutrient status as a basis for understanding nutrient interaction (1.2.3)
P	Demonstrated the capacity of strategic tip pruning to modify mango fruit maturity and flowering behaviour in Katherine (1.2.3)
P	Progress made towards understanding the molecular basis of mango flower induction in chemically induced and temperature induced flowering (1.2.3)
P	Trials conducted to evaluate remote sensing technologies to predict mango crop variability within orchards (1.2.3)
P	Produced a digital map of current Territory mango orchards and provided to industry and research partners (1.2.3)
P	Supported the adoption of near infrared spectroscopy to non-destructively predict mango maturity (1.2.3)

STRATEGY 1.3. EXPAND MARKET OPTIONS FOR TERRITORY PRODUCTS

B	Provided regulation of NT meat production to national standards, through extension, licensing and audit activities. A draft Memorandum of Understanding was developed with the Environmental Health Unit (1.3.4)
B	Undertook audits of facilities and processes to ensure meat hygiene rules and standards were maintained (1.3.4/1.1.2)
B	Development and publication on DPIR website of Meat Hygiene Standards (1.3.4)
F	Finalised testing requirements for oysters at Waruwi, South Goulburn Island, to meet Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance guidelines, allowing them to be sold for human consumption (1.3.2)

L	Continued a major project assisting importation of breeding cows to East Kalimantan province in Indonesia (1.3.1)
L	Completed a Central Australian Quality Graze Producer Steer Challenge to assess and compare steer performance and access to premium markets. A quarter of Central Australian producers participated and quarterly update reports were published on a website established for participants to follow progress (1.3.1)
L	Completed fieldwork investigating the advantages of the cell grazing system over continuous grazing to soil carbon sequestration, and animal and pasture production at the Douglas Daly Research Farm (1.3.3)
L	Developed an information package on regulatory requirements for prospective and existing abattoirs, and conducted inspections (1.3.4/1.1.1)
M	Participated in national trade and market access working groups including Horticulture Innovation Australia's Trade and Market Prioritisation working group and the Australian Government's Primary Industry Technical Market Access and Trade Development working group to ensure Territory commodities are on the national agenda and assist with market development opportunities (1.3.1)
M	Coordinated inbound delegations including from China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines, and outbound delegations to China and Indonesia to strengthen existing relations, explore trade opportunities for agricultural commodities and to promote the Territory as a supplier of choice for live cattle and buffalo (1.3.1)
M	Managed a visit by a Singaporean importer facilitating introductions and visits to Territory mango and melon producers and associated logistics providers (1.3.1)
M	Participated on the Committee of Northern Australia Agriculture Ministers' Senior Leaders Working Group to progress the Northern Australia Beef Industry Roundtable workplan priorities (1.3.1)
M	Provided technical support to the mango industry in gaining access to the USA market resulting in an increase in shipments of Territory mangoes to the USA from five tonnes to 81 tonnes and four Territory growers being approved to export to the USA (1.3.1/1.3.2)
M	Continued to support the mango industry to obtain improved maximum residue limits in important potential markets for a fungicide registered in Australia (1.3.2)
P	Established a mango trial at Ali Curung using National Mango Breeding Program Cultivars (1.3.1)
P	Evaluated potential horticultural commodities for Central Australia, including garlic, asparagus, lucerne, quinoa, and rockmelon (1.3.1)

Objective 2 - Optimal sustainable use of the Territory's natural resources

STRATEGY 2.1. DEVELOP AND PROMOTE MORE EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

B	Administered the <i>Animal Welfare Act</i> and associated regulations. Investigated 525 animal welfare complaints with a range of compliance activities undertaken. Seven successful prosecutions were undertaken (2.1.2)
B	Engaged the livestock industry on the development and enactment of Animal Welfare Codes, Standards and Guidelines to promote best practice animal welfare outcomes. Regulations for Land Transport Standards completed and regulations for cattle welfare standards under development. Two infringements were issued (2.1.2)

B	Delivered animal welfare police education sessions to align best practice within government (2.1.2)
B	Administered the scientific licensing legislation and issued 34 licence renewals and eight new licences for the use of premises for teaching and research involving animals (2.1.2)
B	Administered \$200 000 in Animal Welfare Grants awarded to eligible organisations (2.1.2)
B	Provided community education in relation to animal welfare through participating in the regional Show Circuit, Million Paws Walk, Pet Expo and other relevant community events and industry meetings (2.1.2)
F	Introduced electronic monitoring to the Trepang Fishery (2.1.1)
F	Collected independent catch data in all key fisheries using on-board observers (2.1.1)
F	Trialled the use of electronic reporting of catch and effort data in several key fisheries (2.1.1)
F	Undertook monthly surveys of coastal reef fish at six sites to assess the impacts of reef protection zones (2.1.1)
F	Completed scientific monitoring of the catch, and assessed impacts of the use of trawl gear, in the Timor Reef Fishery (2.1.1)
F	Undertook monitoring of mud crabs from the Gulf of Carpentaria and Bynoe Harbour (2.1.1)
F	Conducted an Ecological Risk Assessment of the offshore snapper fisheries (2.1.1)
F	Completed seasonal sampling of the Daly, Mary, Roper and McArthur river systems to determine any linkages between floodplain inundation and mercury levels in aquatic food systems (2.1.4)
L	Collected data for a project comparing the performance of cattle under intensive rotational grazing and set stocking grazing systems at Douglas Daly Research Farm (2.1.1)
L	Completed data collection and analysis for trials on identification of improved grazing and burning practices for sustainable management of native pastures at Beetaloo and Delamere stations (2.1.3)
L	Completed annual data collection for the Alexandria Station site grazing trial (2.1.3)
L	Carried out annual data collection and analysis for pasture sustainability project at Victoria River Research Station (Kidman Springs) (2.1.3)
L	Conducted a land condition and carrying capacity assessment of Victoria River Research Station (Kidman Springs) (2.1.3)
L	Completed biannual fieldwork for the Victoria River Research Station long-term fire trial: Shruburn (2.1.3)
L	Completed the Precision Pastoral Management system project to support pastoralists in improving the efficiency of their enterprises (2.1.3)
L	Carried out objective carrying capacity estimates for station development, subdivision of pastoral leases, and new pastoral enterprises (2.1.3)
M	Participated in discussions to scope the development of a winged vertebrate cooperative research centre for tropical Australia (2.1.1/2.1.2)
M	Participated as a member of the organising committee for the Australia-Pacific Extension Network International Conference being held in September 2017 (2.1.1)
M	Participated in two Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation -convened meetings to develop resources for extension practitioners at the national level (2.1.4)

STRATEGY 2.2. MANAGE THE TERRITORY'S AQUATIC RESOURCES TO BENEFIT ALL TERRITORIANS

F	Completed the annual Northern Territory Fish Stock Status reporting for 12 species from eight fisheries (2.2.1)
F	Completed sediment sampling around Darwin Harbour for the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2.2.1)
F	Implemented new management arrangements to protect and encourage effective and efficient use of coastal reef stocks (2.2.1)
F	Published the Reef Fish Stock Structure Report (2.2.1)
F	Supported the Mud Crab, Trepang and Spanish Mackerel fisheries to gain 10 year export accreditation under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> (2.2.3)
F	Negotiated with Northern Land Council and other stakeholders on access to the intertidal zone to benefit remote Aboriginal communities and provide access for commercial and recreational fishers (2.2.3)
F	Amended the boundaries of a trawl zone in the Demersal Fishery to reduce interactions with the recreational sector (2.2.3)
F	Released 110 000 barramundi fingerlings into Manton Dam (2.2.3)
F	Commenced first tranche of projects under the \$50 million recreational fishing infrastructure fund (2.2.3)

Objective 3 - Biosecurity**STRATEGY 3.1. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN NT BIOSECURITY STRATEGY**

B	Finalised the Northern Territory Biosecurity Strategy 2016-2026 for launch in July 2017. Developed biosecurity discussion papers for the NT Economic Development Framework (3.1.1)
B	Provided the Northern Territory Response to the review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity and National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (3.1.1)
B	Represented the Territory on local and national committees to ensure Territory industry and stakeholders interests are adequately incorporated into local and national arrangements, including National Biosecurity Committee, Animal Health Committee, Plant Health Committee, Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia (3.1.1)
F	Continued active involvement in the national management of aquatic biosecurity, including providing assistance to the Queensland prawn white spot disease response (3.1.1)
F	Assisted with the finalisation of the national guidelines on the management of domestic ballast water (3.1.1)

STRATEGY 3.2. INCREASE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN BIOSECURITY

B	Biosecurity stakeholder roundtables held in Darwin in July 2016 and June 2017 to enhance engagement on key biosecurity issues (3.2.1)
B	Provided communications around biosecurity responses to Banana Freckle, Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus and Browsing Ant (3.2.1)
B	Enhanced and updated the Bovine Johne's Disease information on regulations and control measures (3.2.2)

- | | |
|----------|---|
| B | Maintained effective Territory-wide plant and animal disease surveillance and investigation systems (3.2.2) |
| F | Implemented 'Don't dump your fish' public awareness campaign (3.2.3) |

STRATEGY 3.3. PROTECT THE REPUTATION OF THE TERRITORY AS A PRODUCER OF QUALITY PRIMARY PRODUCE

- | | |
|----------|--|
| B | Fulfilled national surveillance obligations for plants and animals to underpin and enhance Australia's claims of freedom for international and domestic market access (3.3.1) |
| B | Administered the activities of the NT cattle tick control program with 781 property visits to inspect, treat and certify 86 991 head of livestock for movement out of the control area (3.3.1) |
| B | Maintained an effective traceability system to ensure both domestic and international trading partners have whole-of-life traceability for product for market access and enable rapid resolution of any disease or chemical residue incident and resumption of market access. Compliance remained at approximately 96 per cent, 138 audits were conducted and 37 non compliances were identified and addressed. Two hundred new property identification codes were registered in 2016-17 (3.3.1) |
| B | Collaborated on the National Bee Code of Practice (3.3.1) |
| B | Provided Aquatic Animal Health diagnostic and health certification services to industry to enhance markets (3.3.1) |
| B | Secured funding agreements through the Northern Australian Biosecurity White Paper to enhance diagnostics, technical capacity and animal and plant surveillance (3.3.1) |
| B | Worked with NT Farmers Association to implement on-farm biosecurity protocols for Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus to enhance melon and cucurbit production (3.3.1) |
| B | Supported the Live Export Program by providing 179 animal health certifications to enable verification of international trade protocols (3.3.1) |
| B | Achieved a high Interstate Certification Assurance compliance rate with 98 per cent of businesses compliant and all non-compliance rectified. Undertook 45 Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) inspections and 143 market access visits (non-ICA) (3.3.1/3.3.2) |
| B | Livestock Regulations reviewed and amendments to schedule for NT entry conditions for livestock finalised and published on NTG website (3.3.1) |
| B | Provided regulation of Territory produce exported to interstate markets with all interstate quarantine requirements met, including no incidents, crop contamination or poor certification (3.3.2) |
| B | Fulfilled the Territory's responsibilities under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Government to investigate and manage residue trace backs to underpin food safety standards (3.3.2) |
| B | Continued monitoring and auditing of the use of agricultural chemicals. The Chemical Regulation Branch issued 63 permits for use of 1080, 10 Bait Injector authorisations, 100 S7 authorisations and 39 Aerial, Pilot Ground and Professional Business Licences (3.3.2) |
| B | Participated in the National Agricultural and Veterinary Task Group on harmonising training standards, licensing and access to chemicals (3.3.2) |
| P | Commenced investigating biological control options for Mango Leaf Hopper as an alternative to pesticides, and continued trials on alternative timing of new fungicide for the control of Mango Stem End Rot (3.3.1) |

-
- P** Continued research activities into the management of Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) including weeds, non-crops, and the involvement of honey bees in spreading the virus (3.3.1)

STRATEGY 3.4. RESPOND TO BIOSECURITY INCURSIONS

-
- B** Progressed amendments to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement and Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and participated in the development of the Aquatic Deed (3.4.1)
-
- B** Coordinated training in Alice Springs and Darwin to enhance emergency disease preparedness throughout the private veterinarian network (3.4.1)
-
- B** Maintained interstate livestock market access with no major livestock disease incursions or welfare incidents (3.4.1)
-
- B** Participated in emergency preparedness for *Xylella fastidiosa* incursion with presentations from international experts (3.4.1)
-
- B** Participated in the Consultative Committees on Emergency Plant Pests in relation to Tomato Potato Psyllid (TPP), Banana Freckle, Giant Pine Scale, Exotic Fruit Flies, Chestnut Blight, Russian Wheat Aphid, Khapra Beetle, Dickeya, and provided input through the Tramp Ant Consultative Committee into electric ants, red imported fire ants, browsing ant, and through the Animal Health Committee into white spot in prawns (3.4.1)
-
- B** Continued the inspection and treatment program for internationally-travelled vessels to monitor the establishment of marine pests in Darwin marinas. No pests established during 2016-17 (3.4.1)
-
- B** Managed the national cost-shared National Banana Freckle Eradication Program and secured additional funding to enable proof of freedom to be progressed in 2017-18. Secured national agreement to remove internal movement restrictions to enhance the recovery of the NT banana industry (3.4.2)
-
- B** Managed the National Browsing Ant cost-shared program and secured national agreement that Browsing Ant remains feasible to eradicate from Australia (3.4.2)
-
- B** Emergency Animal Disease exclusions were conducted on 271 livestock disease investigations (194 by government vets and 77 by private veterinarians) were conducted to rule out emergency diseases or investigate suspect notifiable diseases (3.4.2)
-
- B** Surveillance for high priority plant pests and diseases was undertaken on 176 properties across the Territory (3.4.2)
-
- B** Surveillance under the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program resulted in the revision of the Blue Tongue Free zone. Collected and tested samples and reported results from sentinel and sero-survey sites for the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (3.4.2)
-
- B** Responded to the incursion of Queensland Fruit fly at Ti Tree. The response remains on track for successful eradication which will enhance market access for the region (3.4.2)
-
- D** Continued monthly surveillance for flavivirus activity on behalf of the NT Department of Health (3.4.2)
-
- D** Assessed and audited the vaccine cold chain management in Timor-Leste for effective storage and transport of vaccines for Newcastle Disease in poultry (3.4.2)
-
- D** Collected and tested samples and reported results from eight sentinel and nine serosurvey sites for the National Arbovirus Monitoring Program (3.4.2)
-
- D** Established a cattle sentinel herd in Timor-Leste and commenced blood collections and associated vector trapping (3.4.2)
-

D	Continued the National Arbovirus Monitoring program at Beatrice Hill and Berrimah farms (3.4.2)
F	Maintained monitoring program across Territory coastal areas of high vessel traffic for early detection of marine pests. Collaborated with other jurisdictions in the development of novel techniques for the early detection of marine pests (3.4.1)
F	Inspected marine debris, several ghost nets, a foreign fishing vessel, several 'fishing aggregation devices' and an abandoned raft that floated in from overseas with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (3.4.1)
F	Successfully eliminated a pest fish (Gambusia) from a dam in the Darwin region (3.4.1)
P	Plant Industries participated in National Plant Pest Proficiency testing through the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics with successful outcomes. Participation works towards continued high level diagnostic service capabilities in preparedness for any biosecurity incursions (3.4.1)
P	Maintained a high level of plant health diagnostic proficiency by participating nationally in the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics, National Plant Health Proficiency Testing Program, Modern Diagnostics Project, National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostics Network, Annual Diagnosticians Workshop and diagnostic training through laboratory workshops (3.4.1)
P	Identified 6 126 entomological samples for industry and biosecurity, including positive identification of invasive pest ant species (5 995), fruit flies (56), and suspected screw worm fly larvae (4—all negative), tomato potato psyllid samples (2 negative) and others (3.4.2)

Objective 4 - Indigenous participation

STRATEGY 4.1. SUPPORT ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT

F	Delivered two nationally accredited training courses for Aboriginal Marine Rangers (4.1.1)
F	Partnered with the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation to deliver business management training to support Aboriginal participation in the seafood industry (4.1.2)
F	Employed and provided professional development for four Aboriginal apprentices across three facilities, developing skills in horticulture, agriculture and laboratories (4.1.2)
F	Utilised the skills of Aboriginal Marine Ranger groups and two Aboriginal apprentices in Borroloola and Maningrida to collect biological samples of barramundi and participate in monitoring of mud crab stocks (4.1.4)
P	Supported Aboriginal community forestry projects in the East Arnhem region with technical advice and support for research grant applications (4.1.1)

STRATEGY 4.2. ENCOURAGE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

F	Renewed ranger development agreements for all ranger grants including seven current Blue Mud Bay contracts (4.2.2)
F	Engaged with the Department of Local Government and Community Services and Bawinanga Corporation in Maningrida to appoint Indigenous Animal Welfare Inspectors (4.2.2)
F	Established sites for oyster and giant clam production in Aboriginal communities (4.2.3)
F	Fishing mentoring program assisted Aboriginal licence holders to increase catches and sell product in local communities (4.2.3)
L	Provided technical assistance to the Indigenous Pastoral Program and other Aboriginal pastoral enterprises and proposals, and commenced several new projects in areas not previously used for modern cattle operations (4.2.1)

L	Provided tailored extension services and support to 25 Aboriginal-owned pastoral enterprises across the Territory (4.2.1)
M	Facilitated a NT and South Australia industry study tour, under the NT and SA Governments' Memorandum of Understanding to visit key horticulture and bush food producers in SA to showcase established production systems, share learnings and foster collaboration in the bush food industries (4.2.1)
M	Contributed to the organising and running of workshops and low stress stock handling courses, chemical handling, wild dog bait training and mentoring activities for Aboriginal enterprises (4.2.3)
M	Continued to work with 25 Aboriginal pastoral enterprises to access new technologies and production systems supporting the turn off of 30 000 head of cattle, generating significant revenue for re-investment (4.2.3)
M	Supported Aboriginal pastoral enterprises with feral animal control, natural resource audits, weed surveys, land condition assessments and land management plans (4.2.3)
M	Provided support to Aboriginal pastoral landholders to apply, receive and project manage \$700 000 of funding from government and non-government agencies for pastoral infrastructure, business diversification and land management activities and employment for 20 Aboriginal people (4.2.3)
M	Facilitated a 'buying and selling bush foods' industry workshop on-country in Utopia in collaboration with Aboriginal harvesters, Central Land Council and industry stakeholders to discuss the current supply chain and future direction of the industry (4.2.3)
M	Collaborated with the SA Government in the NT/SA Growing the Native Food Industry Steering Committee to guide the regional economic development of the native foods industry (4.2.3)
P	Provided objective carrying capacity estimates for station development, subdivision of pastoral leases, and new pastoral enterprises with a focus on Aboriginal land (4.2.1)
P	Engaged with a horticultural agribusiness to broaden and strengthen its capacity to employ Aboriginal staff (4.2.3)

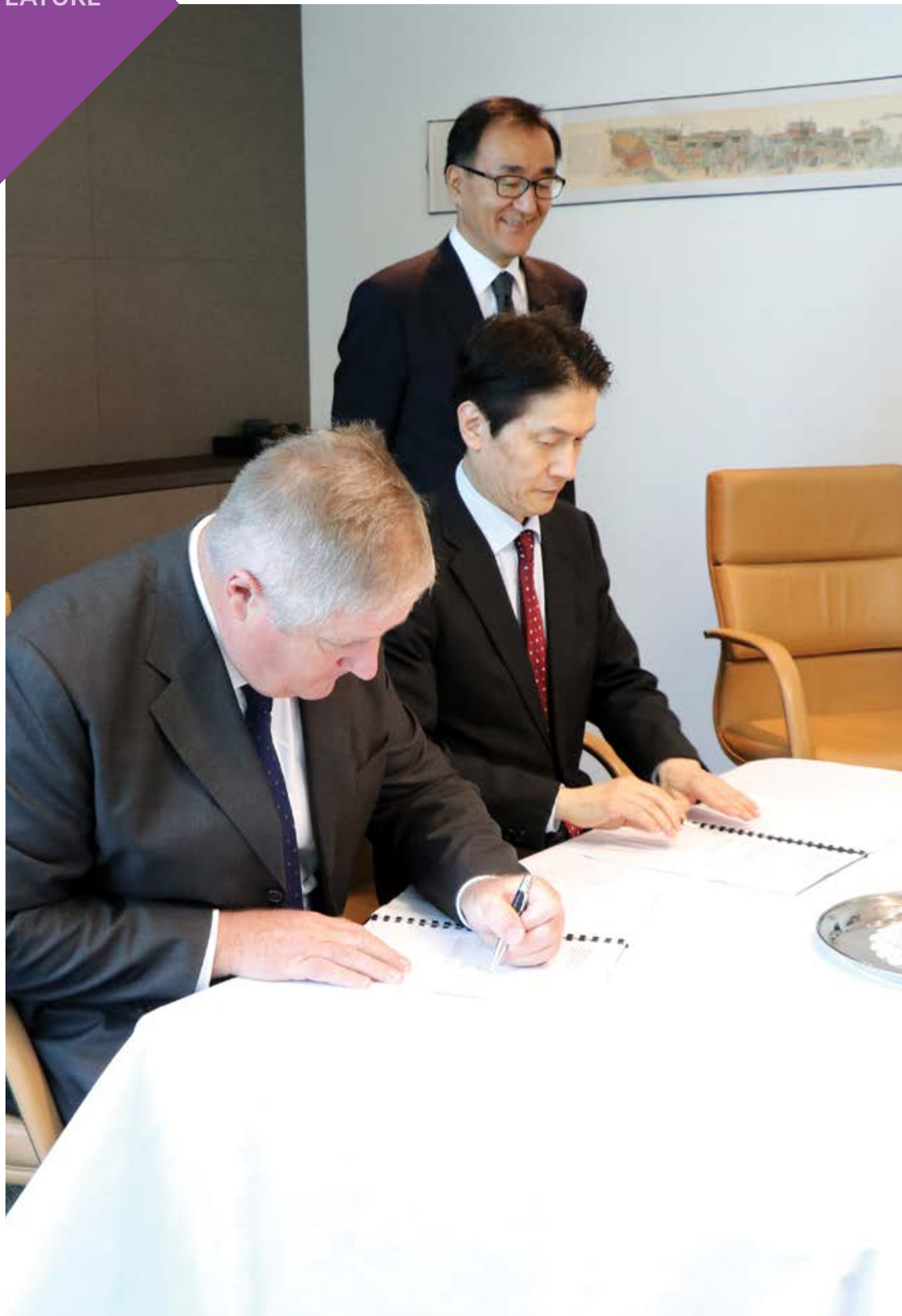


Figure 3.6 Memorandum of Cooperation signing. Photo: Lorraine Corowa

International collaboration strengthening agriculture and aquaculture in the Territory

The start of 2017 saw the Northern Territory (NT) Government and Japan's Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries sign a Memorandum of Cooperation on progressing the research and development of agriculture and aquaculture in the NT.

The NT and Japanese Governments' collaboration will focus on opportunities created by the growing Asian middle class and an increasing demand for safe, high quality food. The NT is uniquely positioned to grow and supply premium markets into the future and looks forward to increased Japanese agribusiness and supply chain investment.

Work is underway on master plans under the Memorandum of Cooperation to realise commercial opportunities, including:

- intent to develop extensive NT-based agriculture and aquaculture research projects such as food processing or a processing precinct which may attract commercial investment
- intent for Japanese companies to invest in NT agribusiness projects to supply food to South-East Asia and other export markets.

The historic agreement will contribute significantly to the development of the north and supporting the development of Katherine into an agribusiness hub. Strong agribusiness in the Northern Territory creates local jobs and supports the Territory's economy.

In the first two-to-five years of the agreement, it is expected agriculture and aquaculture projects to kick off with a focus on soybean, barramundi and asparagus, placing the Katherine region front and centre.

There is the potential for a trial of new tropically adapted soybean varieties in the Katherine region. This could bring great potential for the local development of this new crop, ideally suited to Katherine's climate and conditions.

- funding opportunities which may include developmental work on soybean, barramundi and asparagus
- a Japan and NT agribusiness infrastructure road map that includes supply chain logistics
- a protocol to introduce Department of Primary Industry and Resource officers to Japanese companies wishing to invest in the NT

Asparagus is already produced in small quantities in the Katherine region for domestic markets and this agreement may support producers to expand premium productions, taking advantage of counter-seasonal production cycles between the NT and Japan.

The Territory's strong agribusiness sector and established road and rail infrastructure provides an excellent platform to build new supply chains into Asia to export premium food and fishery products to international markets.



"The historic agreement will contribute significantly to the development of the north and supporting the development of Katherine into an agribusiness hub."

Resources Function

Energy Services



Victoria Jackson | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENERGY

Victoria was appointed as Executive Director Energy in 2013 to provide direction and leadership to effective management of an emerging onshore oil and gas industry. The Energy Division is responsible for the administration of petroleum legislation, including the *Petroleum Act*, the *Pipelines Act*, the *Petroleum Submerged Lands Act* and the *Geothermal Act*. Another aspect of the role is facilitating development of a Territory energy policy.

Victoria has worked in Government Relations for the oil and gas industry, managing communications with State, Territory and Commonwealth governments, the community and industry stakeholders, and been active in the development of national petroleum policy.

In Western Australia, Victoria provided strategic leadership and policy direction to deliver approvals for resource developments facilitating government approvals for major projects.

Victoria has extensive experience in the mining and petroleum industry, having had carriage of technical programs, environment and heritage approvals and stakeholder relations, complemented by a sound background in public sector management, public policy and governance.

Victoria has a Bachelor in Geology and a Diploma in Cartography, and ran a consultancy for 10 years providing technical services across the oil and gas and minerals sectors.

OVERVIEW

The Energy Division regulates petroleum, energy pipeline and geothermal energy tenure and activities in the Territory including title management, land release, exploration activities, production operations and decommissioning of petroleum infrastructure onshore and in NT waters.

The Energy Division encompasses four units: Energy Policy, Administration, Regulation and Compliance, Petroleum Resource Management, Regulation and Compliance.

The Energy Division has remained focused on providing responses to the independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Onshore Unconventional Reservoirs in the NT, preparing a submission on behalf of the department. The inquiry is investigating the environmental, social and economic risks and impacts of hydraulic fracturing of onshore unconventional gas reservoirs and associated activities.

The division also attended to a higher than usual number of pipeline regulatory matters including Jemena's Northern Gas Pipeline and INPEX's Fuel

Gas Pipeline and Gas Export Pipeline for the Ichthys Project.

ENERGY POLICY

The Energy Division is coordinating a whole-of-government Energy Policy Discussion Paper with input from relevant government agencies, working closely with the Department of Chief Minister. Following public consultation, an Energy Policy will be developed taking into account electricity market reform, electricity generation and distribution, oil and gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Energy Policy will:

- align with the Australian Government's Climate Change Policy, the Renewable Energy Roadmap and policy of 'Developing the North'
- ensure regulatory frameworks remain sufficiently flexible to accommodate changes in national energy policy settings including economic and social conditions, technology innovations and the environment
- adopt best practice energy management and sustainable energy technologies for power generation and use
- create opportunities for industry to drive economic development and provide significant employment opportunities in our regions.

ENERGY TITLES ADMINISTRATION, REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE

The primary responsibility of the Energy Tenure team is to administer and monitor all energy tenure, and maintain registers in accordance with relevant NT legislation.

Achievements for 2016-17

- received and reviewed 2004 operational compliance reports
- assessed 25 annual reports
- assessed 49 applications for suspension and extension/variations of permit work programs and Exploration Permit renewals, surrenders and partial relinquishments
- assessed two pipeline licence applications and one licence variation
- undertook nine site inspections
- implemented the Energy Division Information System (EDIS), an internal database developed to securely capture tenure information and the business processes and procedures required to effectively administer related statutory requirements.

PETROLEUM RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Energy Division provides input to support the Minister and the department's participation in the

Council of Australian Governments (COAG)

Energy Council's policy agenda. The division also provides substantial input to onshore and offshore oil and gas related policy discussions and position papers through the Upstream Petroleum Resources (UPR) Group.

Achievements for 2016-17

- In May 2017, the Energy Division was represented at the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) Conference, supporting the Minister during a number of Minister to Minister and bi-lateral industry meetings.
- The Energy Division also supported the September 2016 NTG hosted South East Asia Australia Offshore and Onshore Conference and the March 2017 Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES), the NT Geological Survey's key event to promote new mineral and petroleum science data and findings about the NT geology.

PETROLEUM LEGISLATION

The Energy Division has a regulatory framework in place with high levels of coordination and cooperation between relevant government agencies. However, in recognition of the need to provide a robust regulation of the energy industry under administration, a continuous regulatory reform process is maintained to ensure that the framework keeps pace with new knowledge, new technologies and new risks.

Achievements for 2016-17

- In July 2016, the new Petroleum Environment Regulations 2016 were enacted. During 2016-17, several guidelines for assessment of environment management plans and management of particular environmental concerns such as water and chemical use were developed to assist industry in complying with legislation and applying best practice to all its operations.

PETROLEUM REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE

The Energy Division has responsibility for regulating more than 3 000 km of pipelines in the NT, which includes 15 active pipelines and two inactive pipelines. Two projects of significance include the

INPEX Fuel Gas Pipeline and Gas Export Pipeline and Jemena's Northern Gas Pipeline.

Achievements for 2016-17

- implemented Petroleum (Environment) Regulations
- provided support to the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Territory, including a substantial submission on the department's regulatory processes and procedures
- timely administration of petroleum titles
- timely administration of pipeline licenses and activity approvals in accordance with procedures and legislations
- inputted historical onshore oil permits (approximately 22 000 pages) into EDIS
- finalised the mapping of business processes and procedures for incorporation into the department's submission to the Inquiry.

Mining Services



Phil Hausler | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MINES

Phil was appointed Executive Director Mines in 2015 and is responsible for regulating mining activities to ensure the responsible development of Territory resources. The Mines Division conduct inspections and audits to ensure best practice in environmental management and the evaluation and reduction of environmental impacts arising from exploration and development activities.

Phil is committed to best practice resource management to achieve balanced development and environmental outcomes and to

achieving a strong economic future for the Territory.

Phil has a strong background in agriculture and has been involved in high level policy and planning in the mines and energy sector.

He has a Bachelor in Applied Science from the Charles Sturt University.

Phil took up the position of acting Director Plant Industries Development in March 2017. Armando Padovan is the Acting Executive Director for Mines Division.

OVERVIEW

The Mines Division administers the Territory's *Mining Management Act* and *Minerals Titles Act*, regulating mining activities from the first grant of tenure, to the approval and supervision of operations, including site rehabilitation and closure.

The focus of the division continues to be streamlining regulatory processes, increasing transparency and providing more efficient systems and services to clients.

The Mines Division is divided into five Units: Executive and Policy Development, Mining Remediation, Mining Compliance, Rum Jungle and Mineral Titles.

EXECUTIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Executive and Policy Development Unit is responsible for facilitating strategic communication across the Mines Division, government and the

community; providing high level policy advice on mines related matters; and supporting the effective governance of the division.

MINING REMEDIATION

The Mining Remediation Unit provided expert information and strategic advice to the NT Government and industry in regard to environmental management of mining operations, particularly in relation to water management, mine remediation and closure. This includes specialist:

- scientific advice and support, particularly with regards to reviewing the water management components of Mine Management Plans, Closure Plans and Environmental Impact Statements for mining operations, development of Site Management Plans for Legacy Sites, and updated environmental database management with the introduction of the Environmental Monitoring Database (Esdat)
- environmental monitoring which serves as a quality analysis/quality control check against data collected by mine operators, assistance for investigations into cases of potential environmental harm when required, data gathering to support investigations for legacy mine sites, and a purpose built laboratory truck (designed by the department) allows for the state-of-the-art processing of water samples in the field
- assessment and prioritisation of legacy sites within the NT including undertaking priority investigations and/or remedial works at sites, including undertaking a risk-based assessment of legacy mine sites; determining the environmental impact of identified sites; prioritising future investigation and remediation works; and developing site specific remediation plans and project managing safety and remediation works.

MINING COMPLIANCE UNIT

The Mining Compliance Unit is responsible for the regulation of mining activities with particular reference to the protection of the environment on mining sites. This is achieved through enforcement of the *Mining Management Act* (MMA) which provides the basis for the authorisation of mining, management of mining sites and the provision of economic and social benefits to communities affected by mining activities. Mining activities in this context include exploration and extractive mineral

activity (quarries and sand and gravel operations) as well as mining, both open pit and underground.

The work program to achieve the objectives of the MMA includes a combination of assessments of Mining Management Plans, and associated environmental management plans, coupled with a program of site inspections and environmental audits throughout the year. Mining Officers also undertake investigations into environmental incidents and accidents on mine sites when required. Mining Officers are based in Darwin and Alice Springs to ensure efficient coverage of all areas of the Northern Territory.

Recent efforts have been concentrating on improving process and transparency in decision making. Mineral exploration operations on pastoral land are now required to publish their Mining Management Plans on a website (either their own or the department's) within 14 days of approval.

RUM JUNGLE

The downstream aquatic ecosystems of the Finniss River system have been adversely affected by acid and metalliferous drainage generated as a result of the mining and placement methods used for waste rock and process tailings at the former Rum Jungle mine site (Rum Jungle) between 1954 to 1971.

The development of a preferred sustainable rehabilitation strategy for the site has been a collaborative endeavor between the NT Government, the Australian Government and Traditional Owners (Kungarakan and Warai). Through successive Project Agreements undertaken since 2009, a significant body of knowledge have been developed which when implemented will deliver a long term sustainable solution for the former uranium mine. Activities to support this has included negotiating a new Project Agreement which will see the completion of:

- rehabilitation design, costing and supporting documentation
- supporting the Australian Government to build the capacity of Traditional Owners to maximise long term economic and employment opportunities during future rehabilitation works undertaken at the site

- site management and maintenance (security, weeds and fire)
- environmental monitoring activities
- repairs and maintenance work on the waste rock dump cover system at Rum Jungle Creek South
- stakeholder engagement particularly with the sites Traditional Owners.

MINERAL TITLES UNIT

The Mineral Titles Unit is responsible for the administration of mineral titles (mineral and extractive mineral) to facilitate the most appropriate exploitation and commercialisation of minerals and extractive minerals in the Territory.

The Mineral Titles Unit objective is to ensure that the application, grant and ongoing maintenance of all mineral and extractive mineral titles in the Territory comply with statutory requirements under the *Mineral Titles Act* and related legislations to ensure valid grant and that all administrative procedures are undertaken in accordance with government policy and legislative requirements.

The Mineral Titles Unit also administers the *Native Title Act 1993* with reference to mineral and extractive titles and administers Part IV of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (ALRA) on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Achievements for 2016-17

Legislative

Increased our capacity to undertake effective investigations, through investing in Certificate IV in Government Investigations training for staff involved in compliance related activities.

Economic

Legacy Mines Projects have ensured maximum local development opportunities with every procurement contract put to market. This has resulted in almost every contract being issued to local businesses with high levels of Aboriginal employment.

The Mining Remediation Fund has contributed to minimising or rectifying environmental harm caused by unsecured mining activities. A total of \$509 227 was invested in activities during 2016-17 in three areas:

- Redbank: Invested a total of \$256 392 for activities at the Redbank site including:
 - bathymetric survey of the open pit
 - hazardous materials survey of the mill area
 - 3D model of the mine site
 - environmental monitoring of surface and groundwater
 - safety signage
 - fish survey to assess the potential of impacts on the receiving environment of elevated levels of contaminants released from Redbank
 - stock exclusion fencing to limit livestock accessing contaminated water and soils on the site
- Tennant Creek Region: Invested a total of \$171 202 for activities within and around Tennant Creek including the Eldorado small mines safety works
- Other Regions within the Territory: Invested a total of \$81 634 for activities including the Arltunga safety works and maintenance of remote environmental monitoring structures at Goodall and Woolwonga sites.

Community

- developed stakeholder engagement plans for legacy mine activities
- increased awareness of fossicking areas by introducing new signage and updating the fossicking areas website
- continued to play a key role and fund the operation of a Redbank Working Group for engagement of stakeholders, particularly the traditional Aboriginal owners in relation to issues at the former mine site
- hosted a community information session in Tennant Creek to inform the community of the progress of the Legacy Mines program in the region
- commenced a program to address public safety issues in the Eldorado and True Blue areas near Tennant Creek, which includes backfilling 17 shafts, installing steel grate covers over two

shafts and four mine adit portals and installing chainlink fencing around five shafts and the Eldorado plant area.

Environment

- progressed negotiations with the Australian Government for a further budget allocation of \$10.048 million for the Rum Jungle Rehabilitation Project which will see the finalisation of the preferred rehabilitation strategy and maintenance of the waste rock dump cover system at Rum Jungle Creek South
- provided strategic and scientific advice and data to underpin the regulation, inspection and investigation of legacy mine site environmental performance
- managed the remote environmental monitoring stations at sites across the Territory to enhance the assessment of mine sites
- substantially completed legacy mines inventory identifying sites across the Territory
- completed a dust survey at the former Peko mine site
- adopted the use of unmanned aerial vehicles to capture high resolution imagery, reducing inspection times and increasing safety
- undertook investigations to inform decision making around rehabilitation options for Redbank
- completed the fish survey and construction of a cattle exclusion fence at Redbank
- developed management plans for Redbank, Goodall and Woolwonga sites
- implemented the Environmental Monitoring Database (Esdat) for use in integrated sampling program design and monitoring sample and data management.

Resource Industry Development



Ian Scrimgeour | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NT GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Ian was appointed Executive Director NT Geological Survey (NTGS) in 2013. He is responsible for overseeing the Territory's initiatives to grow the exploration sector, including the current *Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration* (CORE) initiative.

NTGS provides high quality geoscientific information to support exploration of the Territory's mineral and petroleum resources.

Ian joined NTGS in 1995 as a regional mapping geologist based in Alice Springs. From 2002, he managed the geoscience programs as Program Leader Mineral Prospectively before being appointed Director NTGS in 2005.

Ian has a PhD in geology from the University of Adelaide.

OVERVIEW

NTGS is the custodian of knowledge and data on the Territory's geology and resources, and undertakes programs to support and facilitate the growth and effectiveness of the minerals and petroleum exploration industry, and increase the Territory's competitiveness in attracting exploration investment.

NTGS is responsible for implementing the government's four-year, \$23.8 million CORE initiative (2014-2018) and attracting new investment in the Territory.

Key roles and activities of NTGS include:

- undertaking new pre-competitive geoscience, including geological mapping, geophysical surveys, regional prospectivity assessments and commodity studies aimed at providing a regional geological framework and baseline datasets to identify resource potential and support industry exploration
- promoting the minerals and energy potential of the Territory to the domestic and global exploration industry, and engaging regularly with industry regarding the results of geological survey programs and opportunities for exploration
- assisting companies with exploration and development-stage projects in the NT to attract investment from international markets
- supporting innovation in the Territory's exploration sector by managing collaborative industry grants for greenfields exploration
- managing and distributing all data and information relating to the geology and the mineral and energy resources of the NT
- assessing and managing statutory reporting of exploration and production under the *Mineral Titles Act*, *Geothermal Energy Act* and *Petroleum Act*
- facilitating and case managing developing greenfields mining projects
- advising government and the community on issues relating to geoscience and minerals and petroleum resources, exploration and mining development.

The Investment Attraction Unit of the NTGS is responsible for attracting new investment into greenfields exploration and new resources projects in the NT from international markets. It does this by:

- promoting the Territory's resources investment opportunities to potential international investors

- assisting Territory explorers by identifying and introducing suitable potential investors, and assisting with business liaison
- developing strategic partnerships with key international organisations in China, Japan, South Korea and India
- making regular ministerial and departmental trade missions to key overseas markets for Territory minerals and energy resources
- holding NT investment seminars and promotional events in Australia and overseas
- building and growing relationships with key domestic organisations and companies, and leveraging those relationships to raise the profile of the Territory as an investment destination
- hosting visiting international delegations of potential investors
- producing communication materials to promote the Territory as an attractive resources investment destination.

Achievements for 2016–17

NTGS

- major new collaborative programs established with Geoscience Australia under their *Exploring for the Future* program, and substantial geophysical and geochemical data acquisition undertaken over the Barkly region
- implementation of the ninth round of the Geophysical and Drilling Collaborations under CORE, with eight drilling projects and three geophysical surveys successfully completed
- acquisition and release of the Daly Gravity Survey
- release of upgraded shale geochemistry dataset and comprehensive report on resource assessment of the Beetaloo Sub-basin
- released report on stratigraphy and correlation of the Glyde Package of the greater McArthur Basin

- completed draft of two reports on tungsten and copper deposits in the eastern Arunta Region
 - land access consultations by NTGS successfully facilitated Commonwealth Exploring for the Future programs across the Barkly and Gulf region for 2016-17
 - release of exploration reports from 2003-2006 under the five year sunset clause of the *Mineral Titles Act*
 - completion of program to make all legacy open-file mineral exploration reports since available for download through the Geoscience Exploration and Mining Information System (GEMIS)
 - Petroleum Geophysics collection and Core Sample Report collection both made available for download through GEMIS
 - attendance of 195 delegates at the AGES 2017 conference in Alice Springs in March
 - promotion of the Territory as an exploration destination at industry forums in Darwin, Brisbane, and Perth
 - promotion of the Territory's mineral potential at key international events including Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) in Toronto and China Mining in Beijing.
- #### Investment Attraction
- actively promoted investment opportunities in 25 NT resources projects on behalf of 19 exploration companies, to international markets
 - participated in promotional activities in China, Japan and South Korea, including presentations to a total audience of more than 300 targeted investment prospects
 - held an investment seminar in China, designed to grow future Territory minerals exports
 - strengthened strategic relationships with investment groups in China, Japan and South Korea
 - undertook the department's first investment mission to India.

Central Services

Departmental Strategic Services

OVERVIEW

Departmental Strategic Services provides internal policy development and review services, corporate governance, specialist professional services to the department and external clients in library and information services, scientific and technical publications and biometric analysis. The division also includes accredited veterinary and water laboratories, as well as Corporate Communication and Infrastructure and Asset Services (reported separately).

Strategic Services is also responsible for the administration of the *Gene Technology (NT) Act*.

The head of the group is also a member of the department's Board of Management.

Achievements for 2016–17

- led the department's input into the Berrimah Farm Redevelopment project, including obtaining funding approved by Cabinet for the redevelopment of Berrimah Farm necessary to provide alternative accommodation and new work resources such as laboratories
- transferred the external policy coordination and legislative review functions to the External Strategy and Policy Coordination Division
- edited and published scientific and technical publications across the full range of department functions
- established the Accredited Laboratories Work Health and Safety Workplace Committee
- commenced routine joint usage of the new Laboratory Information Management System in the Veterinary, Chemistry and Water Microbiology Laboratories in Darwin
- maintained ongoing NATA accreditation requirements to ensure rigorous testing of safe drinking and other water for the community
- completed reviews and updates to numerous corporate policies, procedures and guidelines
- represented the Territory in national gene technology policy forums and coordinated technical advice to the national Gene Technology Regulator.

Infrastructure and Assets Services

OVERVIEW

Infrastructure and Asset Services Branch provides works programming, fleet management, portable and attractive asset management, services management and security management.

Works programming includes strategic application of financial resources in regard to Capital Works, Minor New Works and Repairs and Maintenance. Projects are monitored and on-going liaison occurs between the department, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics project managers and contractors to ensure timely, efficient, high quality outcomes.

Fleet, Asset and Services management ensures efficient, cost-effective and compliant activities occur consistently, providing suitable outcomes for

the department. This includes monitoring, recording and reporting on all fleet activities and liaison with NT Fleet for return and replacement of vehicles which are fit for purpose. Portable and attractive assets are monitored and reported on through communication with divisions. Contracts for services such as power, water, security and cleaning at Berrimah Farm are managed through the branch.

Achievements for 2016–17

- Arid Zone Research Institute: installation of CCTV at the front gate and attainment of building certification
- Beatrice Hill Research Farm: replacement of two accommodation demountables

- Berrimah Farm: upgraded lift in the John England Building, installed CCTV cameras, and installed water tanks and pumps in the Horticulture block
- Coastal Plains Research Farm: installed a new water tank
- Darwin Aquaculture Centre: upgraded the security system
- Douglas Daly Research Farm: constructed sheds for hay and machinery and five carports, replaced the generator, converted overhead power to underground and completed extensive tree removal
- Farrell Crescent Core Store: extended the garage and completed Stage 1 renovation of the Archive building
- Katherine Research Station: installed vermin fencing, and filters and tanks for a wash down system
- Old Man Plains Research Station: installed a solar pump and generator
- Victoria River Research Station: renovated single quarters and built ablution block.

External Strategy and Policy Coordination

OVERVIEW

The External Strategy and Policy Coordination Group provides high-level, strategic advice on matters that impact across agencies and across divisions within the department. It is also responsible for coordinating the review of the department's legislation and provides governance support to project control groups for major projects. The group coordinates departmental responses to matters undergoing environmental impact assessment and planning developments, as well as providing secretariat support to two Ministerial Councils and a number of senior officers' groups.

The head of the group is also a member of the department's Board of Management.

Achievements for 2016-17

- prepared the Minister's speech notes for Budget 2017-18 and Estimates 2017
- coordinated departmental reporting on Election Commitments and Letter of Commission projects
- provided responses for written questions for Estimates 2017
- continued with the process for making amendments to the *Mineral Titles Act*. The drafting instructions were provided to the Solicitor for the Northern Territory (SFNT) and the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) for comments. SFNT have now referred a number of matters to the Solicitor-General for advice
- participated as an active member of and provided governance to the Major Projects Project Control Groups (PCGs) for the three mining projects which the department is the lead agency
- participated as an active member of other Major Project PCGs that the department supports
- commenced a review into the mines and energy legislative delegations at the Minister's request. Developed and implemented an Interim Policy on delegated powers for mining and petroleum projects
- provided Secretariat support for the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Energy Council, the COAG Energy Council Senior Committee of Officials, the Agriculture Ministers Forum and the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee meetings, teleconferences and out-of-session decision making
- provided comment on behalf of the department on 13 Cabinet Submissions
- coordinated 20 responses on behalf of the department on requests from the NT Environment Protection Authority to comment on Notices of Intent, draft Environmental Impact Statements and supplementary documentation
- coordinated 10 responses on behalf of the department on requests for comment on relevant planning applications received weekly from the Development Consent Authority

- completed a review of all departmental boards at the request of the Department of the Chief Minister
- coordinated 10 responses on behalf of the department on Foreign Investment Review Board applications

Emergency Management

OVERVIEW

The Emergency Management Unit exists to develop emergency response capability focused on the protection of primary industries and fisheries, and the welfare of animals in the event of emergency events supporting whole-of-government initiatives to build a more prepared, safer and resilient Territory.

The unit works collaboratively across the department, government agencies and with key industry partners to develop emergency response capability to effectively respond to biosecurity hazards and animal welfare in emergency incidents.

The department has responsibility under the *Emergency Management Act* as outlined in the Territory Emergency Plan (TEP) as lead agency responsible for biosecurity incursions and coordination for the relief and recovery in respect of animal welfare companion animals, livestock and wildlife in a natural disaster or emergency. The unit is responsible for ensuring supporting interagency and industry networks are engaged in the development and testing of supporting strategic and operational plans and underpinning documentation, systems and policies.

In collaboration with Biosecurity and Animal Welfare, the unit is responsible for facilitating the development of response ready staff capable of mounting effective responses to biosecurity hazards in the Territory. As a signatory to the Emergency Animal Diseases Response Agreement, the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and the National Environmental Biosecurity Emergency Response agreement, the Territory has an obligation to develop and maintain capability to respond to a biosecurity Level 3 event.

To comply with local and national obligations in biosecurity and animal welfare in emergencies

- provided DTF with the reforms achieved, or proposed, to reduce regulation or streamline processes by the department to inform the Commonwealth Regulatory Reform National Partnership Agreement.

arenas, Emergency Management facilitates training and the collaborative development of information management systems, strategic plans, policies and procedures to develop a response ready capability supported by other government agencies and industry bodies in line with local and national response arrangements.

Achievements for 2016-17

The unit led the department's Wet season preparations, including cyclone, flooding and severe storm preparedness for all department business areas and re-engaging with supporting agencies and non-government organisations to ensure animal welfare responsibilities can be achieved, which includes an increasing community awareness supporting the 'Pets in emergencies' campaign. The 2016-17 Wet season was the third wettest season on record by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Coordination of the Wet season response activities included:

- provision of subject matter expertise and direction to the whole-of-government Wet season preparedness program
- participation of Emergency Management staff in emergency responses to three cyclones: Alfred (February 2017), Blanche (March 2017), and Frances (April 2017)
- activation of emergency management provisions in response to the development of eight significant lows and 72 severe thunderstorms
- activation of emergency management provisions for nine floods and coordinated the department's response activities.

Other achievements included:

- prepared the Territory Animal Welfare Emergency Plan and Animal Refuge Guidelines

to meet requirements under the *Emergency Management Act* and gained approval from the Territory Emergency Management Committee

- developed nationally recognised Working in Biosecurity Emergency Response (WinBER) training materials to provide foundational skills for response personnel
- delivered WinBER training to 61 individuals from the department, Northern Territory Emergency Services, Department of Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
- reinvigorated the department's First Response Team. This group is to provide skilled and trained response ready personnel to resource an emergency response
- provided expert input and advocacy for biosecurity and animal welfare considerations as a member of the whole-of-government Emergency Management Training Unit Steering Committee, along with executive support
- supported the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in responding to the detection of the environmental weed *Sagittaria*, a recognised Weed of National Significance
- developed the National Interstate Deployment Guidelines as a member of the national Resource Specialist Task Group.

Corporate Communication

OVERVIEW

The Corporate Communication Unit provides media and strategic communication support, and helps manage the department's web, marketing, branding, events and promotion activities, along with supporting internal communication.

The head of the unit is also a member of the department's Board of Management.

Achievements for 2016–17

- delivered daily media monitoring services to the department
- supported over 50 ministerial media opportunities, 23 departmental media releases and numerous other media interviews and opportunities; these ministerial opportunities included a number of announcements on progress for the \$50 million investment in recreational fishing infrastructure, the inaugural announcement with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and sharing information relating to the department's agricultural research
- promoted the department's work through 15 editions of the Chief Executive's newsletter, regional newsletters and its website
- supported transition of mines and energy content into the new NT.GOV.AU web environment
- provided communication services for biosecurity incursion responses and animal welfare arrangements during emergency responses
- supported displays focused on resources and agriculture at all NT regional shows
- developed communication and marketing strategies to support the department's activities. This included supporting awareness of changes to the biosecurity controls for Bovine Johne's Disease impacting on the NT cattle industry with updated digital content, information sheets, events and toolkits of information.

Corporate Services

Financial Services



Karen Simpson | CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (DIRECTOR FINANCIAL SERVICES)

Karen was appointed to the position of Chief Financial Officer in 2014. Karen's team comprises four business units: Budgets and Reporting, Financial Services, Travel Services and Procurement. They provide corporate services to the department, including strategic advice and training on the core business of budget management,

financial reporting, procurement and travel.

Karen holds an Associate Diploma in Accounting and Business. Karen was the Honorary Secretary of the NT Branch of the Institute of Public Administration Australia from 2007 to 2015.

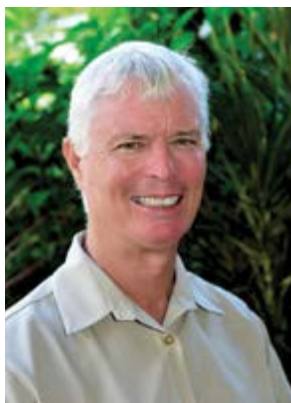
OVERVIEW

The Financial Services Group provides accountable, transparent, reliable and timely financial information, strategic financial and budget management advice, travel services, frameworks which comply with legislative, governance and financial management principles and maintains close liaison with Procurement Services of the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation to oversee outsourced procurement services and training.

Achievements for 2016-17

- successfully facilitated the merger of the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy from a financial and budget perspective as part of the Administrative Arrangements Order restructuring on 12 September 2016
- coordinated training facilitated by the Procurement Unit of the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation in relation to procurement processes to ensure the department is following the correct policies and procedures
- transitioned the new Classifications of the Functions of Government Australia (COFOG-A) from the previous Government Purpose Classifications (GPC) reporting structure
- won the 'Best Financial Reporting' in April 2017 for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries in the 2015-16 Institute of Public Administration Australia NT Public Sector Annual Report Awards for the good analysis of financial statements.

Human Resources, Risk and Audit



Rick Bishop | DIRECTOR HUMAN RESOURCES, RISK AND AUDIT

Rick was appointed Director Human Resources (HR) in 2012 and later the Director Human Resources, Risk and Audit in 2014. His responsibilities include the provision of strategic human resources services and advice, the risk and audit function, governance, strategic HR planning, resolution

of complex employment matters, Indigenous employment and work health and safety.

Rick's qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy and a Graduate Certificate in Management.

OVERVIEW

Human Resources, Risk and Audit Group has responsibility for the provision of strategic human resources services and advice, the risk and audit function, governance, strategic human resource planning, resolution of complex employment matters, Aboriginal employment and work health and safety matters.

Achievements for 2016-17

Achievements and activities are reported in Section 2: Corporate Governance and Section 4: Our People.

Information Management and Information Technology



Rowan Dollar | CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Rowan was appointed as the Chief Information Officer in 2015 and leads the information management and information technology teams in their daily and strategic support of the department. Rowan is responsible for ensuring that departmental officers have the right technology at the right time across the large and geographically diverse user base including staff at research farms, offices from Darwin through to Alice Springs and points in between and leads the

department in the areas of information and communications technology governance, risk and compliance and functional performance.

Rowan has 30-plus years of technology experience which has been gained in various sectors including government, business consulting, emergency services and banking. His career focus has been on delivering large transformational, best in class, technology and business change programs around the globe.

OVERVIEW

Information Management and Information Technology provides advice, direction, management and implementation of appropriate systems and technologies to capture, track and analyse information generated and gathered by the department, including freedom of information and privacy issues.

Achievements for 2016-17

Information Management

- provided advice on the implementation and content of the Business Classification System
- reviewed Information Management training plans and documentation in line with Territory Records Manager (TRM)
- developed a new policy for Electronic Document Management
- destroyed 4 255 files in accordance with approved disposal schedules
- completed a census of all Information Management onsite storage facilities
- reviewed Information Management structure, position descriptions and succession plans.

Information Technology

- received and considered seven Information Technology project proposals
- managed upgrades and enhancements to a number of specialist business systems
- assisted with the development of business requirements for the replacement of critical business systems for the Mines and Energy Divisions
- managed the expansion of NTG wireless networking to most departmental sites
- managed the upgrade of computer networks at several department sites
- initiated a review of internal information security systems and controls
- expanded and promoted the use of video conferencing technologies
- provided support to the department's biosecurity response programs and replacement of the department's emergency management system
- managed the conversion of numerous paper based processes to electronic systems to improve efficiency, governance and reporting.

Executive Management photos: Peter Zeroni, except Bob Williams.



Joanne Tilbrook assessing
dried mango samples.
Photo: Chelsea Moore

4. OUR PEOPLE

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Fast Facts



68 per cent of staff participated in the **'People Matter Survey'**

83 per cent of employees were located in the **Darwin region**



75 per cent retention rate

9 Aboriginal Apprentices during the year with **3 in regional areas**

7.7 per cent identified as **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**



47 per cent of the workforce was **female**

37 per cent of Executive staff were **female**

5.1 per cent identified as having a **non-English** speaking background



1.8 per cent identified as being a person with a **disability**



27 per cent of the workforce was aged **over 55**

more females were aged **44 and under** than males

more males were aged **45 and over** than females

4 per cent of females and **8 per cent** of males were **65 or over**



45 employees used **flexible** working arrangements

Developing Capability

The department must build and sustain the workforce capability necessary to deliver on the Industry Development Plan 2013-2017 in order to meet its economic imperative of developing sustainable agriculture and fisheries industries, and the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 to enhance the wealth of the Territory through responsible stewardship of its mineral and energy resources.

In an employment market that is highly competitive for skills in the agriculture and mining sector, it must also aim to retain its professional workforce of scientific, technical and administrative staff, located across the Territory and engaged in office, laboratory, remote and field-based work.

As outlined in Section 1: Overview, employees are located in all major centres as well at remote facilities across the Territory. This presents challenges in the delivery of human resource support services. Across this diversity in operations, a positive and consistent workplace culture must also be encouraged.

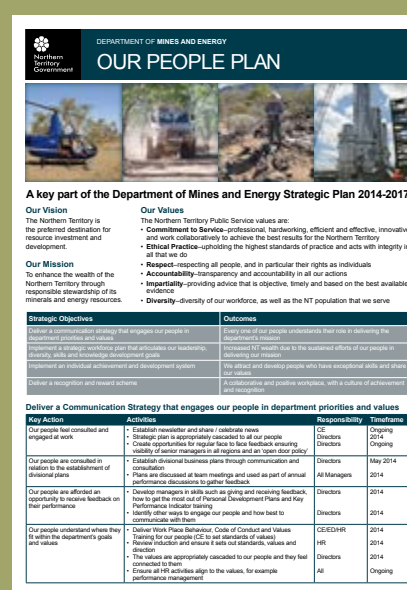
The department's workforce development plan is the People Plan 2014-2017 (DPIF) and the Our People Plan 2014-2017 (DME). In 2016-17 the department continued to deliver programs in line with the following key strategies:

- strengthen our leadership to meet future challenges
- ensure we have a strong work health and safety culture

- cultivate our passionate, diverse and innovative workforce
- develop the capabilities needed to deliver on the Industry Development Plan
- drive accountability through effective engagement in the Industry Development Plan
- deliver a communication strategy that engages our people in department priorities and values in the Strategic Plan
- implement a strategic workforce plan that articulates our leadership, diversity, skills and knowledge development goals on the Strategic Plan
- implement an individual achievement and development system
- deliver a recognition and reward scheme.

The department's Human Resources (HR) team is part of the Corporate Services area and is responsible for the following activities to support workforce development:

- delivering advisory services on conditions of service and best practice human resources; including performance management practices, recruitment, probation and payroll processes
- developing programs, policies and frameworks to comply with legislative requirements for employment



- facilitating learning and development programs to meet emerging business needs; including early careers programs such as apprenticeships, graduate development programs and traineeships
- providing a people management framework to ensure the department has the right number of employees with the appropriate skill sets to support the Industry Development Plan, Strategic Plan, People Plan and Our People Plan
- establishing accurate and contemporary HR strategy, policies, procedures and processes
- supporting equity and diversity
- providing case management, including worker's compensation
- providing advice regarding change management processes
- reporting requirements set out in the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.

People Matter Survey

In 2016, 68 per cent of the department participated in the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment's (OCPE) 'People Matter Survey' ¹, which measured employees' experience in their profession, work area, agency and the NT Public Sector (NTPS) as a whole, from June 2015 until May 2016.

The department received high ratings in areas of workplace wellbeing, commitment to service,

diversity, respect (employee – employee support) and equal employment. Change management, grievance handling, performance management and senior management communication were identified as areas for improvement. The data in Table 4.1 has been extracted from 2016 People Matter Surveys from the former departments that now comprise the Department of Primary Industry and Resources.

Table 4.1. People Matter Survey 2016 – areas of higher rating

DESCRIPTION	DEPARTMENT %	COMPARATOR AGENCIES* %
Commitment to service	82	71
Diversity	69.5	69
Level of engagement	68.5	69

*Comparator agencies are 10 agencies with similar workforce profile and size.

In response to the results, the department undertook the following actions:

- delivered 'Doing the Right Thing' sessions aimed at improving understanding of the NTPS Code of Conduct and departmental values and how they can be translated into workplace behaviour
- delivered change management awareness sessions
- delivered 'Shaping our Future' focus groups to workshop survey responses that informed the survey response plan
- delivered 'Key Conversations' training to managers and supervisors to assist with appropriately delivering feedback to team members as part of performance development discussions
- circulated and sought feedback on a revised internal complaint handling procedure and published an updated version on the intranet online service centre
- implemented a job shadowing program with directors and the Chief Executive
- promoted the 'Performance Management' workshops run by OCPE.

¹ The figures are the median average of combined results from separate surveys conducted for both the Department of Mines and Energy and the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

Demographics - Metrics²

2016-17 Staffing Profile

Sixty-seven per cent of employees are in the Administration and Technical classifications and a further 26 per cent in the Professional stream.

Table 4.2. Classification of employees as at 30 June 2017

Staffing Classification	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Administration	202	205	187
Technical	124	124	127
Professional	129	132	120
Executive	24	26	25
Early Careers	3	6	7
Physical	5	4	3
Casual Survey Interviewers	1	3	1
TOTAL	488	500	470

Classification by Region and Division

The majority of employees were located in the Darwin region, with 83 per cent full-time equivalents (FTE).

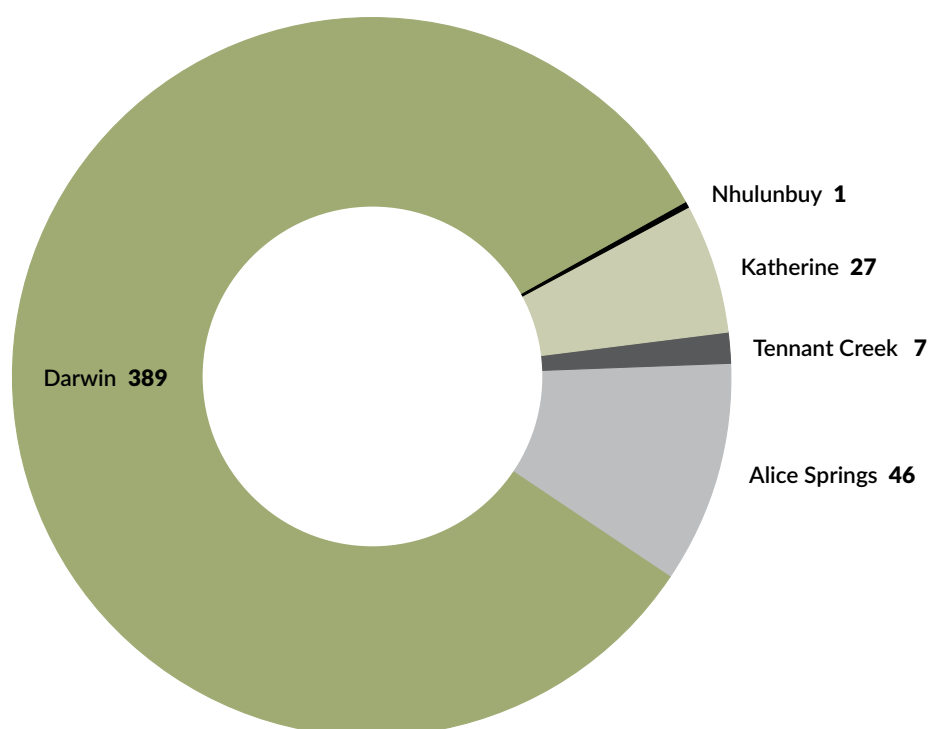


Figure 4.1. FTE by region as at 30 June 2017²

² Numbers are rounded and based on full-time equivalents (not individuals), including casual and part-time employees. Numbers for 2014-15 and 2015-16 are combined totals from the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy.

The majority of staff work in the divisions of the Resource and Product Integrity Group (Fisheries and Aquaculture, Biosecurity, Emergency Management and Departmental Strategic Services), which includes the programs responding to biosecurity incursions.

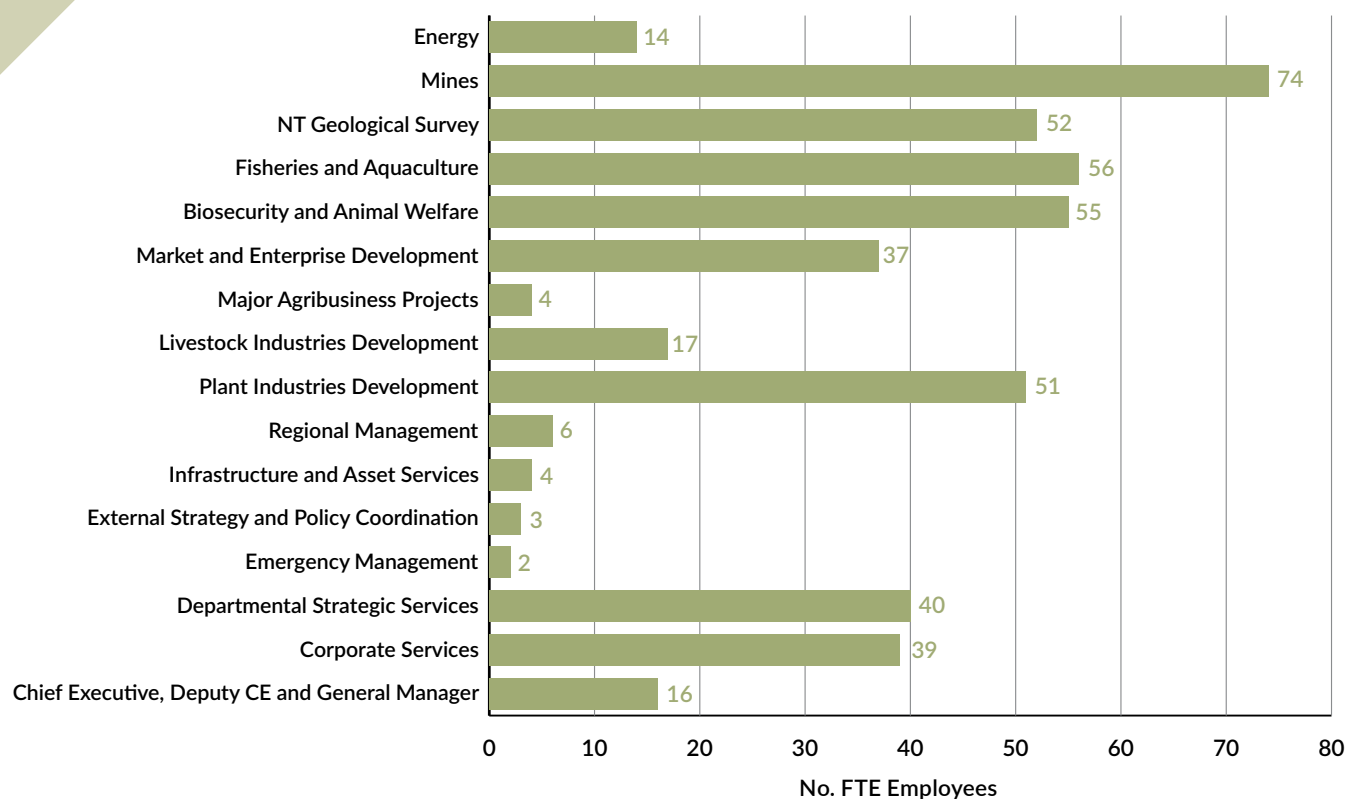


Figure 4.2. FTE by division as at 30 June 2017

Numbers are rounded and are based on full-time equivalent (not individuals), including casual and part-time employees as at 30 June 2017.

Recruitment, Retention and Separation

During 2016-17, 109 employees were recruited to the department, 116 employees separated through retirement or cessation of contracts and 39 employees transferred to other government agencies.

Gender

As at 30 June 2017, the department had 223 female and 247 male employees. Female employees are more likely to be employed in the Administration Officer classification and male employees are more likely to be employed in Professional or Technical

classifications. There has been very little change in this distribution between 2016-17 and the preceding 2015-16, other than an increase in female employees in the Administration and Professional classifications.

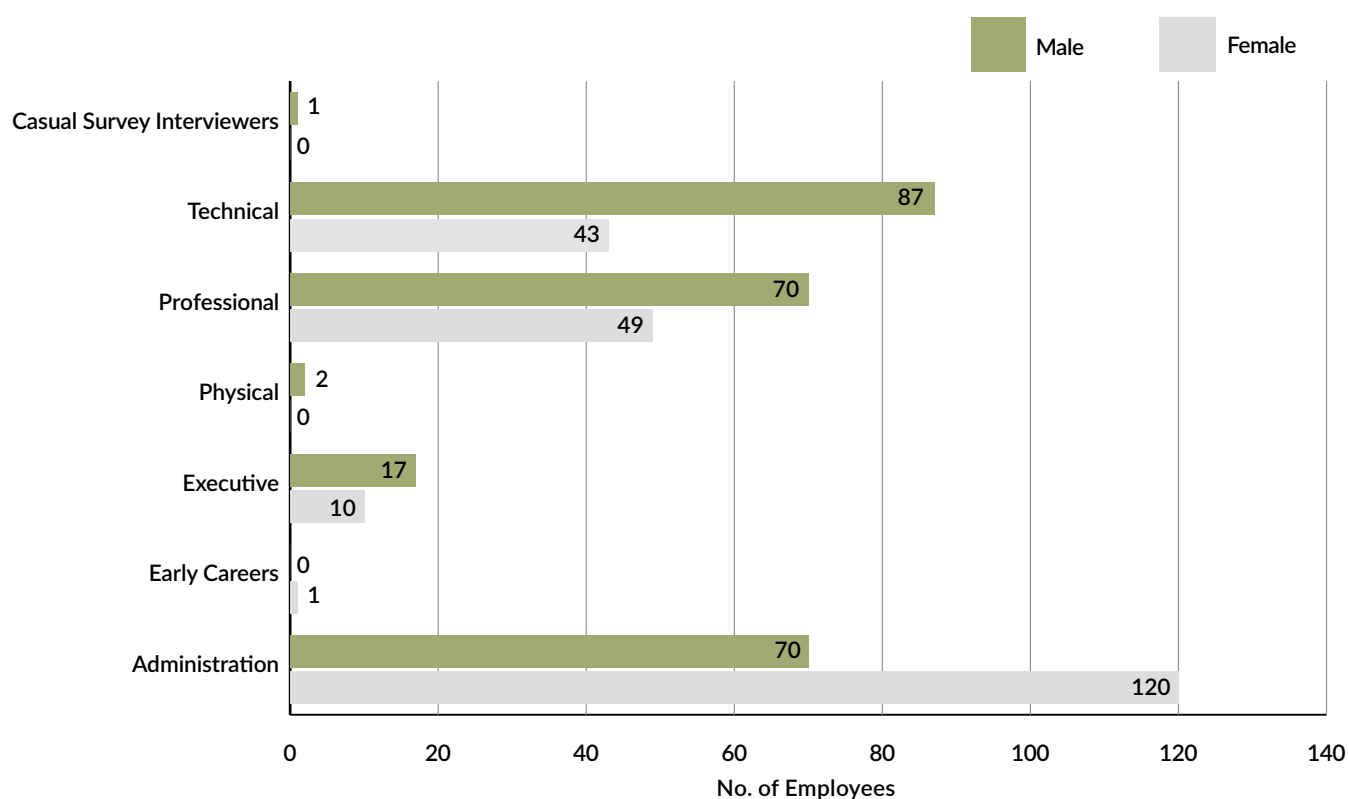


Figure 4.3. Employee classification by gender, as at 30 June 2017

Age

The department's age profile shows peaks in the 50-54 age category corresponding to 15 per cent (72 employees), 54 per cent (254 employees), are aged 45 or older with 27 per cent (126 employees)

having reached the early retirement age of 55. Females outnumber males in the 25-29, 30-34 and 40-44 age brackets with more males than females in the remaining age brackets.

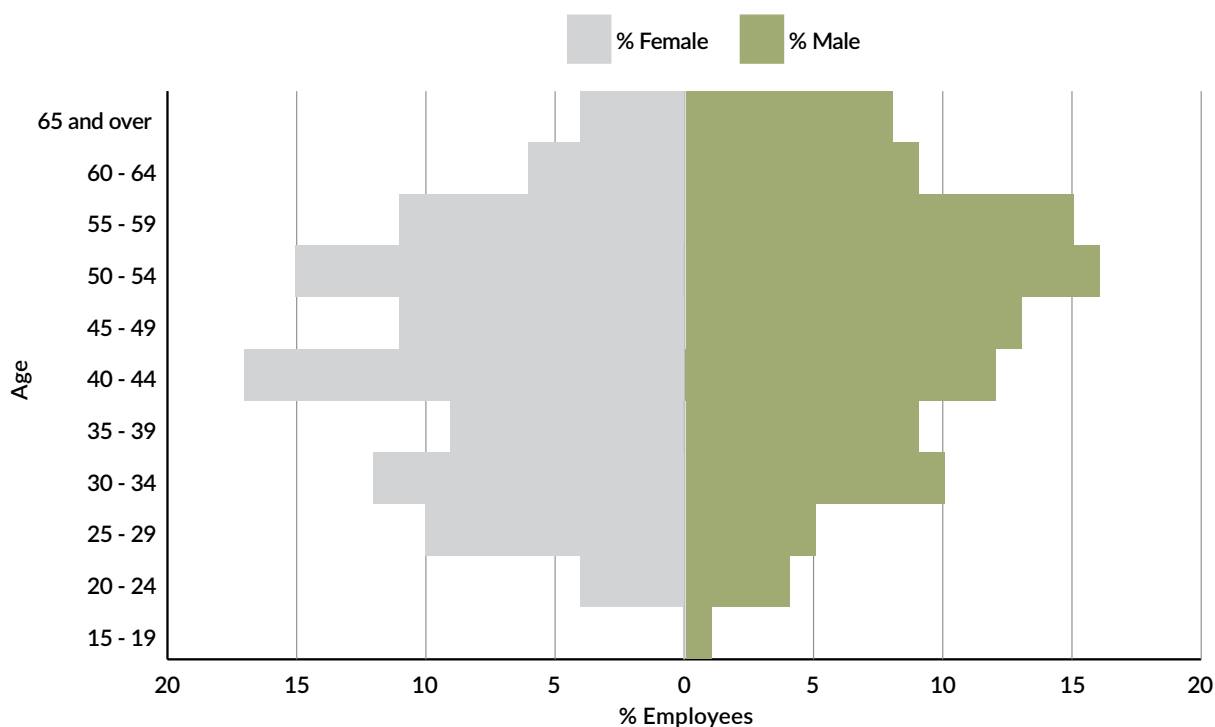


Figure 4.4. Age distribution by gender, as at 30 June 2017

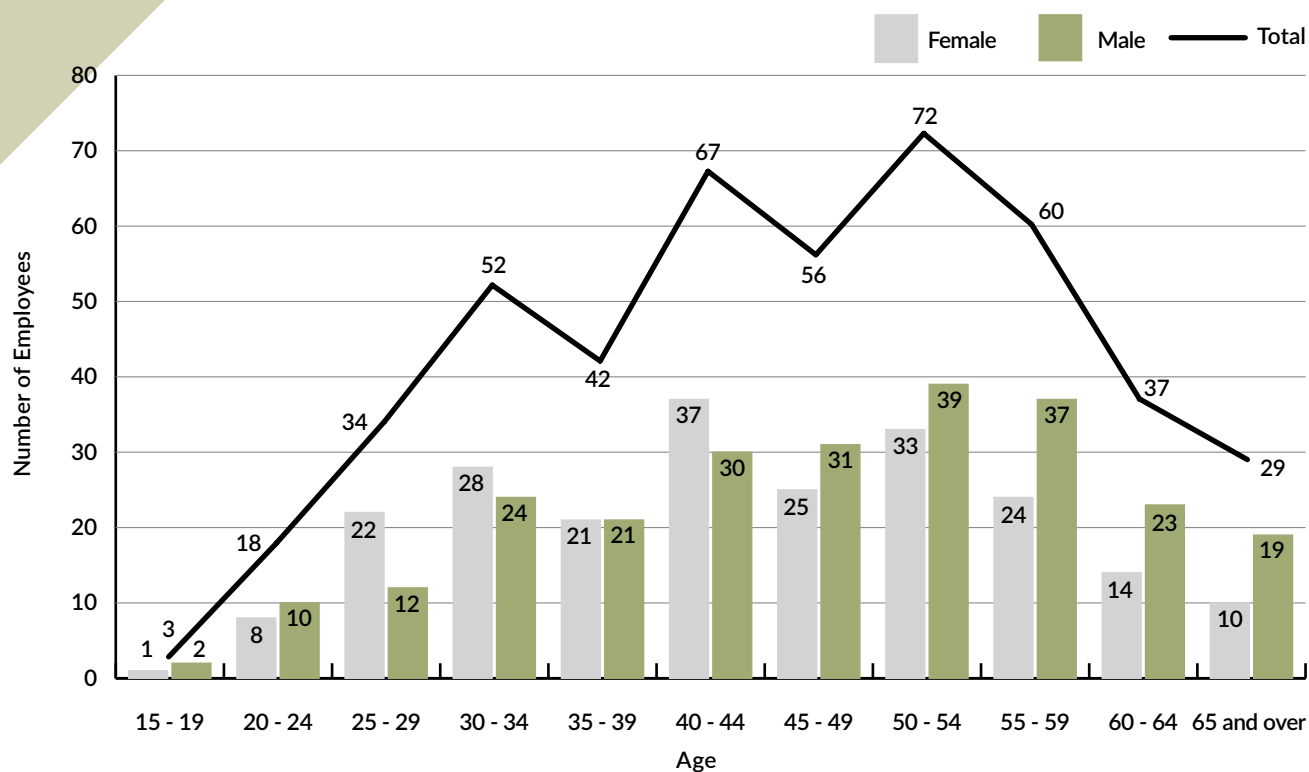


Figure 4.5. Age profile of employees of the department, as at 30 June 2017

Workforce Diversity

In order to provide services to a diverse range of stakeholders, the department must have a gender balanced and diverse workforce from different

cultural backgrounds and age groups, which requires equal opportunity in employment (EEO). These measures are described throughout this section.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Under the NT Government's Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy 2015-2020, the department's target rate for Aboriginal employment was 5.9 per cent by 30 June 2017. The department's

actual proportion of Aboriginal employment at this time was 7.7 per cent, exceeding the target rate by 1.8 per cent. The trend in other measures is shown below.

Table 4.3. Equal Employment Opportunity Measures - percentage as at 30 June 2017

EEO Measure	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
ATSI	6.3	6.8	7.7
NESB	4.5	4.6	5.1
PWD	2.9	2.2	1.8

Note: While the department encourages its employees to identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI), as being from a non-English speaking background (NESB) and/or as a person with a disability (PWD), employees provide this information voluntarily, therefore the data cannot be guaranteed to accurately portray the extent of these measures in the department.

ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

With Aboriginal employees making up 7.7 per cent of the department's workforce, several initiatives were undertaken to support these employees and improve representation, such as the sector-wide Special Measures recruitment processes, employment of Aboriginal trainees and developing specific cultural awareness training.

// With Aboriginal employees making up 7.7 per cent of the department's workforce, several initiatives were undertaken to provide support and improve representation.

Managing and Developing Our People

Training Expenditure ³

In 2016-17 the department invested \$521 020 in training and development to update and upskill its employees, averaging \$1 109 per FTE employee.

Table 4.4. Training expenses 2014-15 to 2016-17

Category	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Training and Other	\$511 988	\$363 824	\$440 813
Conferences	\$81 191	\$99 960	\$80 207
Total	\$593 180	\$463 784	\$521 020
Average per FTE	\$1 216	\$928	\$1 109

Further development programs are described below.

Table 4.5. Development programs offered in 2016-17

Course	Target Audience	No. of Participants
4 Wheel Drive and Remote, Long Distance and Extended Travel Workshop	Employees who undertake remote, long distance or extended travel	12
Certificate in Governance and Risk Management	IT staff, Finance Officers and Project Officers	10
Contingent Liability Workshop	Business Managers and Executive Officers	26
Doing The Right Thing	All	34
Key Conversations – Dealing with the Tough Stuff	Supervisors and Managers	38
Managing Workplace Change for Success	All	89
PDR Information Session for Employees	All	85
PDR Information Session for Managers	Supervisors and Managers	46

Personal Development Review

The Personal Development Review (PDR) links individual employee roles and responsibilities with the achievement of departmental objectives. The PDR encourages professional performance through planning, continuous training and development, and is designed to provide employees with an

opportunity to discuss their achievements, objectives and development needs.

As at June 2017, 39 per cent of employees had formally recorded PDR discussions in the previous 12 months.

³ Numbers for 2014-15 and 2015-16 are combined totals from the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and the Department of Mines and Energy

Professional Development Allowance

The department acknowledges that employees in the Professional stream are required to maintain the standards associated with their classification.

The Professional Development Allowance is paid on a reimbursement basis to offset professional development costs which a 'Professional' classification employee may have incurred. Under the NTPS 2013-2017 Enterprise Agreement, the

Allowance is paid up to:

- \$572 per annum for one to five years continuous service.
- \$1 259 per annum for five years or more continuous service.

In 2016-17, six employees accessed the scheme for a total of \$6 544.

Strengthening our Leaders

The department requires strong leaders to enable team excellence, innovation and achievement of outcomes. To achieve this, current and future leaders

took advantage of the following development opportunities during 2016-17.

Table 4.6. Leadership development opportunities 2016-17

DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
External providers		
Australian Rural Leadership Program and Agribusiness Leadership Program www.rural-leaders.com.au	These two programs develop leadership, communication and planning skills. Participants gain an understanding of leadership within an economic environment, understanding their own strengths and development needs and understanding of the range of issues that need to be considered for successful succession planning.	2
External providers		
Public Sector Management Program	Designed to enhance the existing knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours of middle and senior managers in order to improve public sector outcomes. A post graduate qualification offered through the Queensland University of Technology.	3
Workshops organised by the department (external providers)		
Future Leaders Workshop	Employees were provided with a tool for self-analysis to improve personal growth, leadership skills and an opportunity to network and develop professional relationships.	2

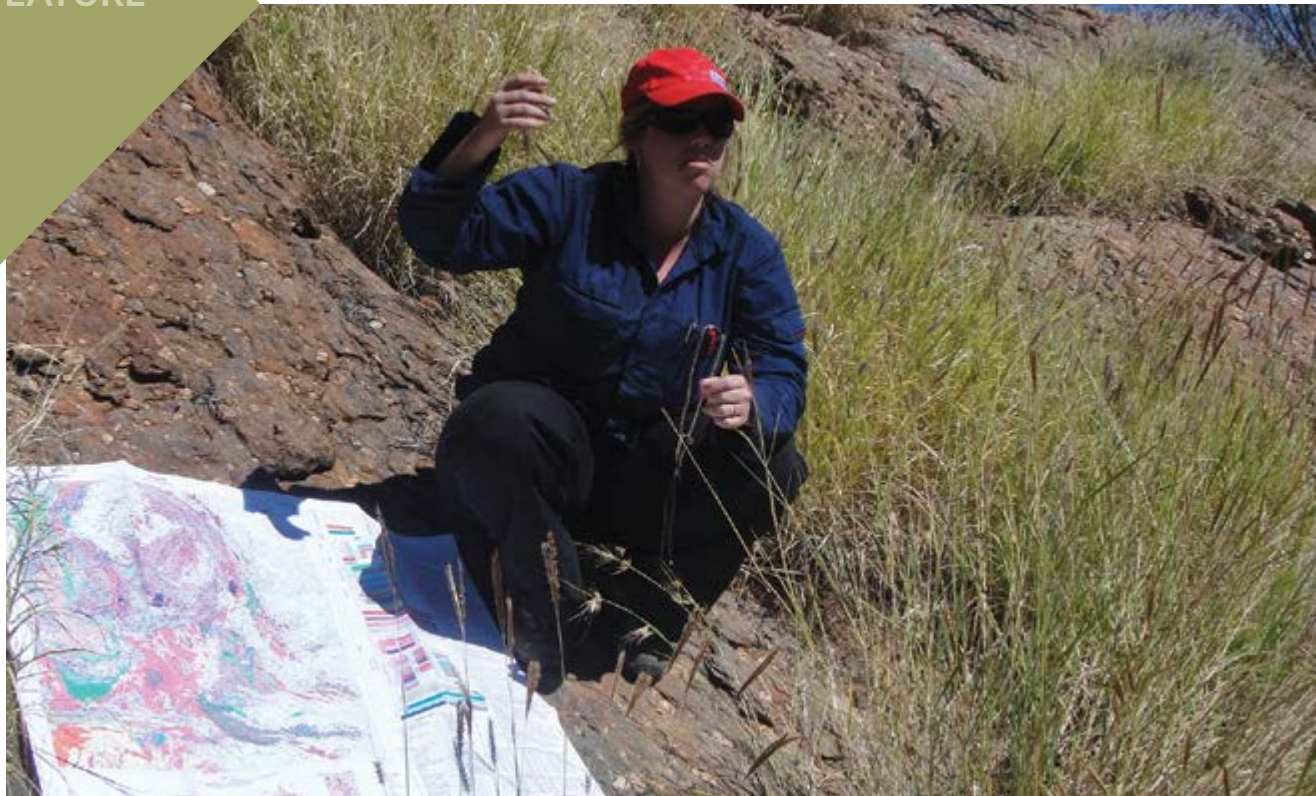


Figure 4.6. Jo conducting field work. Photo: NTGS

Congratulations Jo

Jo Whelan, Manager Basement Geoscience with the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS), proves that time and dedication are the foundations for success, after completing her 13-year journey to gain her PhD.

The hard work, research and dedication paid off, and with her thesis finished and submitted Jo travelled to Melbourne in May 2017 to attend her graduation ceremony and accept her Doctorate from the University of Melbourne.

The skills Jo gained during her PhD are key to understanding the timing and nature of the geological processes affecting basement terranes in the NT, and their potential to host a variety of mineral resources. Jo manages a multidisciplinary team of geologists who undertake regional scale mapping programs and more targeted studies of these basement terranes in the NT.

Jo relocated from Melbourne to Darwin 10 years ago to take up a position with the NTGS and has been working on her thesis (that looked at the chemistry and age of an unusual group of igneous rocks from south-eastern Australia) ever since. Jo says juggling work, life and study can be challenging but it is very satisfying to know her efforts have been recognised.

"I work with a great group of people and their support on many different levels has been very important to me over the years," Jo said.

"I started as a Project Geologist, and for the last four years I've been managing the Basement Geoscience Team. Now that I've finished my thesis, I'm looking forward to having the freedom to do whatever I want without feeling guilty for not studying".

Congratulations Dr Whelan, your future free time is definitely well-deserved!

// "I work with a great group of people and their support on many different levels has been very important to me over the years."

An Inclusive Workplace

The department strives to maintain an environment that is free from bullying, harassment and discriminatory practices by encouraging employees to participate in programs combatting bullying, training in merit selection and anti-discrimination, and the

employee assistance program. It also provides relevant policy and procedures to support equity and diversity in the workplace.

To ensure employees meet future challenges with capability and adaptability the following initiatives were undertaken during 2016-17.

Change Management

'Managing Workplace Change for Success' workshops were provided to all employees.

The aims of the workshop are to:

- become familiar with stages of change and how to manage them for positive results
- identify the drivers for change and develop skills in managing change
- reflect on 'lessons learnt' from previous change experiences
- explore strategies to support own individual and team resilience in times of change.

Early Careers

The department continues to participate in many of the cross-sector programs including those listed below.

Table 4.7. Cross-sector early careers programs accessed in 2016-17

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	PARTICIPATION IN 2016-17
Aboriginal Apprenticeship	Provides trainees with employment and structured learning to develop workplace skills and gain a nationally recognised qualification at the Certificate II, III, IV or Diploma level.	Nine Aboriginal Apprentices including three in regional areas undertook certificate-level qualifications relating to Business Administration, Laboratory Techniques and Rural Operations.
Graduate Development	A one or two year placement, available to recent graduates of tertiary courses. The on-the-job program combines general work tasks and a range of project work. Graduates are provided with the opportunity to gain real work experience and expand on their professional qualifications and knowledge.	The department did not participate in the program.
Aboriginal Cadetship Support	Supports cadets with their degree level studies through mentoring, study cost reimbursements, annual vacation employment and living allowance for the term of the cadetship.	One cadet participated in this program during the reporting period and has since gained employment within industry.
Aboriginal Entry Level Administrative and Technical	A 20-week pre-employment program that incorporates accredited training with on the job experience and mentoring.	The department did not participate in the program

Doing the Right Thing

The aim of the Doing the Right Thing session is to develop a greater understanding of the NTPS Code of Conduct and the rights and responsibilities of employees and managers in building and maintaining a positive workplace culture.

The session was offered in the Alice Springs region for 34 staff who were unable to participate in the 2015-16 sessions.

Performance Management

Managing employee performance and development is an obligation set out under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act* and Employment Instruction Number 4 to provide accountability for all Northern Territory Public Sector employees.

Employees can obtain advice and support from Human Resources in relation to resolving any issues regarding their employment.

Grievances and Complaint Handling

In 2016-17, four internal employee complaints were received. All complaints have been finalised.

Performance/Inability

Two formal performance cases were reported this year.

Discipline

The department had four disciplinary actions undertaken during 2016-17 with three finalised and one ongoing as at 30 June 2017.

Industrial Relations

During 2016-17 the department had one Notice of Dispute which has been resolved.

The department has continued to provide access to and engage with unions on change issues. The principal union was the Community and Public Sector Union.

Employment Instructions

Employment Instructions provide direction to agencies on human resource management matters. Under section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, the department is required to report on the extent to which the Public Sector Principles have been upheld and the measures taken to uphold them. This information is presented in Appendix 1 in terms of the Commissioner's Employment Instructions.

Awards and Milestones

STAR Awards

The department continues to encourage and acknowledge outstanding performance by individual employees and teams in the pursuit of government and departmental priorities at its annual 'STAR' Awards. There were two ceremonies held, one for Primary Industry and Fisheries and one for Mines and Energy.

STAR Awards have several categories:

- outstanding contribution in supporting the economic growth and viability of existing and emerging primary industries through the department's Industry Development Plan
- service excellence for the department's clients

- outstanding contribution to work health and safety
- outstanding contribution to leadership within the department
- outstanding professional, scientific, technical or other contributions to the Territory or region.

Major winners receive \$4 000 (\$10 000 for a team) and minor winners receive \$2 500 (\$5 000 for a team) for personal or professional development.

Presenting the awards were Hon Ken Vowles MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources and Hon Jeff Collins MLA, Assistant Minister for Primary Industry and Resources.

Primary Industry and Fisheries

The presentation was held at Berrimah Farm on 16 September 2016.

MAJOR AWARD

The major award winner this year was presented to the Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) diagnostic team for their enduring efforts in the sampling of plants and beehives for CGMMV in highly stressful and trying conditions. Team members included Lucy Tran-Nguyen, David Lovelock, Sharl Mintoff, Vicki Simlesa, Nadine Kurz, Mary Finlay-Doney and Natasha Burrows.

MINOR AWARD

The minor award was presented to the Animal Welfare Branch for their outstanding efforts in the Daly flood emergency response and evacuation of community animals of Nauiyu. Team members included Cobi Lawler, Mel Frousheger, Paul Mitchener, Sherie Hunt, Sheradene Solien-Senge, Lucas Mcauley, Peter Moloney and Peter Phillips.

The Emergency Management Team, Animal Biosecurity, Fisheries, National Banana Freckle Eradication Program, Corporate Communication, Departmental Strategic Services and staff from the Katherine, Palmerston and Litchfield Shire Councils were also acknowledged for their work during this emergency response.



Figure 4.7. L to R: Hon Jeff Collins MLA, Assistant Minister for Primary Industry and Resources and Hon Ken Vowles MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, Nadine Kurz, Sharl Mintoff, Vicki Simlesa, David Lovelock, Lucy Tran-Nguyen. **Photo: Peter Zeroni**



Figure 4.8. L to R: Peter Moloney, Sheradene Solien-Senge, Hon Ken Vowles MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, Hon Jeff Collins MLA, Assistant Minister for Primary Industry and Resources and Mel Frousheger. **Photo: Peter Zeroni**

STAR Award Nominations

The following are congratulated for their STAR Award nominations:

- Animal Welfare Branch - Cobi Lawler, Mel Frousheger, Paul Mitchener, Sherie Hunt, Sheradene Solien-Senge, Lucas Mcauley, Peter Moloney and Peter Phillips
- Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) Diagnostic Team - Lucy Tran-Nguyen, David Lovelock, Sharl Mintofo, Vicki Simlesa, Nadine Kurz, Mary Finlay-Doney and Natasha Burrows
- Daniel Atkins – Information Technology, Darwin
- Jodie Ward – Livestock Industries Development, Katherine
- AZRI Farm – including Deb Roberts, Darren White and Simon Carr
- Quality Graze Producer Steer Challenge Team⁴ comprising Chris Materne, Bryan Gill, Jocelyn Coventry, Sally Sims, Coral Allan and Jane Tincknell (former DPIF employee), Livestock Industries Development and Market and Enterprise Development, Alice Springs
- Marine Ranger Team⁴ comprising Ashley Perez, Jamie Damaso, Andrew Wellings and Simon Xuereb – Fisheries, Darwin
- Coral Allan – Livestock Industries Development, Alice Springs
- Vanessa Madrill – Corporate Communication, Darwin
- Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) Team⁴ comprising Steve Robertson, Chaz De La Coeur and Jane Tincknell – Market and Enterprise Development, all regions
- Lucy Tran-Nguyen – Plant Industries Development, Darwin
- *Fisheries Act* Review and Implementation Team⁴ comprising Glenn Schipp, Philip Conniff, Steve Sly, Leonie Cooper and Peter Zeroni – Fisheries, Biosecurity and Animal Welfare and External Strategic and Policy Coordination, Darwin.

Chief Executive Commendation Award (DPIF)

The Chief Executive Commendation Award was presented to the Quality Graze Producer Steer Challenge Team for their exceptional teamwork, dedication to research and engagement with the pastoral community during the Producer Demonstration Trial at the Old Man Plains Research Station.

⁴ Team nominated for the Chief Executive Commendation Award (DPIF)



Figure 4.9. L to R: Hon Ken Vowles MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, Hon Jeff Collins MLA, Assistant Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, Evan Tyrrell, Dan McIntyre and Scott Downs **Photo: Darrel Trueman**



Figure 4.10. L to R: Hon Ken Vowles MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, Tania Laurencont, Hon Jeff Collins MLA, Assistant Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, Mark Greally, Mitchell Rider and Ali Youssef. **Photo: Darrel Trueman**

Mines and Energy

The presentation was held at the Paspalis Centrepont Building on 2 December 2016:

MAJOR AWARD

The major award winner this year was presented to the Legacy Mines Unit for their outstanding work in reducing environmental and human safety impacts from historical mining activities, while creating regional economic development opportunities. Team members include Evan Tyrrell, Dan McIntyre, Joni Woollard and Scott Downs.

STAR Award Nominations

The following are congratulated for their STAR Award nominations:

- Workflow Apps for Charting and Application (WACA) Development Team⁵ comprising Ali Dbouk, Nicole Wear, Tiffany Kilian and Carla McConachy – Mines Division, Darwin
- McArthur River Mine Team⁵ comprising Michael Fogg, Damon Tweedie and Emma Muntz – Mines Division, Darwin
- Energy Division Information System (EDIS) Development and Implementation Team⁵ comprising Trevor Guy, Gina Graham, Dani Fraser, Imran Abedin and Ali Dbouk – Energy Division and Mines Division, Darwin
- Mining Data Team⁵ comprising Dr Ritnesh (Ricky) Syna and Jesse Pottage – Mines Division, Darwin
- Legacy Mines Unit – Mines Division, Darwin

MINOR AWARD

The minor award was presented to the Rum Jungle Project Team for their outstanding achievement in one of the department's very public projects. Team members include Tania Laurencont, Mitchell Rider, Mark Greally, Cassandra Stokes, Mark Baboucek and Ali Youssef.

- Investment Attraction Unit comprising Fiona Park, Brett Campbell, Sonia Mu, Jermaine Stephensen, James Munson and Kelsey Considine – Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin
- Rum Jungle Project Team comprising Tania Laurencont, Mitchell Rider, Mark Greally, Mark Baboucek, Ali Youssef and Cassandra Stokes – Mines Division, Darwin
- Alison Fry and Terri Zyka for Service excellence to the Department's clients – Mines Division, Darwin
- Vanessa Madrill and Tracey Rogers for the NTG Web environment – Corporate Communication and Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin
- Mitchell Rider – Mines Division, Darwin
- Matthew Bird – Mines Division, Darwin.

⁵ Team nominated for the Chief Executive Commendation Award (DME)

Chief Executive Commendation Award (DME)

The Chief Executive Commendation Award was presented to the Energy Directorate Information System (EDIS) Development and Implementation Team who worked together developing EDIS while meeting the ongoing challenges of their day-to-day

duties. The system was developed in-house to secure Petroleum Tenure data, centralise information, define business processes, streamline workflows and enhance business reporting.

Service Milestones

As part of the STAR Awards, the department recognises the milestones of employees who have worked continuously in the NT Public Sector for 10, 20, 30, 35 and 40 years.

DEPARTMENTAL MILESTONES

The department recognised the milestones of employees who have worked continuously in the NT Public Sector for 10 and 20 years. The Minister presented recipients with either a certificate or recognition plaque, depending on their length of service.

In 2016-17, the milestone recipients were:

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Steven Matthews
- Brian Schmid
- Caroline Pettit
- Kirsten Johnston
- Maxwell Heckenberg
- Mazhar Khan

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Jason De Araujo
- Vanessa Madrill
- Teena Lewis

NORTHERN TERRITORY PUBLIC SECTOR RECOGNITION OF SERVICE MILESTONES

This year NT Public Sector Milestones of 30, 35 and 40 years of service were recognised at formal ceremonies hosted by the Chief Minister and Commissioner for Public Employment on 25 October 2016 in Alice Springs and 27 October 2016 in Darwin.

Departmental staff that achieved these milestones were:

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Jack Wheeler
- Coral Allan
- Peter Phillips
- Murray Barton
- Nigel Saunders

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Graham Williams
- Christine Edgoose
- Russell Poole

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Arthur Cameron
- Doreen Walsh



Figure 4.11. Award category 'Making the Northern Territory a better place to live' - Legacy Mines Unit Joni Woollard, Mike Fawcett, Phil Hausler, Scott Downs and Evan Tyrrell.

Photo: Department of the Chief Minister

Chief Minister's Awards for Excellence

The department featured three times in the Chief Minister's Awards for Excellence in the Public Sector held in November 2016. The Legacy Mines Unit won the 'Making the Northern Territory a better place to live' category for their work in reducing environmental and human safety impacts from historical mining activities.

Lucy Tran-Nguyen and Sally Legio received the Chief Minister's Public Sector Medal. Lucy won her medal for her work in convening major scientific conferences and for plant molecular diagnostic work, while Sally won her medal for her long-term leadership of the Precision Pastoral Management Tools project (see feature story on page 136).

Other Achievements

- The Primary Industries Science Excellence Award was presented to Dr Robyn Cowley for her outstanding research contribution in partnership with others on several major research projects and the quantity and scientific quality of published work.
- Dave Wilson, Aquatic Biosecurity Officer won a Pride of Australia medal for his commitment to preserving and promoting Australian native fish.



Figure 4.12. Chief Minister's Public Sector Medal - Lucy Tran-Nguyen (top) from Plant Industries Development and Sally Leigo from Livestock Industries Development.

Photo: Department of the Chief Minister



Figure 4.13. Cattle quickly become accustomed to the walk-over-weigh system when it is installed near a water point.
Photo: Livestock Industries Development

Research and collaboration brings competitive advantage to Territory cattle producers

The potent combination of department-led research, industry and stakeholder engagement, coupled with extensive on-farm trials of a modern approach to pastoral management has delivered enhanced productivity and profitability opportunities for Territory cattle producers.

Sally Leigo, Pastoral Production Officer, led the five-year research project to determine the benefits of a data-driven, technologically forward pastoral management system to support enhanced beef production. 'eTrend' is a Precision Pastoral Management System which has now been successfully commercialised for market.

Research and extensive trials in the use of satellite technologies to monitor live weight change and to assess pasture conditions with real-time data has proven to be a game changer for northern Australia pastoralists.

The system captures and tracks live weight data from cattle as they walk over a weigh platform on their way to a watering point. The ear tag is automatically scanned as they pass over the weighing platform, and the identification and weight data is sent back to the pastoralist.

This data gives producers the opportunity to understand and respond to changes to their feed supply or herd more rapidly than relying on visual identification.

Research showed that most properties do not have the capacity to manually measure and assess pasture data or cattle every week, plus, visual identification can often fail to highlight slow developing issues.

The efficiencies of real-time data alleviate the need for hours or days of labour intensive travel, removes the guess-work from important economic and business decisions and could deliver tens of thousands of dollars in cost savings.

The highly successful system was trialled at five cattle stations across northern Australia including Undoolya Station, a 1 440 square kilometre pastoral lease east of Alice Springs, which

hosted the final field day.

Pastoralists took the opportunity to see the technology in action, review research findings and to speak with pastoralists' trialling the system about first-hand experiences, installation, training and cost-benefit analysis. Producers also met representatives from commercial partner, Precision Pastoral Pty Ltd.

Industry engagement throughout the project was critical in ensuring the development of a fit-for-purpose product which meets the needs of cattle producers.

Research, on-farm trials, stakeholder collaboration and a local thirst to develop this tool has resulted in a ready market for this technology that aspires to deliver significant economic, environmental and social benefits for cattle producers across remote Australia.

Ninti One supported the research, development and commercialisation of 'eTrend', through the Commonwealth Government's Cooperative Research Centres Programme.

// "This data gives producers the opportunity to understand and respond to changes to their feed supply or herd more rapidly than relying on visual identification. "

Work Health And Safety

Work Health and Safety Governance

The department is committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment while calling on all employees to share responsibility. Overarching governance of work health and safety (WHS) systems in the department is managed by the WHS Steering Committee which is a subcommittee of the Board of Management. Workplace committees

continue to address local issues by engaging work unit employees to apply local solutions. Information on work health and safety governance can be found in Section 2: Corporate Governance. This structure builds on the significant progress in recent years in developing a WHS governance framework.

Metrics

Table 4.8. WHS incidents by mechanism ⁶

Mechanism	2015-16	2016-17
Being Hit by Objects	19	8
Biological Factors	2	0
Body Stressing	8	9
Chemicals and Substances	1	3
Environmental Factors	0	3
Hazard	21	1
Hitting Objects	8	3
Mental Factors	0	3
Slips, Trips and Falls	7	10
Vehicle Incidents and Other	7	20
TOTALS	73	60

Data from WHS003 – Incident Details – Incident Summary report derived from the BOXI-HR system (Department of Corporate and Information Services).

The total incidents reported for the department has shown a decrease from the previous year. This may be attributable to an increase in identifying and rectifying hazards before an incident can occur, and is seen as a positive improvement in WHS awareness and a cultural change. Similarly, workers

compensation claims have also decreased suggesting that the impacts of incidents on individuals has reduced (Refer Section 2: Corporate Governance – Workers Compensation).

⁶ Numbers for 2015-16 are combined totals from the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy.

Performance

The department recognises that WHS is more than just having the right governance documents, policies and procedures in place. It requires engagement of all employees in achieving compliance and delivering outcomes. For this reason, a WHS Action Plan was

developed by DPIF in 2015-16. Reporting below is based on this system and other components of an overarching WHS Strategic Plan. Reporting compliance for Mines and Energy Divisions is noted separately below.

Table 4.9. WHS Action Plan 2016-17 – strategic objectives > key focus areas - actions, evaluation indicators and performance⁷

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES > KEY FOCUS AREAS		
Actions	Evaluation Indicators	Performance
Establish a Genuine Commitment to WHS > WHS Management System		
Update the WHS Policy at least annually	Policy is updated July annually	The WHS Policy was updated and re-issued in mid-2016.
Review WHS MS at least annually	WHS MS 2016-17 is in place and has been reviewed in the last 12 months	The 2015-2016 WHS Management System was updated in June 2016, approved by WHS SC and re-issued as the 2016-2017 WHS MS.
Update the WHS Strategic Plan and Action Plan at least annually	Updated plans are in place by July annually	The WHS SC reviewed the WHS Strategic Plan and Action Plan and re-issued the updated version in June 2016.
Maintain Risk Registers	All Risk Registers are updated by November annually or more often	Generic Risk Register created for office based work following decision by PIF WHS SC; Divisional registers completed and updated for majority of PIF; Mines and Energy Divisions to establish comparable system in 2017-18.
WHS Divisional Quarterly Reports and Action Plans	All divisions have one years' worth of reports on the WHS intranet site	The Quarterly plans and reports was a system developed under DPIF and will be considered by the WHS SC for extension to Mines and Energy groups; compliance was at 80% in first quarter dropping to 50% at end of year for reports made available via the intranet to all staff.

⁷ For acronyms used in this table, please refer to the Glossary at the front of this Report.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES > KEY FOCUS AREAS

Actions	Evaluation Indicators	Performance
Establish a Genuine Commitment to WHS > WHS Leadership		
WHS governance framework is maintained through regular review by WHS SC, including face to face meetings held at least every 3 months	<p>Strategic WHS issues are addressed in a timely manner</p> <p>Completion of WHS activities at operational level is reviewed</p>	With the creation of the new combined department and restructured governance system the WHS SC was created as a subcommittee of the Board of Management (BoM) from January 2017. Terms of Reference have been developed for approval by BoM in 2016-17.
Establish a Genuine Commitment to WHS > WHS Culture		
Finalise and implement the WHS Communications Plan based on areas of high risk	Plan is reviewed annually by August	The WHS Communications Plan remains in place as previous and will be reviewed by the new WHS SC.
Communicate Incident/Injury Reporting Form and Flowchart	Flowchart updated and road tested. WHS MS updated to reflect amended workflow	The WHS Incident/Injury Reporting process remains under scrutiny and is covered via status reports from both the online and hard copy systems to ensure all incidents are captured. WHS incident reporting is included as a standing agenda item for weekly meetings of directors.
Prevent Fatalities / Prevent Serious Injuries > Machinery		
Update Skills and Qualifications Register with license information.	Register is comprehensive reflecting skills of workforce	Work continues on this matter; 'Skills and Qualifications' is a standing agenda item for the Research Farms WHS Committee.
Prevent Fatalities / Prevent Serious Injuries > Vehicles		
Review Guidelines/Procedures for remote and isolated field work and long distance driving that meets the requirements of the WHS (NUL) Regulations and takes new technology into account	<p>Updated Guidelines/Procedures in place</p> <p>Safety Bulletin finalised and issued on the topic</p>	A new policy and procedure for Remote and Isolated Field Work was developed and implemented in July 2016. A number of procedural documents support this and outline all the requirements for employees across a range of work conditions.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES > KEY FOCUS AREAS

Actions	Evaluation Indicators	Performance
Prevent Fatalities / Prevent Serious Injuries > Laboratories		
Laboratory safety plans are audited at least annually	Internal audit	Laboratory safety management systems are inline with departmental best practice and include consideration of specialist chemicals and laboratory environments.
All new laboratory staff receive safety inductions on day one	Employee training and feedback	Workplace inspections checklists are completed annually and include employee consultation.
Prevent Fatalities / Prevent Serious Injuries > Animals		
All staff handling livestock receive training before entering yards	Employee training and feedback	All farm staff involved in cattle handling have previously received low stress stock handling training. The principles are reinforced with all staff on an ongoing basis. Prior to the annual muster on each farm, there is a planning meeting to discuss the risks and ensure preparedness for the activities involved.
All staff coming into contact with livestock yards to have Q-fever vaccinations and to have these subsidised	Vaccinations completed for at risk staff	All at risk staff were identified and notified of the initiative to have them undertake Q-fever vaccinations. Information on vaccination is included in the Zoonoses Guideline.
Information on Zoonoses and other animal-based risks is to be updated	Document is updated and used as an input into the risk assessment process by at risk staff	The document is due for updating in 2017 though is current at June 2017.
Crocodile awareness training is conducted for all at risk staff	Training completed	Targeted training is included in quarterly action plans.
Prevent Fatalities / Prevent Serious Injuries > Hazardous Substances		
Ensure Hazardous Substances Registers and signage are up to date for all work sites	Internal audit	Register is maintained via an inventory system in specialist database 'ChemAlert' - software licensing and access are up to date for all users.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES > KEY FOCUS AREAS

Actions	Evaluation Indicators	Performance
Reduce the Impact of Injuries and Incidents > Early Hazard Intervention		
Identified hazards are risk rated and treated within 24 hours	All hazards assessed and treated locally within 24 hours	Risk is managed with awareness of need for task assessment and any hazards identified. Policies and procedures for hazardous tasks in place to support management of activities.
Staff training in use of hazardous materials	Spot check through feedback during internal hazard/risk inspection checklist process	Included in induction processes and checked during workplace hazard inspection checklist process.
Safety Data Sheet information and WHS signage is up to date	Internal audit and/or internal hazard/risk inspection checklist process	Checked during workplace hazard inspection checklist process. Checklists are included in quarterly actions plans for annual coverage. Reports arising from quarterly action plans are noted for improvement in 2017-18.
Vaccinations appropriate to overseas travel destination are obtained by staff and subsidised	Vaccinations obtained as recommended by Travel Doctor and/or Centre for Disease Control, prior to travel	All staff travelling overseas are advised to talk to their medical practitioner regarding vaccinations. This is voluntary. The NTG Travel Guidelines reflect this recommendation.
Reduce the Impact of Injuries and Incidents > Return to Work		
Return injured officers to work as early as possible and in accordance with any medical recommendations	Medical recommendations are followed	NTG guidelines establish the recommended pathway for 'return to work' management.
Build Employee Capability > Induction		
Revise and improve WHS induction based on feedback received	Tested through employee feedback	Online automated workflows remind supervisors to complete all induction steps with notifications provided to HR group. Results of the People Matter Survey 2016 suggest that promotion of policies and process across all subjects is not effective and should therefore be targeted for improvement.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES > KEY FOCUS AREAS

Actions	Evaluation Indicators	Performance
Build Employee Capability > WHS Workplace Committees		
Divisions assist in maintaining WHS WC relevant to business objectives and its worksite operations and remain active through quarterly meetings	<p>High risk areas are identified and managed as a priority</p> <p>Quarterly meetings are held and minutes are published on WHS intranet site</p>	<p>Regional – AZRI – cross agency: 2 meetings recorded.</p> <p>Marine Safety – Fisheries Division: meetings held though not recorded.</p> <p>National Banana Freckle Eradication Program – Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Division – end of program, no meetings recorded.</p> <p>Research Farms – Market and Enterprise Development Division: 3 recorded.</p> <p>Accredited Laboratories – Departmental Strategic Services Division: no meetings recorded, WHS included as standing agenda item for internal meetings.</p>
Improve Engagement > Newsletters		
Include WHS news items in CE's Newsletter	Each newsletter contains at least one WHS item of relevance and interest	The number of CE newsletters published has increased and 19 WHS articles have been included in the last year ranging from remote and isolated field work, snake bites and heat stress to cyclone season and the potential of injury from large trees.
Improve Engagement > Noticeboards		
Maintain WHS noticeboards and WHS intranet site with practical WHS information for employees	<p>WHS noticeboard system in place</p> <p>List of noticeboards for each division developed and published on WHS intranet site as a point of information for staff</p>	Noticeboard resources were developed and available to all staff via the intranet; display of materials such as policies, procedures, risk registers and quarterly reports are mandatory.

MINES AND ENERGY WHS WORKPLACE COMMITTEE REPORTING

Centrepoint WHS WC	Combined DPIF/DME	Meeting Minutes not posted in 2016-17.
Remote and Isolated Fieldwork Committee	Across DME	Meeting Minutes not posted in 2016-17.
Executive WHS Steering Committee	Subcommittee of Executive Management Group	Meeting Minutes not posted in 2016-17.

Workers Compensation

This is reported in Section 2: Corporate Governance.

Wellbeing

Flexible Working Arrangements

The department aims to be an 'employer of choice' and provides flexible working arrangements for its employees to assist in achieving work-life balance. Flexible working arrangements include: job sharing; part-time hours, home-based work and flexible working hours.

Flexible work arrangements were continued in 2016-17, to allow a better balance between work and

family responsibilities, to improve the attraction and retention of employees, and to improve delivery of services.

As at 30 June 2017, 45 employees were working under flexible working arrangements and 10 worked from home.

Employee Assistance Program

In 2016-17, the department continued to promote an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to employees. This provides professional and confidential counselling services for employees for a range of issues including: personal and workplace relationships, health, depression, anxiety disorder, family disintegration, marital problems, alcohol and substance misuse and gambling and other addictions. Employees can access up to three free sessions across the NT with any of the six contracted external providers.

In 2016-17, the program was mainly used for management coaching and employee counselling services; 48 employees or their family members accessed this program at a total cost of \$39 346. The department will continue to maintain this program to support employees in their personal and professional challenges during 2016-17.

Staff Vaccination Programs

The influenza (flu) vaccination program continued in 2016-17 as an initiative to help staff remain healthy and reduce the impact of seasonal flu in the workplace and home. Employees were offered the opportunity to receive the Quadrivalent Influenza vaccination free of charge and 224 took advantage of this offer. In Darwin, the vaccinator attended the workplace and each participant (172) received a vaccination in private. In Katherine, 28 staff took up the offer of having free vaccinations at a local health clinic and 24 Alice Springs-based staff were vaccinated at AZRI.

Other vaccination programs subsidised by the department were Q-Fever pre-tests and vaccinations for staff working in and around livestock yards, vaccinations against hepatitis A, rabies and tetanus for Animal Welfare staff, and overseas travel vaccinations (Yellow Fever) for staff attending events in South American countries.



224 staff received
flu vaccinations

Workstation Ergonomics

Purchases of 'sit-to-stand' workstations continued in 2016-17 to enable staff with sitting jobs to improve the ergonomics of their work area and give

the health benefits and flexibility to easily switch between sitting and standing to utilise computer workstations.

Yoga, Tai Chi, Chi Gung and Volleyball

Staff at Berrimah Farm continued to participate in combined yoga and pilates exercises at the BARC Hut with 'yogalates' classes. Class sizes ranged from 14 to 19 people, initially with an instructor then moving onto virtual classes through YouTube.

Eight staff at Berrimah Farm also participated in the gentle martial arts of Tai Chi and Chi Gung for stretching, strengthening and breathing exercises. One keen student was able to learn all movements of the 24 set Chen Style form. Class fees were donated to the UFOs Cancer Council fundraising.

The AZRI Volleyball Cup inter-departmental competition was revived after an interval of 25 years. The department was represented by two teams and played against six teams from four other government departments. Entry fees and other collected monies totalled \$235 and were donated to Guide Dogs NT.



Figure 4.14. Certificate II in Fishing Operations training. Photo: Clem Benson, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation

Fisheries training and support is helping remote Aboriginal communities participate in the seafood industry

The Aboriginal Coastal Licence (ACL) allows Aboriginal people in remote coastal communities to catch a variety of fish and sell them to the local community, shops, visitors, and even into Darwin or regional centres.

It is also a potential stepping stone into larger-scale fishing activities.

The ACL is administered by the Department of Primary Industry and Resources' (DPIR) Aboriginal Development Unit which, through its Aboriginal Fishing Mentor and Aboriginal Marine Training Programs, encourages and supports Aboriginal people to be involved in fishing and increase the supply of fresh, affordable seafood in remote communities.

To build the fishing skills of ACL holders and help them safely bring their catch to market, the department has partnered with the Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy (AMFA) to deliver Certificate II in Fishing Operations courses to licensees and other remote Aboriginal community residents.

The fourth fishing operations course was held at Maningrida in May 2017. The course had previously been delivered in Wadeye and Nhulunbuy, with students attending from communities across East Arnhem Land.

The success of the program was demonstrated in June 2017 when Maningrida ACL holder Don Wilton, who completed the Nhulunbuy course in December 2016, delivered the first shipment of mullet from Maningrida to Darwin Fish Market.

There are now three ACL holders in Maningrida receiving help from the Aboriginal Development Unit and who are supported locally by the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, which provides assistance to the licensees to get their small businesses up and running and also supported the training in Maningrida.

These three fishermen's businesses employ local Aboriginal people and regularly sell fish locally in Maningrida, Ramingining and Gunbalanya.

The program's success is testament to the cooperation between DPIR, AMFA, Aboriginal communities and the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation, which provides funding through the Indigenous Responsive Program for regional and remote communities to train workers for projects in the community.



5. SUSTAINABILITY

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Spider hatchlings at dawn

Photo: David Waterson

Fast Facts



13 per cent reduction in **power use**
at Darwin Aquaculture Centre

7.55 per cent reduction in **fuel costs** since 2015-16



8 per cent reduction in the **vehicle fleet**

22.06 kg of **recyclables** diverted from landfill



13 per cent reduction in **paper usage**

\$200 000 provided for **Animal Welfare Grants**



over **\$1 500** raised for **charity**

4 staff assisted with the Queensland prawn white spot disease
biosecurity response



50 school students participated in **science activities** at the Katherine Research Station

194 delegates attended **AGES 2017**



20 attendees at the **Integrated Pest Management** field day

The Environment

The department is committed to supporting environmental, social and economic sustainability by reducing its carbon footprint and impact on the environment through the delivery of several 'greening' initiatives.

Energy Efficiency

The solar photovoltaic system installed at the Darwin Aquaculture Centre saw a decrease of 13 per cent in power costs for 2016-17 compared with 2015-16, with a further 16 per cent decrease estimated for 2017-18.

The department also contributes to energy efficiency through automated airconditioning and lighting systems that switch off outside core business hours and within specified time limits.

Future Berrimah Farm building refurbishments under the Berrimah Farm redevelopment will adopt energy efficiency techniques such as utilising natural light and open floor design.

Fleet Management

Fleet levels decreased during 2016-17 as a result of returning 10 vehicles upon the wind down of the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program.

Fuel costs also decreased in 2016-17 as a result of the wind down of the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program and the reduction in home garaging of NTG plated vehicles by staff.

Table 5.1. Fleet vehicle statistics

	2015-16*	2016-17
Fuel Costs (\$)	328 094	303 329
Reduction (-)/increase (+) over base year	Base year	-7.55%
Lease Costs (\$)	1 574 270	1 614 041
Reduction (-)/increase (+) over base year	Base year	+2.53%
Total Vehicle Fleet	129	119
4 Cylinder (%)	88	79
V8 (%)	41	40
4WD (%)	92	82
Diesel (%)	90	91

*2015-16 figures are combined for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy.

Paper Consumption

The department continued to encourage responsible paper consumption by setting printer default settings to black and white, double-sided printing, electronic filing in place of hard copy and viewing of correspondence and publications online where possible. The department also uses recycled and carbon neutral (PEFC[®] certified ¹) paper.

Paper consumption decreased in 2016-17 compared to the previous year. This is partly attributed to

higher ordering levels in 2015-16 and the move from hard copy paper files to electronic file usage. Increased Wi-Fi coverage across the department meant staff can take laptops and tablets to meetings.

Data on paper consumption includes the seven divisions at Berrimah Farm and Corporate Services and Mines and Energy in the Centrepoint Building.

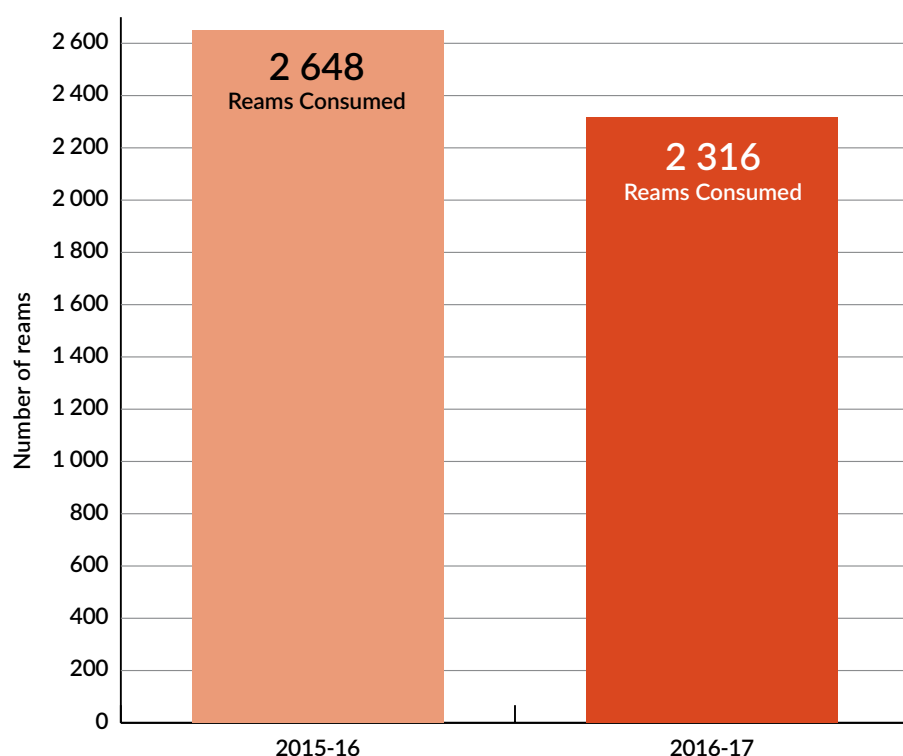


Figure 5.1. Paper consumption (number of reams), Darwin region 2016-17

Note: Figure for 2015-16 is combined for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy

Recycling

The department continues to provide recycling bins for secure documents, paper, cardboard and co-mingled recycling. General waste, wet and biohazard bins are also used. Staff are encouraged to recycle by having a dedicated recycling box beneath their desk. Printer toners and cartridges are also recycled through Close the Loop Cartridges 4 Planet Ark and mobile phones are recycled through MobileMuster.

The following table provides the number of various recycling bins used in the main regional headquarters facilities of Berrimah Farm, Centrepoint, Katherine Research Station and at the Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs.

¹ PEFC is the program for endorsement of forest certification, for promoting sustainable forest management.

Table 5.2. Number of recycling bins

	Recycle	Confidential	Wet	General	Biohazard
Darwin*	17	16	3	0	2
AZRI	1	2	0	2	3
Katherine+	0	1	0	0	1

* Darwin includes Berrimah Farm and Centrepont Building only

+ There are no recycling facilities in Katherine and Tennant Creek. Paper is shredded and used for packaging parcels/samples for transport. Confidential paper from Tennant Creek is shredded, bagged and taken to the recycle bins at AZRI, Alice Springs.

Recycling in Darwin increased in 2016-17 as a result of clearing sheds and office spaces in preparation for moving off the greater Berrimah Farm footprint, staff moving offices and general clean up days prior to the cyclone season. Data from regional areas is not available for 2016-17.

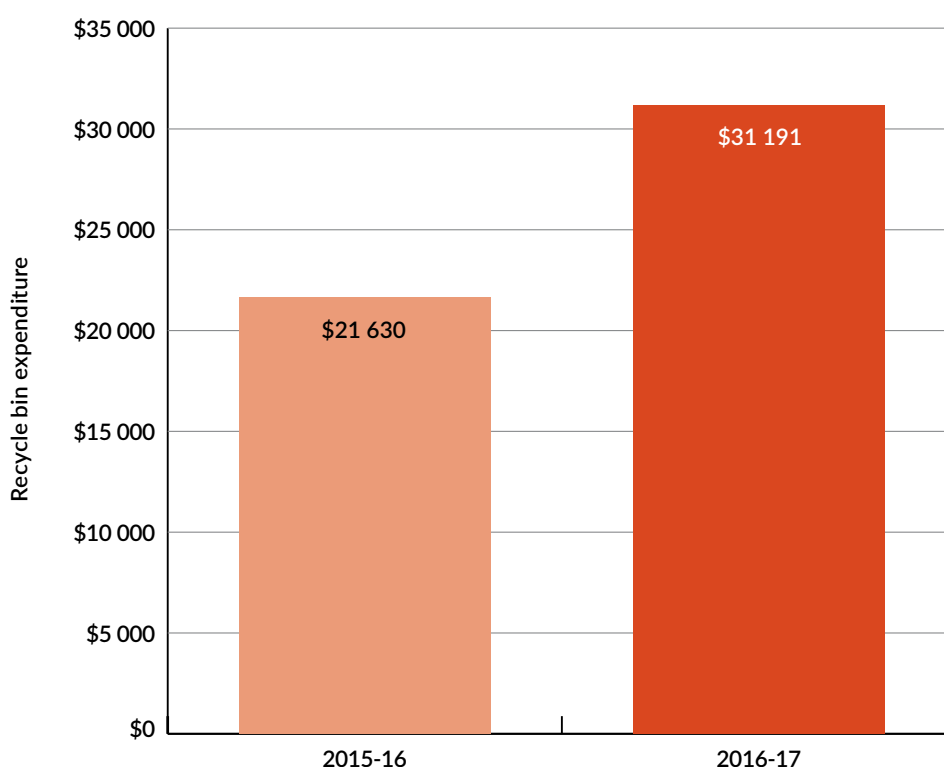


Figure 5.2. Darwin region waste/recycling (expenditure on bins)

Note: Data for 2015-16 is combined for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy

At Berrimah Farm, 10 cent refundable bottles are collected at the 'BARC Hut' Social Club and proceeds go to the Cancer Council NT.

// A total of 22.06 kg in recyclables was diverted from landfill through Close the Loop.

Travel Destinations

Intra Territory travel decreased in 2016-17 compared to 2015-16 due to the completion of a number of research projects and biosecurity programs, and completion of the engagement activities about onshore gas. International travel also decreased in 2016-17 due to a reduction in external projects and attendances at international conferences and workshops.

Interstate travel remained steady compared to the previous year due to the participation and delivery of information at conferences and changes in environmental regulatory reform.

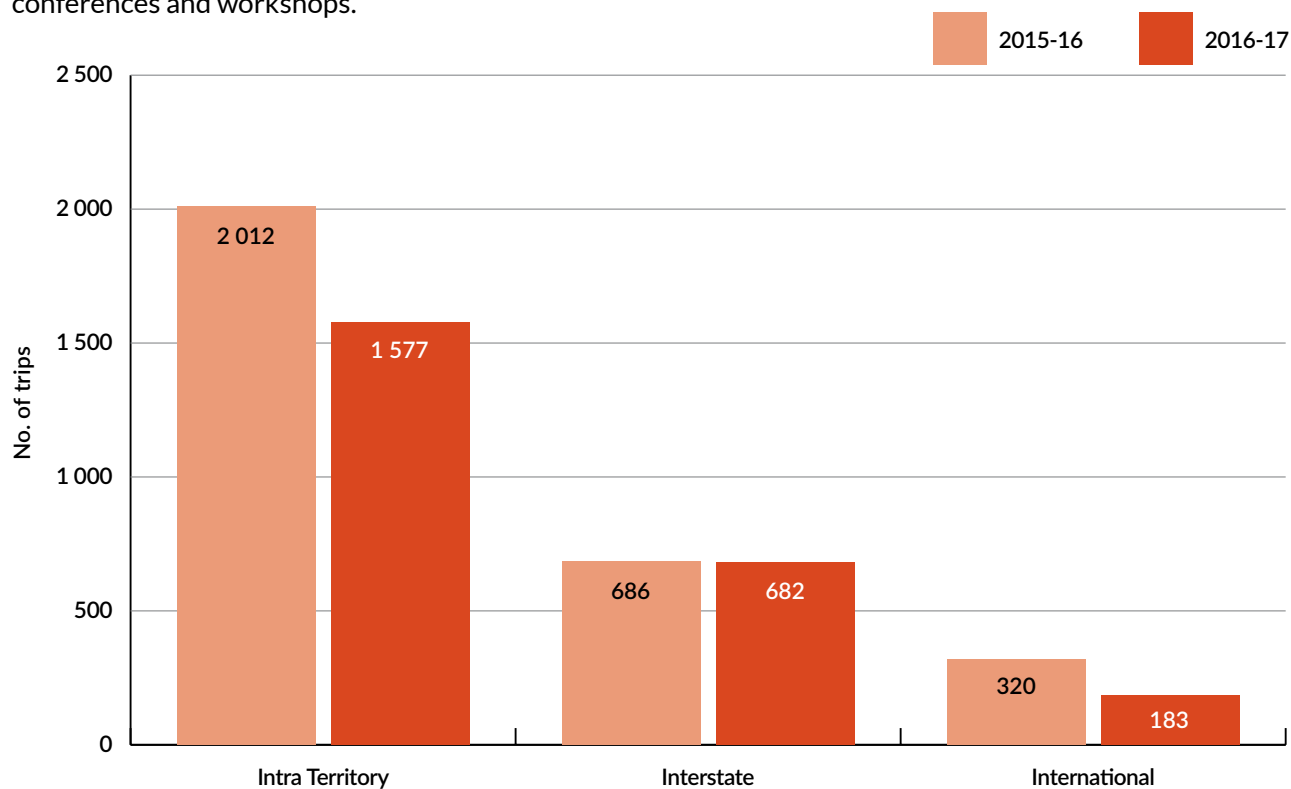


Figure 5.3. Travel (number of trips), 2015-16 and 2016-17

Data from TRIPS report TR06: Travel Statistics.

Note: 2015-16 figures are combined for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy

Supporting the Community

Sponsorship

The department continued to support a wide range of community activities through sponsorship, training programs and workshops. Details of

the industry and community organisations that benefited from our sponsorship support can be found at Appendix 2.

Territory Natural Resource Management Conference

The 2016 Territory Natural Resource Management Conference, an event proudly sponsored by the department, was held in Darwin in November 2016.

This year's conference, 'Shaping the future of natural resource management' focused on innovative practices and collaborative projects to showcase and encourage real natural resource management change.

The department hosted a conference trade booth highlighting our agricultural diversification research, buffalo research program, Darwin Aquaculture Centre, and collaborative projects, with a digital presentation on our legacy mines work.

The Quality Graze Producer Steer Challenge in Central Australia was a finalist in the 'Research in natural resource management' award category and received a high commendation.

NT Show Circuit

For the 2016 regional show circuit, the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy were represented at the local shows in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Darwin and Borroloola.

The Primary Industry and Fisheries displays highlighted local research activities and promoted the important role of agricultural industries across the Territory. The display also promoted awareness about responsible recreational fishing and the shared responsibility for biosecurity including the importance of having a Property Identification Code.

The Mines and Energy display included interactive activities designed to interest young people in

science and provided updates on the key activities of the department including legacy mines work in the Tennant Creek area, and information about the geology of the Northern Territory, onshore gas and fossicking.

Preparations for the Department of Primary Industry and Resources displays at the 2017 regional show circuit are underway. Dedicated displays at Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine will highlight local extension and on-farm initiatives, there will also be information about priority projects and the economic contribution made by local industries.

Animal Welfare Grants

The 2016 Animal Welfare Grants were distributed to nine organisations. Grants were used by organisations to deliver educational courses for wildlife carers and schools, improve the welfare of housed animals, subsidised veterinary care and to improve onsite facilities, build capacity of community members to care for injured wildlife and deliver school-based wildlife programs. These grants were

in recognition of the great many social and economic benefits provided by animals in our everyday lives and the need for responsible care and management.

The Animal Welfare Fund Grant Program provides \$200 000 in grants annually to support Territory-based not-for-profit organisations whose core business is animal welfare. A list of recipients can be found at Appendix 2.

Animal Welfare Grants up to \$50 000 are available to assist eligible not-for-profit organisations with projects to improve animal wellbeing, raise community awareness of animal welfare

Supporting Students

The department continues to support and encourage students to engage with and consider careers in industry. The department also has an educational role to play and welcomes students from all stages of academic life. Future departmental employees are the students of today.

Microbiologist Nikki Elliott jumped at the chance to share her passion with students at Moulden Park Primary School as part of the Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools program. The program is managed by the CSIRO and promotes science and math in primary and secondary schools.

Charles Darwin University students spent a day at Berrimah Farm practicing their agricultural science skills with staff and Fisheries hosted a Good Shepherd Lutheran College Year 5 excursion.

The Animal Welfare Branch organised the Animal Welfare Week school engagement activities with great success.

Queensland Biosecurity Response

Staff from the department spent time in the Brisbane area assisting the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries with their biosecurity response to prawn white spot disease.

Evan Needham (Aquatic Resource Manager), Kitman Dyrting (Veterinary Pathologist), Graham Schultz (Senior Research Officer) and Dave Wilson (Technical Officer Aquatic Biosecurity) each spent between two and three weeks lending their

responsibilities, and help promote and improve animal management practices, particularly in remote communities.

Twenty Centralian Senior College students toured Berrimah Farm to learn about career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The year 10 science students visited Berrimah Veterinary Laboratories (BVL), Fisheries laboratories, Plant Industries and the Darwin Aquaculture Centre.

This is the third year that Centralian Senior College students have visited, and is another opportunity to provide information about pathways to careers in science.

Thank you to those who helped organise the day: Fanny Hermanus (Financial Services), Lorna Melville (BVL), Samantha Nowland (Aquaculture), Mark Grubert (Fisheries Research) and Mila Bristow (Plant Industries).

expertise in planning, laboratory and field team work. Their secondments were organised by Jessica Arnold, Manager Emergency Management.

Reciprocal participation by other jurisdictions is one of the tenets of the national biosecurity response system. The department has a wealth of knowledge on a wide range of subjects, and this expertise is vital to when faced with biosecurity threats.

Charity Support

The RSPCA Million Paws Walk raises funds to support their work with shelter animals. The Animal Welfare Branch (AWB) assisted the event by providing staff to field queries on a wide range of issues, and to make the community aware of the important role the AWB play in investigating complaints of animal cruelty and abuse.

Peter Waggitt, Director Mining Compliance, was one of 88 Darwin participants in the 2016 Vinnies CEO Sleepout. Peter raised over \$1 000 for the Vinnies CEO Sleepout and came 25th in the NT in the fundraising tally.

The annual Australia's Biggest Morning Tea event was once again held at the Berrimah Farm Library raising \$213 for the Cancer Council. Library morning teas have been a Berrimah Farm tradition for more than 20 years and have raised funds for the Cancer Council since 2013.

Supporting events such as the Million Paws Walk, Biggest Morning Tea and the Vinnies CEO Sleepout play an important function in educating the wider community of the role the department has to play in the NT.

Fisheries Training in Remote Communities

The Indigenous Development Unit of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Division organises regular training for Aboriginal people working in the seafood industry, and Aboriginal marine rangers.

Courses such as the two-week Certificate II in Fishing Operations provide participants with the skills, knowledge and aspiration to further improve their fishing operations.

The Indigenous Marine Training Program helps Aboriginal people living in communities participate

in the seafood industry and provides coastal communities with the knowledge to develop small-scale fishing businesses and increase the supply of local, fresh, affordable seafood.

The success of this regular training and the value it provides to communities is a testament to the cooperation between NT Fisheries, The Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy, Aboriginal communities, and the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation.

Community Engagement

The department undertook a range of community engagement activities in 2016-17:

AGES 2017

The 18th Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) was hosted by the department in Alice Springs on 28-29 March 2017, where a mix of NTGS and industry presentations showcased the rich minerals and petroleum potential of the Northern Territory. The event was attended by 194 delegates, an increase from the previous year, and included representatives from 50 exploration companies, as well as government and Aboriginal organisations.

Many of this year's presenters were Northern Territory Geological Survey speakers providing information on their research, data and new technology. Presentations were also given by interstate and Territory companies, proving the diversity and knowledge of this department-run event.

The Alice Springs based Central Mining Team from the Mines Division also attended AGES to meet with operators, consultants and agents to discuss mining and compliance related issues, as well as using the opportunity to put faces to names and build positive working relationships with exploration operators.

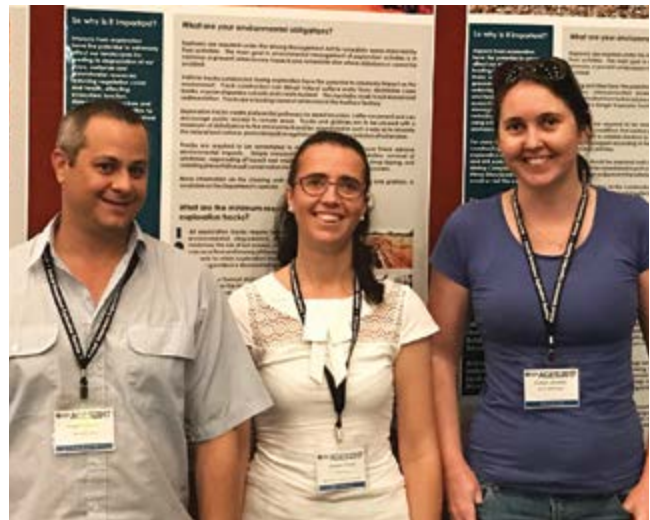


Figure 5.4. Central Mining team members David Waterson, Roberta Ferrari and Kirsten Johnston at AGES 2017.

Photo: Peter Waggitt

The team plays an important role in the regulation and compliance of mining operations across Central Australia and regularly inspects and audits operational sites and management systems relating to mining activities.

Invasive Barnacles and Bivalves Workshop

Seventy participants from across industry and government attended the Invasive Barnacles and Bivalves Workshop held at Berrimah.

Facilitated in conjunction with the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT and the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, the workshop included presentations on marine and freshwater pests using barnacles and bivalves as representatives of major invasive groups.

Topics included the management of the national system for marine pests, the functions of our Aquatic Biosecurity Unit and Emergency Management System in the event of a marine or freshwater pest incursion, and distinguishing characteristics and habits of native and non-native barnacles and bivalves.

Participants gained experience in dissecting bivalves to observe differences in internal structures and the best way to confirm if specimens are dead or alive.

Coastal Plains Research Farm Field Day

Top End growers visited the Coastal Plains Research Farm on 8 September 2016 for an update on projects that were underway in Plant Industries Development including:

- the Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus outbreak
- on-farm biosecurity planning

- changes to water licencing requirements in the Darwin rural area
- jackfruit seedling selection planting
- rambutan trials evaluating clonal orchard systems
- passionfruit trials
- cool season tropical grass trials
- nitrogen nutrition in mango trees
- research on Panama disease in banana.

Undoolya Field Day

There was a strong turnout of local beef producers, stock agents and government representatives at the Undoolya Field Day held on 3 November 2016.

Participants learned about the Precision Pastoral Management System (PPMS), watched presentations from beef industry leaders on the economic and land management challenges beef producers face,

with the Precision Pastoral Management Tools Project team demonstrating how PPMS can be used to overcome some of these challenges (see feature story on page 136).

Attendees also had a chance to see the RLMS (automated weighing system) in action.

Certificate II in Fisheries Compliance

A two-week Certificate II in Fisheries Compliance course for Aboriginal marine rangers from across the Top End is run twice a year by the Fisheries Division, Australian Maritime Fisheries Academy and Water Police Section. The course is held in Batchelor, with practical activities undertaken at nearby Manton Dam.

The training is part of the NT Government's commitment to support remote Aboriginal communities participate in the fishing industry

and increase the skills and knowledge of Aboriginal rangers.

The training covers different practical methods of gathering, collating and recording information, as well as workplace safety, relevant legislation, and fisheries management practices.

Two courses were run in December 2016 and May 2017 with 31 rangers completing the qualification.

Certificate II in Fishing Operations

The department's Aboriginal Development Unit within the Fisheries Division, partnered with the Australian Maritime and Fisheries Academy to deliver Certificate II in Fishing Operations courses to licensees and other remote Aboriginal community residents throughout the year. Courses were held

in Wadeye, Nhulunbuy and Maningrida (see feature story on page 146).

The course is designed to build the fishing skills of Aboriginal Coastal Licence holders and help them safely bring their catch to market.

Sniffer Dog Training

In a good example of the collaboration that often takes place between Northern Territory Government departments, the department's Animal Welfare Branch assisted the NT Police Dog Operation Unit hold some of their Drug Detection Dog Training Course sessions in and around the Berrimah Farm offices.

Five new canine recruits and their handlers – four from NT Police and one from NT Corrections – undertook the training course. Berrimah Farm was utilised for some of the practical components of the course in April and May 2017 when it progressed to building searches.

The training at Berrimah Farm was set up to simulate a search warrant that handlers and dogs would be tasked to when they became operational.

The dogs that graduated from the course now work operationally with their handlers alongside a team mentor where they search flights at Darwin airport, undertake car searches on road blocks, and search warrants on private property.

School Tours at Katherine Research Station

As part of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Week in Katherine, more than 50 school students from five local schools visited Katherine Research Station on 17 May 2017 for a first-hand look at what a career in agriculture might entail.

On each of the tours the students participated in a number of activities that scientists and applied

engineers regularly conduct as part of their jobs, and hear how the activities fit into the broader picture of agriculture, food production and productivity in the Katherine region.

The tours aimed to inspire local children to consider pursuing science or engineering careers in the Katherine region and it is hoped that this will become an annual event as part of STEM Week.

Integrated Pest Management Field Day

An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Field Day was held at Coastal Plains Research Farm on 29 June 2017 and attended by about 20 growers, producers and IPM specialists.

The field day was co-hosted by the department's Plant Industries Development Division and NT Farmers Association and looked at developments in IPM.

IPM is an environmentally sensitive approach to dealing with plant pests which fosters naturally occurring beneficial insects (predators and parasitoids) by reducing pesticide use and, when necessary, using chemicals that are soft on beneficials.

Grazing Land Management Workshop

Ten cattle station managers and head stockmen attended a two-day training workshop at Brunchilly Station, north of Tennant Creek. Organised by the department and the Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association, participants learnt about ecosystem processes, managing grazing, weed management and the use of prescribed burning in the context of their pastoral operations.

At the end of the workshop each participant gave a presentation about the management changes they intended to implement on their property. These included paddock development options, weed control programs and changes to grazing management to improve animal production and land condition.

Animal Biosecurity Workshop

A two-day animal biosecurity workshop held at Berrimah Farm was attended by more than 30 private veterinarians practising in the NT and those immediately over the border in Queensland and Western Australia. Government vets also attended. The workshop was funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

The focus of the workshop was on emergency diseases, primarily Hendra virus and Australian bat lyssavirus, with a strong emphasis on biosafety and the need to address the potential threat that these diseases represent to human health.

Topics included post-mortem and sample collection demonstrations, public health and zoonoses, emergency animal diseases, and the veterinary practitioner's role.



Old Man Plains Research Station
in Central Australia.
Photo: Corporate Communication

6. FINANCIAL REPORTING

Financial Statements Overview

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS ORDER – 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources was created as part of an Administrative Arrangements Order restructuring on 12 September 2016 with retrospective effect for accounting purposes from the 1 July 2016. The new department combines the functions of the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Department of Mines and Energy (DME).

Arising from the Administrative Arrangements Order \$33.67 million in assets and \$29.21 million in liabilities were transferred over from the former DME. As it is not practicable to reconstruct

individual balances for the financial statements as a result of the restructure, no comparatives have been provided pursuant to Clause 42 of the Accounting Standards AASB 101 – Presentation of Financial Statements.

The 2016-17 financial statements and notes for the department have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards. The department's financial performance in 2016-17 are reported in four financial statements: the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement.

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT - SUMMARY

	2016-17
	\$000
Operating Income	97 029
Operating Expenses	98 097
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(1 068)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	
Asset Revaluation Reserve	(12 039)
Transfers from Reserves	(11 008)
Total Other Comprehensive Income	(23 047)
Comprehensive Result	(24 115)

The Comprehensive Operating Statement details the department's financial performance on income and expenditure for the year by detailing the sources and nature of same. The net deficit for the year is calculated by subtracting the expenses from income.

The operating net deficit of \$1.07 million in 2016-17, is largely due to the timing of reimbursements from the Commonwealth relating to expenditure incurred by the department in 2015-16 responding to the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program (NBFEP) and revenue received from other external funding bodies for research

projects that was not fully expensed in 2016-17. These were offset by depreciation and unfunded non-discretionary unforeseeable expenses.

The significant movement in the department's comprehensive result to the net operating deficit in 2016-17 was largely due to the transfer of surplus land and buildings to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) in addition to the transfer of accumulated funds from the former DME.

Further details of land and buildings are set out in Note 11 of the Financial Statements.

OPERATING INCOME

	2016-17
	\$000
Current Grants and Subsidies	1 880
Output Appropriation	75 208
Commonwealth Appropriation	7 199
Sales of Goods and Services	5 410
Goods and Services received free of charge	4 094
Gain on Disposal of Assets	10
Other Income	3 228
Total Income	97 029

The department's principal source of revenue was sourced through Northern Territory Parliamentary appropriation and classified as Output Appropriation, was \$75.21 million or 78 per cent of total income in 2016-17.

A further \$1.88 million was received in grants predominantly from other jurisdictions as part of the cost sharing arrangements for expenditure incurred by the NT for the NBFEP, the National Browsing Ant Northern Territory Eradication Program (NBANTEP) and grants received from other Commonwealth agencies for research projects.

The \$7.2 million received through Commonwealth Appropriation relates to the Commonwealth's contribution to the NBFEP (\$5.2 million) with the balance relating to funding for the Rum Jungle Mine Rehabilitation project.

A further \$5.41 million was generated through the sales of goods and services and fees, including water analysis testing, sale of livestock and produce and mining and petroleum application fees. In addition to this \$3.23 million was received in other income from Commonwealth and State Agencies and private research and development corporations/ organisations for research projects.

Included in the department's total income is \$4.10 million of notional income for services received free of charge from the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) which is fully negated by an offsetting expense classified under Administrative Expenses. This relates to centralised corporate services for the processing of accounts payable, payroll and property management services so as to project the true cost of the department delivering its programs and services.

Details of department income from sales of goods and services and other income can be found in Note 6 of the Financial Statements.

OPERATING EXPENSES

	2016-17
	\$000
Employee Expenses	54 633
Administrative Expenses	
Purchase of Goods and Services	24 462
Repairs and Maintenance	3 452
Depreciation and Amortisation	4 372
Goods and Services free of charge	4 094
Other Administrative Expenses	161
Grants and Subsidies Expenses	
Current Grants	2 823
Capital Grants	4 100
Total Expenses	98 097

In 2016-17 employee expenses accounted for 56 per cent of the department's total expenditure and purchases of goods and services accounted for 25 per cent. Payments for repairs and maintenance, non-cash expenses relating to depreciation and notional DCIS charges are the other major expenses incurred by the department, making up the balance is expenditure on current grants and a one off expense in 2016-17 for capital grants.

Details of expenditure relating to Purchases of Goods and Services can be found in Note 7 while Grant payments are set out in Appendix 2.

BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARY

	2016-17
	\$000
Assets	130 567
Liabilities	59 410
Equity	71 157

The Balance Sheet details the department's financial position on assets, liabilities and equity at balance date.

ASSETS

Of the department's total assets in 2016-17, \$81.42 million, or 62 per cent, relates to its holding on property, plant and equipment and \$41.41 million or 32 per cent relates to cash and deposits comprising of cash held in the Accountable Officers Trust Account (AOTA) for Mining Securities, the Securities Levy and Aboriginal Land Rents. A further \$5.32 million relates to the NT Farm Finance Concessional Loan Scheme (NTFFCLS) ¹ with remaining assets comprising of receivables and prepayments.

Further details on assets can be found in Notes 9, 10, 11 and 12 with details on the Accountable Officers Trust Account in Note 24.

LIABILITIES

Of the department's total liabilities in 2016-17, \$41.44 million or 70 per cent relates to deposits held in the AOTA predominantly relating to Mining Securities, the Securities Levy and Aboriginal Land Rents. A further \$5.32 million relates to borrowings for NTFFCLS with the remaining liabilities comprising of unearned revenue and accounts payable.

Further details on liabilities can be found in Notes 13, 14, 15 and 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY - SUMMARY

	2016-17
	\$000
Balance of Equity at 1 July 2016	85 226
Net Equity Injections (Withdrawals)	10 046
Asset Revaluation Reserve	(12 039)
Accumulated Funds	(12 076)
Balance of Equity at 30 June 2017	71 157

The Statement of Changes in Equity reflects movements in equity balances during the year. Equity is the difference between assets and liabilities. A positive equity position indicates that the department has sufficient assets to cover liabilities.

Net equity injections predominantly relates to the transfer of asset opening balances from the former DME off set by the transfer of surplus land and buildings to DIPL.

The movement in the asset revaluation reserve primarily relates to the transfer of surplus land and buildings to DIPL.

The significant movement in accumulated funds relates to the transfer from the former DME.

¹ NTFFCLS is funded by the Commonwealth and the loans are administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority on behalf of the NT. As the contact for the scheme, the department is required to record offsetting non cash entries against assets and liabilities to account for this.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW - SUMMARY

	2016-17
	\$000
Cash at 1 July 2016	2 159
Receipts	95 453
Payments	(89 302)
Proceeds from the Sale of Assets	5
Purchase of Assets	(605)
Net Deposits Received	39 370
Repayment of Advances	1 000
Repayment of Borrowings	(1 000)
Net Equity Injections/(Withdrawals)	(5 673)
Cash at 30 June 2017	41 407

The Cash Flow Statement provides information on the movement of cash in and out of the department during the year. The cash balance of \$41.41 million at year end predominantly relates to the transfer of cash held in the AOTA in the former DME for Mining Securities, the Securities Levy and Aboriginal Land Rents.

Figures in the Cash Flow Statement vary from those in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as the Cash Flow Statement includes only cash transactions, whereas the Operating Statement includes non-cash items such as depreciation, annual non-cash adjustments to employee entitlements and services received free of charge from DCIS.

Further details on the Cash Flow Statement can be found in Note 19.

Certification of the Financial Statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Department of Primary Industry and Resources have been prepared from proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions.

We further state that the information set out in the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2017 and the financial position on that date.


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



Alister Trier

Chief Executive Officer

31 August 2017



Desirée Ng

Acting Chief Financial Officer

31 August 2017

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$000
INCOME		
Grants and subsidies revenue		
Current		1 880
Appropriation		
Output		75 208
Commonwealth		7 199
Sales of goods and services	6	5 410
Goods and services received free of charge ²	4	4 094
Gain on disposal of assets	5	10
Other income	6	3 228
TOTAL INCOME	3	97 029
EXPENSES		
Employee expenses		54 633
Administrative expenses		
Purchases of goods and services	7	24 462
Repairs and maintenance		3 452
Depreciation and amortisation	11, 12	4 372
Goods and services received free of charge ²		4 094
Other administrative expenses		161
Grants and subsidies expenses		
Current		2 823
Capital		4 100
TOTAL EXPENSES	3	98 097
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(1 068)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		(12 039)
Transfers from Reserves		(11 008)
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		(23 047)
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		(24 115)

The Comprehensive Operating Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

² DCIS service charges

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$000
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and deposits	9	41 407
Receivables	10	1 853
Advances and investments	14	5 317
Prepayments		571
Total Current Assets		49 148
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	11, 12	81 419
Total Non-Current Assets		81 419
TOTAL ASSETS		130 567
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Deposits held	24	41 439
Payables	13	1 996
Borrowings and advances	14	5 317
Provisions	15	7 958
Other liabilities	16	2 700
Total Current Liabilities		59 410
TOTAL LIABILITIES		59 410
NET ASSETS		71 157
EQUITY		
Capital		82 576
Reserves	18	40 235
Accumulated funds		(51 654)
TOTAL EQUITY		71 157

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	Equity at 1 July \$000	Comprehensive result \$000	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners \$000	Equity at 30 June \$000
ACCUMULATED FUNDS					
Changes in accounting policy		41 992	1 068	0	43 060
Transfers from reserves		(2 414)	11 008	0	8 594
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		39 578	12 076	0	51 654
RESERVES					
Asset Revaluation Reserve		(52 274)	12 039	0	(40 235)
TOTAL RESERVES	18	(52 274)	12 039	0	(40 235)
CAPITAL – TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS					
Equity injections					
Capital appropriation		(15 223)	0	(707)	(15 930)
Equity transfers in		(85 583)	0	(23 514)	(109 097)
Other equity injections		(11 165)	0	(27 501)	(38 666)
Total Equity Injections		(111 971)	0	(51 722)	(163 693)
Equity withdrawals					
Capital withdrawals		22 928	0	33 881	56 809
Equity transfers out		16 513	0	7 795	24 308
Total Equity Withdrawals		39 441	0	41 676	81 117
TOTAL CAPITAL		(72 530)	0	(10 046)	(82 576)
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR		(85 226)	24 115	(10 046)	(71 157)

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating Receipts		
Grants and subsidies received		
Current		1 880
Appropriation		
Output		75 208
Commonwealth		7 199
Other Receipts		
Operating		11 166
Total Operating Receipts		95 453
Operating Payments		
Payments to employees		(52 099)
Payments for goods and services		(30 280)
Grants and subsidies paid		
Current		(2 823)
Capital		(4 100)
Total Operating Payments		(89 302)
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	19	6 151
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Investing Receipts		
Proceeds from asset sales	5	5
Repayment of advances		1 000
Total Investing Receipts		1 005
Investing Payments		
Purchases of assets		(605)
Total Investing Payments		(605)
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES		400
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Financing Receipts		
Deposits received		39 370
Equity injections		
Capital appropriation		707
Other equity injections		27 501
Total Financing Receipts		67 578
Financing Payments		
Repayment of borrowings		(1 000)
Equity Withdrawals		(33 881)
Total Financing Payments		(34 881)
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES		32 697
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		39 248
Cash at beginning of financial year		2 159
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	9	41 407

The Cash Flow Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

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1. OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources works closely with industry partners to deliver programs and services that support the economic growth and viability of existing and emerging industries.

The department adopts a strategic approach to primary industry development with a focus on growing enterprises, markets and investment. It delivers a range of quality research, monitoring, resource and product integrity programs to support development, and ensures quality assurance, market access and sustainability for industry stakeholders.

The department also delivers the Northern Territory Government's priorities in supporting the growth of the mining and petroleum industry, including providing geoscience and prospectivity assessments, regulation and administration of mineral and energy titles and tenure.

Additional information in relation to the department and its principal activities can be found in Section 3: Performance Reporting in this Annual Report.

The department is predominantly funded by, and is dependent on, the receipt of Parliamentary appropriations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the department controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs. For reporting purposes, outputs delivered by the department are summarised into several output groups. Note 3 provides summary financial information in the form of a Comprehensive Operating Statement by output group.

OUTPUT GROUPS/OUTPUTS:

Primary Industry Development

- Market and Enterprise Development
- Plant Industries Development
- Livestock Industries Development
- Major Economic Projects

Fisheries and Product Integrity

- Biosecurity and Animal Welfare
- Fisheries

Water Testing Services

- Water Testing Services

Resource Industry Development

- Industry Reporting
- Geoscience and Industry Development Services

Mining Services

- Minerals Titles Management
- Mining Operations Management
- Legacy Mines

Energy Services

- Energy Management

Corporate and Governance

- Corporate and Governance

A) MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT CHANGES

Transfers In

Details of Transfer: The former Department of Mines and Energy transferred to the Department of Primary Industry and Resources.

Basis of Transfer: Administrative Arrangements Order 12 September 2016.

Date of Transfer: Effective from 1 July 2016.

The assets and liabilities transferred as a result of this change were as follows:

	2017
	\$000
ASSETS	
Cash	22 006
Receivables	938
Prepayments	270
Property, Plant and Equipment	10 455
	33 669
LIABILITIES	
Deposit Held	26 068
Payables	892
Provisions	2 245
	29 205
NET ASSETS	4 464

2. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A) STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act* requires the department to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of department's financial statements is to include:

- (i) a Certification of the Financial Statements
- (ii) a Comprehensive Operating Statement
- (iii) a Balance Sheet
- (iv) a Statement of Changes in Equity
- (v) a Cash Flow Statement, and
- (vi) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

B) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which recognises the effect of financial transactions and events when they occur, rather than when cash is paid out or received. As part of the preparation of the financial statements, all intra-department transactions and balances have been eliminated.

Except where stated, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The form of the department's financial statements is also consistent with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards. The effects of all relevant new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are effective for the current annual reporting period have been evaluated.

The following new and revised accounting standards and interpretations were effective for the first time in 2016-17:

AASB 124 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

This standard applies to not-for-profit sector for the first time in 2016-17. The accounting standard requires disclosures about the remuneration of

key management personnel, transactions with related parties, and relationships between parent and controlled entities. For any such transactions, disclosures will include the nature of the related party relationship, as well as information about those transactions, terms/conditions and amounts, any guarantees given/received, outstanding receivables/payables, commitments, and any receivables where collection has been assessed as being doubtful.

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to the current reporting periods, but are considered to have no impact on public sector reporting.

At the date of authorisation of the financial statements, the following standards and interpretations were in issue but are not yet effective and are expected to have a potential impact on future reporting periods:

AASB 16 LEASES

AASB 16 Leases is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 and will be reported in these financial statements for the first time in 2019-20. When the standard is effective it will supersede AASB 117 Leases and requires the majority of leases to be recognised on the balance sheet.

For lessees with operating leases, a right-of-use asset will now come onto the balance sheet together with a lease liability for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying assets are of low value. The Comprehensive Operating Statement will no longer report operating lease rental payments, instead a depreciation expense will be recognised relating to the right-to-use asset and interest expense relating to the lease liability.

While for lessors, the finance and operating lease distinction remains largely unchanged. For finance leases, the lessor recognises a receivable equal to the net investment in the lease. Lease receipts from operating leases are recognised as income either on a straight-line basis or another systematic basis where appropriate.

Consequently, it is expected that approximately \$3.15 million in operating lease commitments will

be required to be recognised in the balance sheet through a lease liability and corresponding right to use asset from 2019-20 in accordance with AASB 16 Leases. In the Comprehensive Income Statement the operating lease expense will be replaced with a depreciation expense relating to the right to use asset and interest expense relating to the lease liability. These cannot be quantified at this time.

AASB 1058 INCOME FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES AND AASB 15 REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities and AASB 15 Revenue with Contracts with Customers are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 and will be reported in these financial statements for the first time in 2019-20.

Under the new AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities, revenue from grants and donations will be recognised when any associated performance obligation to provide goods or services is satisfied, and not immediately upon receipt as currently occurs. Consequently, more liabilities will be recognised in the balance sheet after adoption of this standard.

AASB 1058 clarifies and simplifies income-recognition requirements that apply to not-for-profit entities in conjunction with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers.

While the full impacts are yet to be determined, potential impacts identified include:

- Grants received to construct or acquire a non-financial asset will be recognised as a liability, and subsequently recognised as revenue as the performance obligations under the grant are satisfied. At present, such grants are recognised as revenue on receipt.
- Grants with an enforceable agreement and sufficiently specific performance obligations will be recognised as revenue progressively as the associated performance obligations are satisfied. At present, such grants are recognised as revenue on receipt.
- Grants that have an enforceable agreement but no specific performance obligations but have restrictions on the timing of expenditure will

also continue to be recognised on receipt as time restriction on the use of funds is not sufficiently specific to create a performance obligation.

- Grants that are not enforceable and/or not sufficiently specific will not qualify for deferral, and continue to be recognised as revenue as soon as they are controlled.
- Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods, but are considered to have limited impact on future financial reporting.

C) REPORTING ENTITY

The financial statements cover the department as an individual reporting entity.

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources is a Northern Territory Government department established under the *Interpretation Act* Administrative Arrangements Order.

The principal places of business of the department are: Berrimah Farm on Makagon Road, Berrimah NT 0828 and the Centrepont Building, Smith Street Mall, NT 0800.

D) DEPARTMENT AND TERRITORY ITEMS

The financial statements of the department include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the department has control (Department items). Certain items, while managed by the department, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than the department (Territory items). Territory items are recognised and recorded in the Central Holding Authority as discussed below.

CENTRAL HOLDING AUTHORITY

The Central Holding Authority is the 'parent body' that represents the government's ownership interest in government-controlled entities.

The Central Holding Authority also records all Territory items, such as income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled by the government and managed by departments on behalf of the government. The main Territory item is Territory income, which includes taxation and royalty revenue, Commonwealth general purpose funding (such as GST revenue), fines, and statutory fees and charges.

The Central Holding Authority also holds certain Territory assets not assigned to departments as well as certain Territory liabilities that are not practical or effective to assign to individual departments such as unfunded superannuation and long service leave.

The Central Holding Authority recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the department's financial statements. However, as the department is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of government, these items have been separately disclosed in Note 25 Schedule of Administered Territory Items.

E) COMPARATIVES

The comparatives for the 2015-16 financial year are not provided as the department was newly created by the merger of Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and the Department of Mines and Energy arising from the Administrative Arrangements Order restructure on 12 September 2016.

F) PRESENTATION AND ROUNDING OF AMOUNTS

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of \$500 or less being rounded down to zero. Figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate due to rounding.

G) CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2016-17 as a result of management decisions.

H) ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS AND ESTIMATES

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgments and estimates that affect the recognised amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

I) GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable or payable unless otherwise specified.

J) CONTRIBUTIONS BY AND DISTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNMENT

The department may receive contributions from government where the government is acting as owner of the department. Conversely, the department may make distributions to government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions, certain types of contributions and distributions, including those relating to administrative restructures, have been designated as contributions by, and distributions to, government. These designated contributions and distributions are treated by the department as adjustments to equity.

The Statement of Changes in Equity provides additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, government.

3. COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT BY OUTPUT GROUP

	Note	Primary Industry Development	Fisheries and Product Integrity	Water Testing Services	Resource Industry Development	Mining Services	Energy Services	Corporate and Governance	Total
		2017 \$000	2017 \$000	2017 \$000	2017 \$000	2017 \$000	2017 \$000	2017 \$000	2017 \$000
INCOME									
Grants and subsidies revenue									
Current		648	1 232	0	0	0	0	0	1 880
Appropriation									
Output		24 355	17 743	342	11 422	8 326	3 670	9 350	75 208
Commonwealth		0	5 202	0	0	1 997	0	0	7 199
Sales of goods and services	6	1 720	748	1 894	87	854	76	31	5 410
Goods and services received free of charge ³	4	1 158	1 069	139	468	627	137	496	4 094
Gain on disposal of assets	5	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	10
Other income	6	2 149	562	1	209	176	2	129	3 228
TOTAL INCOME		30 032	26 564	2 376	12 186	11 980	3 885	10 006	97 029
EXPENSES									
Employee expenses		14 154	13 956	1 330	6 393	8 416	2 311	8 073	54 633
Administrative expenses									
Purchases of goods and services	7	6 577	5 904	1 050	4 294	3 871	443	2 323	24 462
Repairs and maintenance		2 394	895	41	11	0	0	111	3 452
Depreciation and amortisation	11, 12	2 464	991	75	186	518	0	138	4 372
Goods and services received free of charge ³		1 158	1 069	139	468	628	137	495	4 094
Other administrative expenses		26	24	3	10	14	3	81	161
Grants and subsidies expenses									
Current		1 354	908	0	551	0	0	10	2 823
Capital		4 100	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 100
TOTAL EXPENSES		32 227	23 747	2 638	11 913	13 447	2 894	11 231	98 097
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(2 195)	2 817	(262)	273	(1 467)	991	(1 225)	(1 068)
Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit									
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME									
Asset Revaluation Reserve		(6 181)	(7 569)	(742)	2 973	1 100	0	(1 620)	(12 039)
Transfer from Reserves		0	0	0	(3 932)	(5 398)	(1 058)	(620)	(11 008)
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		(6 181)	(7 569)	(742)	(959)	(4 298)	(1 058)	(2 240)	(23 047)
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT		(8 376)	(4 752)	(1 004)	(686)	(5 765)	(67)	(3 465)	(24 115)

This Comprehensive Operating Statement by output group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements

INCOME

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, exclusive of the amount of GST. Exchanges of goods or services of the same nature and value without any cash consideration being exchanged are not recognised as income.

GRANTS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the department obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon receipt.

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

APPROPRIATION

Output appropriation is the operating payment to each department for the outputs they provide and is calculated as the net cost of department outputs after taking into account funding from department income. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

Commonwealth appropriation follows from the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, resulting in Specific Purpose Payments (SPPs) and National Partnership (NP) payments being made by the Commonwealth Treasury to state treasuries, in a manner similar to arrangements for GST payments. These payments are received by the Department of Treasury and Finance on behalf of the Central Holding Authority and then on passed to the relevant departments as Commonwealth appropriation.

Revenue in respect of appropriations is recognised in the period in which the department gains control of the funds.

SALE OF GOODS

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised (net of returns, discounts and allowances) when:

- the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer
- the department retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold
- the amount of revenue can be reliably measured
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the department, and
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

RENDERING OF SERVICES

Revenue from rendering services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured, and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

4. GOODS AND SERVICES RECEIVED FREE OF CHARGE

	2017
	\$000
Inter-department notional service revenue/charge (Department of Corporate and Information Services)	4 094
	4 094

5. GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

Net proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets	5
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	(1)
Gain on the disposal of non-current assets	4
Proceeds from sale of minor assets	6
TOTAL GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	10

6. SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES AND OTHER

The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after receiving the following income:

SALES OF GOODS AND SERVICES:

Water Analysis Testing	1 858
Research Farms - Sales of Livestock and Produce	1 541
Darwin Aquaculture Centre revenue	194
Livestock Export and Diagnostic Testing	89
Cadets, Apprentices and Graduates Program	32
Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar	81
Advertising (licences/titles)	138
Other Charges	435
	4 368

FEES FROM REGULATORY SERVICES

Biosecurity fees	262
Application and dealing fees (licence/titles)	780
Total Sales of Goods and Services	5 410

OTHER INCOME

Private research and development organisations	2 893
General provisions	335
Total Other Income	3 228
GRAND TOTAL	8 638

7. PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES

The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following

	2017
	\$000
GOODS AND SERVICES EXPENSES:	
Consultants ^(a)	3 163
Advertising ^(b)	134
Marketing and promotion ^(c)	519
Document production	108
Legal expenses ^(d)	78
Recruitment ^(e)	53
Training and study	521
Official duty fares	647
Travelling allowance	495
Other expenses	18 744
	24 462

(a) Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants

(b) Does not include recruitment, advertising or marketing and promotion advertising

(c) Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category

(d) Includes legal fees, claim and settlement costs

(e) Includes recruitment-related advertising costs.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSE

Funding is received for repairs and maintenance works associated with the department's assets as part of output appropriation. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on the department's assets are expensed as incurred.

8. WRITE-OFFS, POSTPONEMENTS, WAIVERS, GIFTS AND EX GRATIA PAYMENTS

	Department Items		Territory Items	
	2017	No. of Trans.	2017	No. of Trans.
	\$000		\$000	
<i>Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Under the Financial Management Act</i>				
<i>Represented by:</i>				
<i>Amounts written off, postponed and waived by Delegates</i>				
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or a department written off	8	8	0	0
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	0	0	0	0
Public property written off	0	1	0	0
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property	0	0	0	0
Total Written Off, Postponed and Waived by Delegates	8	9	0	0
<i>Amounts written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer</i>				
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or a department written off	0	0	0	0
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	0	0	0	0
Public property written off	0	0	0	0
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property ⁴	7	1	0	0
Total Written Off, Postponed and Waived by the Treasurer	7	1	0	0
	15	10	0	0
Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Authorised Under Other Legislation	0	0	0	0
Gifts Under the Financial Management Act	2	1	0	0
Gifts Authorised Under Other Legislation	0	0	0	0
Ex Gratia Payments Under the Financial Management Act	5	1	0	0

⁴ Variation to Government Accounting System (GAS) due to ledger write off processes.

9. CASH AND DEPOSITS

	2017
	\$000
Cash on hand	19
Cash at bank	41 388
	41 407

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash. Cash at bank includes monies

held in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA) that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner – refer also to Note 24.

10. RECEIVABLES

CURRENT

Accounts receivable	1 366
Less: Allowance for impairment losses	(194)
	1 172
GST receivables	340
Other receivables	341
	681
TOTAL RECEIVABLES	1 853

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for impairment losses.

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the department estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analyses of the age of the receivables that are past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule under credit risk in Note 20 Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 90 days.

PREPAYMENTS

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods and services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

11. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2017
	\$000
Land	
At fair value	21 761
Buildings	
At fair value	136 386
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(84 216)
	52 170
Infrastructure	
At fair value	7 373
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3 677)
	3 696
Construction (Work in Progress)	
At capitalised cost	20
Plant and Equipment	
At fair value	9 845
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(6 974)
	2 871
Computer Hardware	
At fair value	251
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(240)
	11
Transport Equipment	
At fair value	3 556
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2 666)
	890
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	81 419

2017 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT RECONCILIATIONS

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2016-17 is set out below:

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Construction (Work in Progress)	Plant and Equipment	Computer Hardware	Transport Equipment	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2016	34 680	54 202	420	1	2 499	10	705	92 517
Additions	0	1 146	0	19	291	0	313	1 769
Disposals	0	0	0	0	(12)	0	0	(12)
Depreciation	0	(3 254)	(441)	0	(532)	(17)	(128)	(4 372)
Additions/(Disposals) from administrative restructuring	1 490	2 354	3 717	0	625	18	0	8 204
Additions/(Disposals) from asset transfers	(18 900)	(2 278)	0	0	0	0	0	(21 178)
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	4 491	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 491
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2017	21 761	52 170	3 696	20	2 871	11	890	81 419

ACQUISITIONS

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$10 000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$10 000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

The construction cost of property, plant and equipment includes the cost of materials and direct labour, and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

COMPLEX ASSETS

Major items of plant and equipment comprising a number of components that have different useful lives, are accounted for as separate assets. The components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

SUBSEQUENT ADDITIONAL COSTS

Costs incurred on property, plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the department in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of a complex asset, they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

CONSTRUCTION (WORK IN PROGRESS)

As part of the financial management framework, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole-of-government basis. Therefore appropriation for or all capital works is provided directly to DIPL and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that department. Once completed, capital works assets are transferred to the department.

REVALUATIONS AND IMPAIRMENT**Revaluation of Assets**

Subsequent to initial recognition, assets belonging to the following classes of non-current assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount of these assets does not differ materially from their fair value at reporting date:

- land
- buildings, and
- infrastructure assets.

Plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.

The latest revaluations as at 31 January 2017 for Berrimah Farm land was independently conducted. The Valuer was Territory Property Consultants Pty Ltd. Refer to Note 12 Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets for additional disclosures.

Impairment of Assets

An asset is said to be impaired when the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Non-current physical and intangible department assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis or whenever there is indication of impairment. If an indicator of impairment exists, the department determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement. They are disclosed as an expense unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation surplus for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation surplus. Note 18 provides additional information in relation to the asset revaluation surplus.

The department's property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2017. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION EXPENSE

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated or amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

Amortisation applies in relation to intangible non-current assets with limited useful lives and is calculated and accounted for in a similar manner to depreciation.

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions and are determined as follows:

	2017
Buildings	50 years
Infrastructure Assets	16-25 years
Plant and Equipment	10 years

Assets are depreciated or amortised from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

Assets and disposal groups are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction or a grant agreement rather than continuing use. Assets held for sale consist of those assets that management has determined are available for immediate sale or granting in their present condition and their sale is highly probable within one year from the date of classification.

These assets are measured at the lower of the asset's carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. These assets are not depreciated. Non-current assets held for sale have been recognised on the face of the financial statements as current assets.

LEASED ASSETS

Leases under which the department assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases.

Finance Leases

Finance leases are capitalised. A lease asset and lease liability equal to the lower of the fair value of the leased property and present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease, are recognised.

Lease payments are allocated between the principal component of the lease liability and the interest expense.

Operating Leases

Operating lease payments made at regular intervals throughout the term are expensed when the payments are due, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property. Lease incentives under an operating lease of a building or office space is recognised as an integral part of the consideration for the use of the leased asset. Lease incentives are to be recognised as a deduction of the lease expenses over the term of the lease.

12. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

A) FAIR VALUE HIERARCHY

Fair values of non-financial assets categorised by levels of inputs used to compute fair value are:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Fair Value
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2016-17 Asset Classes				
Land (Note 11)	0	3 760	18 001	21 761
Buildings (Note 11)	0	2 250	49 920	52 170
Infrastructure (Note 11)	0	0	3 696	3 696
Plant and Equipment (Note 11)	0	0	3 792	3 792
TOTAL	0	6 010	75 409	81 419

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Levels 2 or 3 during 2016-17.

B) VALUATION TECHNIQUES AND INPUTS

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value in 2016-17 are:

	Level 2 Techniques	Level 3 Techniques
Asset Classes		
Land	Market	Market
Buildings	Cost	Cost
Infrastructure	-	Cost
Plant and Equipment	-	Cost

There were no changes in valuation techniques from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

Level 2 fair values of land were based on Active market comparison approach which seeks to determine the current value of an asset by reference to recent comparable transactions involving sale of similar assets.

Level 2 fair values of buildings were based on Cost approach or Depreciated Replacement Cost methodology; which is the estimated current cost of replacement of the asset with a similar asset which is not necessarily an exact reproduction but which has similar service potential and function.

Level 3 fair values of land were based on Active market comparison approach which seeks to

determine the current value of an asset by reference to recent comparable transactions involving sale of similar assets.

Level 3 fair values of specialised buildings, infrastructure and plant and equipment were determined by computing their depreciated replacement costs because an active market does not exist for such facilities. The depreciated replacement cost was based on a combination of internal records of the historical cost of the facilities, adjusted for contemporary technology and construction approaches. Significant judgement was also used in assessing the remaining service potential of the facilities, given local environmental conditions, projected usage, and records of the current condition of the facilities.

C) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LEVEL 3 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

(I) RECONCILIATION OF RECURRING LEVEL 3 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2016-17					
Fair value as at 1 July 2016	34 680	54 201	420	3 216	92 517
Additions	0	1 146	3 717	1 268	6 131
Disposals	(5 517)	1 574	0	(19)	(3 962)
Transfers from Level 2	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers to Level 2	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	(3 151)	(441)	(677)	(4 269)
Gains/losses recognised in net surplus/deficit	0	0	0	4	4
Gains/losses recognised in other comprehensive income	(11 162)	(3 850)	0	0	(15 012)
Fair value as at 30 June 2017	18 001	49 920	3 696	3 792	75 409

(II) SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

Unobservable inputs used in computing the fair value of buildings include the historical cost and the consumed economic benefit for each building. Given the large number of the department's buildings, it is not practical to compute a relevant summary measure for the unobservable inputs. In respect of sensitivity of fair value to changes in input value, a higher historical cost results in a higher fair value and greater consumption of economic benefit lowers fair value.

13. PAYABLES

	2017
	\$000
Accounts payable	1 632
Accrued expenses	364
TOTAL PAYABLES	1 996

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the department. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

14. BORROWINGS AND ADVANCES

Current Asset

Borrowings as at 1 July	6 317
Proceeds of borrowings	0
Repayment of borrowings	(1 000)
	5 317

Current Liability

Advances as at 1 July	6 317
Advances payments	0
Repayment of advances	(1 000)
	5 317

15. PROVISIONS

Current

Employee benefits

Recreation leave	6 145
Leave loading	851
Airfares	82
Other employee benefits	92
On-Cost	788
Total Provisions	7 958

The department employed 470 employees as at 30 June 2017.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within twelve months of reporting date are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after twelve months of the reporting date are measured at present value, calculated using the government long-term bond rate.

No provision is made for sick leave, which is non-vesting, as the anticipated pattern of future sick leave to be taken is less than the entitlement accruing in each reporting period.

Employee benefit expenses are recognised on a net basis in respect of the following categories:

- wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits, recreation leave, sick leave and other leave entitlements, and
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the financial management framework, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of government departments, including the Department of Primary Industries and Resources and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in the department's financial statements.

SUPERANNUATION

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities Superannuation Scheme (NTGPASS)
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), or
- Non-government employee-nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The department makes superannuation contributions on behalf of its employees to the Central Holding Authority or non-government employee-nominated schemes. Superannuation liabilities related to government superannuation schemes are held by the Central Holding Authority and as such are not recognised in the department's financial statements.

16. OTHER LIABILITIES

	2017
	\$000
Current	
Unearned Revenue	2 700
TOTAL OTHER LIABILITIES	2 700

17. COMMITMENTS

(I) CAPITAL EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS

Capital expenditure commitments primarily related to the construction of plant and equipment. Capital expenditure commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

	2017	
	Internal	External
	\$000	\$000
Within one year	0	142
	0	142

(II) OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The department leases property under non-cancellable operating leases expiring at various dates. Leases generally provide the department with a right of renewal at which time all lease terms are renegotiated. The department also leases items of plant and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases. Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

Within one year	1 104	6
Later than one year and not later than five years	1 533	7
Later than five years	497	0
	3 134	13

(III) OTHER EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS

Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

Within one year	15	2 966
Later than one year and not later than five years	60	68
Later than five years	15	17
	90	3 051

18. RESERVES

ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS

(I) NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS

The asset revaluation surplus includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the asset revaluation surplus.

(II) MOVEMENTS IN THE ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS

	2017
	\$000
Balance as at 1 July	52 274
Increment/(Decrement) – land	(8 189)
Increment/(Decrement) – buildings	(3 850)
Balance as at 30 June	40 235

19. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

RECONCILIATION OF CASH

The total of the department's 'Cash and deposits' of \$41.41 million recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'Cash' in the Cash Flow Statement.

Reconciliation of Net Surplus/(Deficit) to Net Cash from Operating Activities

NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1 068)
------------------------------	----------------

Non-cash items:

Depreciation and amortisation	4 372
Asset donations/gifts	1
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of assets	(4)
Repairs and Maintenance – Minor New Works	1

Changes in assets and liabilities:

Decrease/(Increase) in receivables	(4 126)
Decrease/(Increase) in prepayments	(544)
(Decrease)/Increase in payables	1 293
(Decrease)/Increase in provision for employee benefits	2 057
(Decrease)/Increase in other provisions	262
(Decrease)/Increase in other liabilities	3 907
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	6 151

20. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

Financial assets and liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the department becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. The department's financial instruments include cash and deposits; receivables; advances; investments loan and placements; payables; advances received; borrowings and derivatives.

Due to the nature of operating activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statutory obligations rather than a contract.

Such financial assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments as per AASB 132 Financial Instruments Presentation. These include statutory receivables arising from taxes including GST and penalties.

Exposure to interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, credit risk, price risk and liquidity risk arise in the normal course of activities. The department's investments, loans and placements, and borrowings are predominantly managed through the Northern Territory Treasury Corporation adopting strategies to minimise the risk.

A) CATEGORISATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying amounts of the department's financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below.

2016-17 Categorisation of Financial Instruments

	Fair value through profit or loss		Held to maturity investments	Financial assets - loans and receivables	Financial assets - available for sale	Financial Liabilities - amortised cost	Total
	Held for trading	Designated at fair value					
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Cash and deposits	0	41 407	0	0	0	0	41 407
Receivables ⁵	0	0	0	1 514	0	0	1 514
Advances paid	0	0	0	5 317	0	0	5 317
Total Financial Assets	0	41 407	0	6 831	0	0	48 238
Payables ⁵	0	1 996	0	0	0	0	1 996
Advances received	0	0	0	0	0	5 317	5 317
Total Financial Liabilities	0	1 996	0	0	0	5 317	7 313

⁵ Total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts

CLASSIFICATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

AASB 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures requires financial instruments to be classified and disclosed within specific categories depending on their nature and purpose.

Financial assets are classified into the following categories:

- financial assets at fair value through profit or loss
- held-to-maturity investments
- loans and receivables, and
- available-for-sale financial assets.

Financial liabilities are classified into the following categories:

- financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL), and
- financial liabilities at amortised cost.

FINANCIAL ASSETS OR FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS

Financial instruments are classified as at FVTPL when the instrument is either held for trading or is designated as at FVTPL.

An instrument is classified as held for trading if it is:

- acquired or incurred principally for the purpose of selling or repurchasing it in the near term with an intention of making a profit, or
- part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that are managed together and for which there is evidence of a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking, or
- a derivative that is not a financial guarantee contract or a designated and effective hedging instrument.

A financial instrument may be designated as at FVTPL upon initial recognition if:

- such designation eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise, or

- the instrument forms part of a group of financial instruments, which is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy, and information about the grouping is provided internally on that basis, or
- it forms part of a contract containing one or more embedded derivatives, and AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement permits the contract to be designated as at FVTPL.

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss include deposits held excluding statutory deposits, accounts payable and accrued expenses. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss include short-term securities and bonds.

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT AMORTISED COST

Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all advances received, finance lease liabilities and borrowings. Amortised cost is calculated using the effective interest method.

B) CREDIT RISK

The department has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to government, the department has adopted a policy of only dealing with credit worthy organisations and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the department's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

RECEIVABLES

Receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. A reconciliation and aging analysis of receivables is presented below:

INTERNAL RECEIVABLES	Aging of Receivables	Aging of Impaired Receivables	Net Receivables
	\$000	\$000	\$000
2016-17			
Not overdue	145	0	145
Overdue for less than 30 days	0	0	0
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	0	0	0
Overdue for more than 60 days	0	0	0
Total	145	0	145

RECONCILIATION OF THE ALLOWANCE FOR IMPAIRMENT LOSSES			
Opening		0	
Written off during the year		0	
Recovered during the year		0	
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss		0	
Total		0	

EXTERNAL RECEIVABLES	Aging of Receivables	Aging of Impaired Receivables	Net Receivables
	\$000	\$000	\$000
2016-17			
Not overdue	1 005	0	1 005
Overdue for less than 30 days	17	0	17
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	3	0	3
Overdue for more than 60 days	96	(194)	2
Total	1 221	(194)	1 027

RECONCILIATION OF THE ALLOWANCE FOR IMPAIRMENT LOSSES			
Opening		21	
Written off during the year		8	
Recovered during the year		83	
Increase/(Decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss		82	
Total		194	

C) LIQUIDITY RISK

Liquidity risk is the risk that the department will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The department's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

The following tables detail the department's remaining contractual maturity for its financial assets and liabilities.

2017 MATURITY ANALYSIS FOR FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Variable Interest Rate			Fixed Interest Rate			Non Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average
	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years			
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
ASSETS									
Cash and deposits	0	0	0	0	0	0	41 407	41 407	
Receivables	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 514	1 514	
Advances paid	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 317	5 317	
Total Financial Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	48 238	48 238	
LIABILITIES									
Payables	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 996	1 996	
Advances received	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 317	5 317	
Total Financial Liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	7 313	7 313	

D) MARKET RISK

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. It comprises interest rate risk, price risk and currency risk.

(I) INTEREST RATE RISK

The department is not exposed to interest rate risk as the department's financial assets and financial liabilities are non-interest bearing.

(II) PRICE RISK

The department is not exposed to price risk as it does not hold units in unit trusts.

(III) CURRENCY RISK

The department is not exposed to currency risk as it does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.

E) NET FAIR VALUE

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The highest and best use takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible.

When measuring fair value, the valuation techniques used maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs are used to the extent that sufficient relevant and reliable observable inputs are not available for similar assets/liabilities.

Observable inputs are publicly available data that are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Observable inputs used by the department include, but are not limited to, published sales data for land and general office buildings.

Unobservable inputs are data, assumptions and judgments that are not available publicly, but are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Such inputs include internal departmental adjustments to observable data to take account of particular and potentially unique characteristics/functionality of assets/liabilities and assessments of physical condition and remaining useful life.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the following fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used:

Level 1 – inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 – inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, and

Level 3 – inputs are unobservable.

The fair value of financial instruments is determined on the following basis:

- the fair value of cash, deposits, advances, receivables and payables approximates their carrying amount, which is also their amortised cost
- the fair value of derivative financial instruments are derived using current market yields and exchange rates appropriate to the instrument, and
- the fair value of other monetary financial assets and liabilities is based on discounting to present value the expected future cash flows by applying current market interest rates for assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles.

For financial instruments measured and disclosed at fair value, the following table groups the instruments based on the level of inputs used.

2017	Total Carrying Amount	Net Fair Value Level 1	Net Fair Value Level 2	Net Fair Value Level 3	Net Fair Value Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Cash and deposits	41 407	41 707	0	0	41 707
Receivables	1 514	1 514	0	0	1 514
Advances paid	5 317	5 317	0	0	5 317
Total Financial Assets	48 238	48 238	0	0	48 238
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES					
Payables	1 996	1 996	0	0	1 996
Advances received	5 317	5 317	0	0	5 317
Total Financial Liabilities	7 313	7 313	0	0	7 313

The net fair value of cash, deposits, receivables, advances and payables are based on market value. There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

21. RELATED PARTIES

I) RELATED PARTIES

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources is a government administrative entity and is wholly owned and controlled by the Northern Territory Government. Related parties of the department include:

- the Portfolio Minister and key management personnel (KMP) because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the department directly, and
- spouses, children and dependents who are close family members of the Portfolio Minister or KMP, and
- all public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole-of-government financial statements, and
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMP's or the Portfolio Minister or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

II) KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Key management personnel (KMP) of the Department of Primary Industry and Resources are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the department. These include the Minister of Primary Industry and Resources, the Chief Executive and the five members of the Board of Management for the department as listed on page 50.

III) REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The details below exclude the salaries and other benefits of Minister for Primary Industry and Resources as the Minister's remunerations and allowances are payable by the Department of the Legislative Assembly and consequently disclosed within the Treasurer's Annual Financial Statements.

The aggregate compensation of key management personnel of Department Primary Industry and Resources is set out below:

	2016-17
	\$000
Short-term benefits	1 606
Post-employment benefits	140
Termination benefits	247
TOTAL	1 993

IV) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS:

TRANSACTIONS WITH NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED ENTITIES

The department's primary ongoing source of funding is received from the Central Holding Authority in the form of output and capital appropriation and on-passed Commonwealth national partnership and specific purpose payments.

The following table provides quantitative information about related party transactions entered into during the year with all other Northern Territory Government controlled entities:

Related Party	Revenue from related parties	Payments to related parties	Amounts owed by related parties	Amounts owed to related parties
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
All NT Government departments	6 003	13 769	144	484
Associates	0	0	0	0
Subsidiaries	0	0	0	0

The department's transactions with other government entities are not individually significant and are part of the department's usual core business.

OTHER RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Given the breadth and depth of Northern Territory Government activities, related parties will transact with the Northern Territory Public Service in a manner consistent with other members of the public including paying stamp duty and other government fees and charges and therefore these transactions have not been disclosed. All other related party transactions in excess of \$10 000 have been provided in the table below.

Related party transactions of the former Minister have not been assessed as the period served during the 2016-17 financial year is considered minor.

Transaction Type	Transaction value for year ended 30 June 2017	Net receivable/ (payable) as at 30 June 2017	Commitments as at 30 June 2017
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Employee expense ⁶	10	0	0

22. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS

The department had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2017.

23. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

No events have arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that require adjustment to, or disclosure, in these financial statements.

24. ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER'S TRUST ACCOUNT

In accordance with section 7 of the *Financial Management Act*, an Accountable Officer's Trust Account has been established for the receipt of money to be held in trust. A summary of activity is shown below:

Nature of Trust Money	Opening Balance 1 July 2016	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance 30 June 2017
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Northern Territory Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund	1 844	552	(537)	1 859
Aboriginal Land Rents	2 106	2 577	(1 000)	3 683
Cash Securities	17 081	5 433	(1 892)	20 622
Mining Remediation	6 852	8 703	(509)	15 046
Employee Award Scheme	74	12	(24)	62
NT Seafood Council	122	174	(175)	121
Miscellaneous	58	19	(31)	46
Total	28 137	17 470	(4 168)	41 439

⁶ One KMP's related party was employed by the department for a period of two months in a non-senior executive position.

25. SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

The following Territory items are managed by the department on behalf of the government and are recorded in the Central Holding Authority (refer Note 2(d)).

	2016-17
	\$000
TERRITORY INCOME AND EXPENSES	
Income	
Grants and subsidies revenue	
Capital	500
Fees from regulatory services	9 547
Royalties and rents	4 773
Other income	10
Total income	14 830
Expenses	
Central Holding Authority income transferred	14 830
Total expenses	14 830
TERRITORY INCOME LESS EXPENSES	0
TERRITORY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	
Assets	
Royalties and rent receivable	0
Other receivables	3 325
Total assets	3 325
Liabilities	
Central Holding Authority income payable	0
Unearned Central Holding Authority income	3 325
Total liabilities	3 325
NET ASSETS	0

26. BUDGETARY INFORMATION

	2016-17	2016-17 Mid-Year		
COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT	Actual	Budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
INCOME				
Grants and subsidies revenue				
Current	1 880	1 142	738	1
Appropriation				
Output	75 208	77 186	(1 978)	2
Commonwealth	7 199	20 010	(12 811)	3
Sales of goods and services	5 410	6 231	(821)	4
Goods and services received free of charge	4 094	3 781	313	
Gain on disposal of assets	10	0	10	
Other income	3 228	1 719	1 509	5
TOTAL INCOME	97 029	110 069	(13 040)	
EXPENSES				
Employee expenses	54 633	54 468	165	
Administrative expenses				
Purchases of goods and services	24 462	32 614	(8 152)	6
Repairs and maintenance	3 452	4 314	(862)	7
Depreciation and amortisation	4 372	4 213	159	
Goods and services received free of charge	4 094	3 781	313	
Other administrative expenses	161	0	161	8
Grants and subsidies expenses				
Current	2 823	3 240	(417)	9
Capital	4 100	5 850	(1 750)	10
TOTAL EXPENSES	98 097	108 480	10 383	
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1 068)	1 589	(2 657)	11
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit				
Asset Revaluation Surplus	(12 039)	0	(12 039)	12
Transfers from Reserves	(11 008)	0	(11 008)	13
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	(23 047)	0	(23 047)	
COMPREHENSIVE RESULT	(24 115)	1 589	(25 704)	

As a result of Machinery of Government changes, budgeted amounts correspond to those presented in the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget (November 2016), classified on a basis that is consistent with the presentation and classification adopted in the corresponding financial statement.

Notes:

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.5 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred.

1. Current grants received have increased by \$0.74 million due to a number of additional grants being received from the Commonwealth, other state jurisdictions and research organisations including cost sharing reimbursements for the NBANTEP, East Kalimantan Breeder project and research projects funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.
2. Output Appropriation decreased by \$1.98 million largely due to transfer of budget from 2016-17 to 2017-18 and 2018-19. Approximately \$1.02 million related to the redirection of capital grant funding originally for a Vapour Heat Treatment facility in the NT to a three year strategic grants program to support the agribusiness industry and \$0.5 million relating to the Bush Food Co-op Planning Study and the Growing North Australia initiatives. The balance related to the transfer of approximately \$0.46 million to Capital Appropriation for the purchase of capital equipment for the research farms and video conferencing equipment.
3. Commonwealth Appropriation decreased by \$12.81 million largely due to the transfer of approximately \$10.05 million in budget from 2016-17 to 2017-18 and 2018-19 relating to the National Partnership Agreement for the Rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle Mine Site to more accurately reflect expenditure for the project and the timing of reimbursements for the National Banana Freckle Eradication Program (NBFEP).
4. Receipts for the sale of goods and services decreased by \$0.82 million as a result of an underachievement against estimates for water analysis (\$0.19 million), sale of aquaculture livestock (\$80 000) and mining and energy administration fees (\$0.22 million). In addition to this estimates were reduced in relation to the transfer of Fishing Licence fees to the Accountable Officers Trust Account (AOTA) to align with amended requirements under the NT *Fisheries Act*.
5. The increase in other income of \$1.51 million largely reflects additional funding from external organisations where projects and agreements were finalised and estimates incorporated into the budget after the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget. The final estimate for 2016-17 was \$3.09 million.
6. The \$9.1 million decrease in the purchase of goods and services is predominantly due to:
 - \$8.43 million budget transfer to 2017-18 and 2018-19 relating to the National Partnership Agreement for the Rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle Mine Site to more accurately reflect expenditure for the project
 - \$0.3 million budget transfer to 2017-18 relating to the Bush Food Co-op Planning Study and the Growing North Australia initiatives
 - \$0.39 million budget transfer between category of costs to better align budget with actual expenditure and business operations
 - \$0.46 million budget transfer to Capital Appropriation for the purchase of capital equipment for the research farms and video conferencing equipment, offset by:
 - \$1.17 million increase in budget for research projects sourced from income from the Commonwealth and other external funding organisations, and
 - \$0.22 million unfunded non-discretionary expenses covered from within the department's total budget.
7. The decrease in repairs and maintenance of \$0.86 million largely reflects the capitalisation of three projects (\$0.45 million) with the balance unallocated in 2016-17.
8. The increase in administrative fees of \$0.16 million largely reflects the recognition of doubtful debts (\$80 000) and refund to the Commonwealth relating to prior years (\$70 000).

9. The decrease in current grants of \$0.42 million against the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget is largely the net effect of:
 - an increase of \$0.83 million due to a transfer from capital grants relating to the three year strategic grants program to support the agribusiness industry, offset by:
 - \$0.24 million transfer of revenue from Fishing Licence fees to the AOTA to align with amended requirements under the NT *Fisheries Act*
 - \$0.18 million lesser take up of the Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) interest rate subsidy scheme
 - \$0.21 million lesser take up of the Geophysics and Drilling Collaboration grant program, and
 - \$0.67 million reprioritisation of grant funding to offset expenses in goods and services for a business transformation project in the Mining Titles Unit of the Mines Division.
10. The decrease of \$1.75 million relates to the transfer to current grants in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 for the three year strategic grants program to support the agribusiness industry.
11. Variations to the budget since the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget resulted in a revised estimated deficit of \$61 000. The variation of approximately \$1 million against the revised estimate predominantly relates to the timing of payments from the Commonwealth relating to the NBFEP offset by under expenditure against repairs and maintenance and grants.
12. The variation of \$12 million is largely due to the transfer of surplus land and buildings to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL).
13. The variation of \$11 million relates to the transfer of accumulated funds from the former Department of Mines and Energy (DME).

	2016-17	2016-17 Mid-Year		
Balance Sheet	Actual	Budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash and deposits	41 407	30 584	10 823	1
Receivables	1 853	1 993	(140)	
Advances and investments	5 317	6 317	(1 000)	2
Prepayments	571	298	273	3
Total current assets	49 148	39 192	9 956	
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	81 419	99 002	(17 583)	4
Total non-current assets	81 419	99 002	(17 583)	
TOTAL ASSETS	130 567	138 194	(7 627)	
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Deposits held	41 439	28 137	13 302	5
Payables	1 996	1 598	398	6
Borrowings and advances	5 317	6 317	(1 000)	7
Provisions	7 958	7 883	75	
Other liabilities	2 700	2 117	583	8
Total current liabilities	59 410	46 052	13 358	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	59 410	46 052	13 358	
NET ASSETS	71 157	92 142	(20 985)	
EQUITY				
Capital	82 576	85 891	(3 315)	9
Reserves	40 235	55 247	(15 012)	10
Accumulated funds	(51 654)	(48 996)	(2 658)	11
TOTAL EQUITY	71 157	92 142	(20 985)	

As a result of Machinery of Government changes, budgeted amounts correspond to those presented in the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget (November 2016), classified on a basis that is consistent with the presentation and classification adopted in the corresponding financial statement.

Notes:

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.5 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred.

1. The variation of \$10.82 million is largely a result of higher than anticipated cash received into the AOTA relating to Mining Securities, the Securities Levy and Aboriginal Land Rents predominantly offset by timing of reimbursements for the NBFEP.
2. Repayment of advances/borrowings under the NTFCLS was not budgeted for in 2016-17.
3. The increase in prepayments of \$0.27 million is largely due to an increase in subscriptions, software licences and maintenance.
4. The decrease in property, plant and equipment of \$17.58 million is predominantly due to the net effect of the transfer of surplus land and buildings to DIPL (\$20 million) offset by the capitalisation of assets from the Capital Works Program, purchase of capital equipment (\$1.52 million) and the recognition of land transferred in relating to Rum Jungle mine site (\$1.1 million).
5. The increase in deposits received of \$13.3 million is the result of higher than anticipated cash received into the AOTA relating to Mining Securities, the Securities Levy and Aboriginal Land Rents.
6. The increase in payables of \$0.4 million is predominantly due to an increase in accounts payable at the 30 June 2017.
7. See 2. above
8. The \$0.58 million increase in other liabilities was due to higher than anticipated unearned revenue from external funding bodies relating to research projects.
9. The decrease of \$3.3 million in capital is predominantly due to the transfer of surplus land and buildings to DIPL offset by the capitalisation of assets from the Capital Works Program.
10. The decrease of \$15 million in reserves is predominantly due to the transfer of surplus land and buildings to DIPL.
11. Variations to the budget since the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget resulted in a revised estimate for accumulated funds of \$50.65 million. The variation of approximately \$1 million against the revised estimate predominantly relates to the timing of payments from the Commonwealth relating to the NBFEP offset by under expenditure against repairs and maintenance and grants.

	2016-17	2016-17 Mid-Year		
Cash Flow Statement	Actual	Budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Operating receipts				
Grants and subsidies received				
Current	1 880	1 142	738	1
Appropriation				
Output	75 208	77 186	(1 978)	2
Commonwealth	7 199	20 010	(12 811)	3
Receipts from sales of goods and services	11 166	10 465	701	4
Total operating receipts	95 453	108 803	(13 350)	
Operating payments				
Payments to employees	(52 099)	(52 170)	71	
Payments for goods and services	(30 280)	(39 813)	9 533	5
Grants and subsidies paid				
Current	(2 823)	(3 240)	417	6
Capital	(4 100)	(5 850)	1 750	7
Total operating payments	(89 302)	(101 073)	11 771	
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES	6 151	7 730	(1 579)	
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Investing receipts				
Proceeds from asset sales	5	6	(1)	
Repayment of advances	1 000	0	1 000	8
Total investing receipts	1 005	6	999	
Investing payments				
Purchases of assets	(605)	(251)	(354)	9
Total investing payments	(605)	(251)	(354)	
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES	400	(245)	645	
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Financing receipts				
Deposits received	39 370	26 068	13 302	10
Equity injections				
Capital appropriation	707	251	456	11
Other equity injections	27 501	(4 991)	32 492	12
Total financing receipts	67 578	21 328	46 250	
Financing payments				
Repayment of borrowings	(1 000)	0	(1 000)	13
Equity withdrawals	(33 881)	(389)	(33 492)	14
Total financing payments	(34 881)	(389)	(34 492)	
NET CASH FROM/(USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES	32 697	20 939	11 758	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	39 248	28 424	10 824	
Cash at beginning of financial year	2 159	2 159	0	
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	41 407	30 583	10 824	

As a result of Machinery of Government changes, budgeted amounts correspond to those presented in the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget (November 2016), classified on a basis that is consistent with the presentation and classification adopted in the corresponding financial statement.

Notes:

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.5 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred.

1. Current grants received have increased by \$0.74 million due to a number of additional grants being received from the Commonwealth, other state jurisdictions and research organisations including cost sharing reimbursements for the NBANTEP, East Kalimantan Breeder project and research projects funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.
2. Output Appropriation decreased by \$1.98 million largely due to transfer of budget from 2016-17 to 2017-18 and 2018-19. Approximately \$1.02 million related to the redirection of capital grant funding originally for a Vapour Heat Treatment facility in the NT to a three year strategic grants program to support the agribusiness industry and \$0.5 million relating to the Bush Food Co-op Planning Study and the Growing North Australia initiatives. The balance related to the transfer of approximately \$0.46 million to Capital Appropriation for the purchase of capital equipment for the research farms and video conferencing equipment.
3. Commonwealth Appropriation decreased by \$12.81 million largely due to the transfer of approximately \$10.05 million in budget from 2016-17 to 2017-18 and 2018-19 relating to the National Partnership Agreement for the Rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle Mine Site to more accurately reflect expenditure for the project and the timing of reimbursements for the NBFEP.
4. Receipts for sale of goods and services increased by \$0.7 million primarily due to the net effect of an increase in other income of \$1.51 million relating to additional funding from external organisations where projects and agreements were finalised and estimates incorporated into the budget after the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget. This was offset by an underachievement against estimates for water analysis (\$0.19 million), sale of aquaculture livestock (\$80 000) and mining and energy administration fees (\$0.22 million). In addition to these, estimates were reduced in relation to the transfer of Fishing Licence fees to the Accountable Officers Trust Account (AOTA) to align with amended requirements under the *NT Fisheries Act*.
5. The \$9.53 million decrease in the purchase of goods and services is predominantly due to:
 - \$8.43 million budget transfer to 2017-18 and 2018-19 relating to the National Partnership Agreement for the Rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle Mine Site to more accurately reflect expenditure for the project
 - \$0.3 million budget transfer to 2017-18 relating to the Bush Food Co-op Planning Study and the Growing North Australia initiatives
 - \$0.39 million budget transfer between category of costs to better align budget with actual expenditure and business operations
 - \$0.86 million decrease in repairs and maintenance expense largely due to the capitalisation of three projects (\$0.45 million) with the balance unallocated in 2016-17
 - \$0.62 million decrease in GST payments to the ATO
 - \$0.46 million budget transfer to Capital Appropriation for the purchase of capital equipment for the research farms and video conferencing equipment, offset by:
 - \$1.17 million increase in budget for research projects sourced from income from the Commonwealth and other external funding organisations, and
 - \$0.22 million unfunded non-discretionary expenses covered from within existing resources.
6. The decrease in current grants of \$0.42 million against the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget is largely the net effect of:
 - An increase of \$0.83 million due to a transfer from capital grants relating to the three year strategic grants program to support the agribusiness industry, offset by:

- \$0.24 million transfer of revenue from Fishing Licence fees to the AOTA to align with amended requirements under the NT *Fisheries Act*
 - \$0.18 million lesser take up of the CGMMV interest rate subsidy scheme
 - \$0.21 million lesser take up of the Geophysics and Drilling Collaboration grant program, and
 - \$0.67 million reprioritisation of funding resulting in a transfer to goods and services to fund the business transformation project in the Mining Titles Unit of the Mines Division.
7. The decrease of \$1.75 million relates to the transfer to current grants in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 for the three year strategic grants program to support the agribusiness industry.
 8. Repayment of advances/borrowings under the NTFFCLS was not budgeted for in 2016-17.
 9. The budget for purchase of assets was revised up to \$0.71 million after the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget. The variation of approximately \$0.1 million against the revised estimate relates to equipment received on 30 June 2017 and cash payment in July 2017.
 10. The increase of \$13.3 million in deposits held is largely due to higher than anticipated cash received into the AOTA relating to Mining Securities, the Securities Levy and Aboriginal Land Rents.
 11. The increase in capital appropriation of \$0.46 million relates to the transfer from output appropriation to cover the purchase of equipment for the research farms and video conferencing equipment.
 12. The variation of \$32.49 million is the result of the transfer of assets from the former Department of Mines and Energy.
 13. See 8. above
 14. The variation of \$33.49 million is the result of the transfer of liabilities from the former Department of Mines and Energy.

27. BUDGETARY INFORMATION: ADMINISTERED TERRITORY ITEMS

In addition to the specific departmental operations which are included in the financial statements, the department administers or manages other activities and resources on behalf of the Territory such as gas/oil pipeline and mineral exploration licenses; mining securities levy and mining and petroleum rents. The department does not gain control over assets arising from these collections, consequently no income is recognised in the department's financial statements. The transactions relating to these activities are reported as administered items in this note.

	2016-17	2016-17		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Note
Administered Territory Items	\$000	\$000	\$000	
TERRITORY INCOME AND EXPENSES				
Income				
Grants and subsidies revenue				
Capital	500	0	500	1
Fees from regulatory services	9 547	11 000	(1 453)	2
Royalties and rents	4 773	4 000	773	3
Other income	10	65	(55)	
Total income	14 830	15 065	(235)	
Expenses				
Central Holding Authority income transferred	14 830	15 065	(235)	4
Total expenses	14 830	15 605	(235)	
TERRITORY INCOME LESS EXPENSES	0	0	0	
TERRITORY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES				
Assets				
Royalties and rent receivable	0	284	(284)	5
Other receivables	3 325	4 235	(910)	6
Total assets	3 325	4 519	(1 194)	
Liabilities				
Central Holding Authority income payable	0	339	(339)	7
Unearned Central Holding Authority income	3 325	4 181	(856)	8
Total liabilities	3 325	4 520	(1 195)	
NET ASSETS	0	(1)	(1)	

As a result of Machinery of Government changes, budgeted amounts correspond to those presented in the 2016-17 Mid-Year Budget (November 2016), classified on a basis that is consistent with the presentation and classification adopted in the corresponding financial statement.

Notes:

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.5 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred.

1. The variation of \$0.5 million relates to unbudgeted 2016-17 capital grant funding received from the Commonwealth for extensions to the existing veterinary laboratory. These funds are received into Central Holding Authority (CHA) and then transferred to DIPL.
2. The decrease of \$1.45 million against fees and regulatory services is primarily due to lower than estimated income from the Mining Securities levy transferable to the CHA.
3. The increase in royalties and rents of \$0.77 million is primarily due to higher than estimated fees for mineral exploration.
4. The decrease in CHA income transferred is the net effect of notes 1, 2, and 3 above.
5. As at the 30 June 2017 there were no fees for petroleum rents, onshore permits or production licenses outstanding.
6. The decrease in other receivables of \$0.91 million is due to lower than estimated mining rents and mineral exploration licenses recognised from unearned revenue.
7. As at the 30 June 2017 there was no rent for pipeline licenses and petroleum rents outstanding.
8. The decrease in unearned CHA income is due to lower than estimated mining rents and exploration licenses paid in advance.



7. APPENDICES

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Sunset at Lee Point Beach.
Photo: Kevin de Witte

Appendix 1 - Employment Instructions

Table 7.1. Employment Instructions and Departmental Achievements 2016-2017

Employment Instruction - Number and Description	Achievements 2016-17
<p>1 – Filling Vacancies</p> <p>Chief Executive Officers must develop a procedure to fill vacancies consistent with the <i>Public Sector Employment and Management Act</i>, its subordinate legislation and any relevant award or enterprise agreement. Subsection 28(2)(c) of the Act requires the Chief Executive Officer to report annually on the number of employees of each designation and any variations in numbers since the last report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 110 vacancies advertised. • 109 new recruits – commenced or transferred in • 155 separations or employees transferred out <p>One promotion appeal and no grievances relating to recruitment processes were lodged.</p>
<p>2 – Probation</p> <p>Chief Executive Officers must develop a probation procedure consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation and any relevant award or enterprise agreement.</p>	<p>The department's online induction system was improved to provide updated information on probation procedures.</p> <p>The department's Probation Procedure, available from the intranet online service centre, was updated.</p> <p>Directors are reminded when probation reports fall due.</p> <p>Three probationary periods were extended in 2016-17.</p>
<p>3 – Natural Justice</p> <p>The principles of natural justice are to be observed in all dealings with employees.</p>	<p>The principles of natural justice are considered to be fundamental in all dealings with employees and reflected in communications, consultation processes and internal policies and procedures. A person who may be adversely affected by a decision must be afforded natural justice before a final decision is made.</p>
<p>4 – Employee Performance Management and Development Systems</p> <p>Chief Executive Officers must develop and implement an employee performance management and development procedure consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation and any relevant award or enterprise agreement.</p>	<p>The department's Personal Development Review (PDR) system, described in this section, is consistent with the Act. As at 30 June 2017, 39 per cent of employees recorded to have completed PDR discussions. Completion rates were discussed at the Executive Management Group and with individual directors.</p> <p>In 2016-17, the department conducted the Performance Development Review training for employees and managers.</p>

Employment Instruction - Number and Description	Achievements 2016-17
<p>5 – Medical Examinations</p> <p>Chief Executive Officers may engage a health practitioner in accordance with the Act and Employment Instruction Number 3.</p>	<p>In 2016-17, four employees were required to attend an examination by an approved medical health practitioner.</p>
<p>6 – Employee Performance and Inability</p> <p>Chief Executive Officers may develop employee performance and inability procedures consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation and any relevant or enterprise agreement. Subsection 18(2) of the Act requires the Commissioner to report annually on the extent to which the inability procedures have been invoked in the public sector.</p> <p>Chief Executive Officers shall provide to the Commissioner the information necessary for the Commissioner to comply with the reporting requirement.</p>	<p>Performance management is an ongoing process. Human Resources staff provide advisory services to managers and other employees to assist in resolution of any performance management issues. The department dealt with two performance cases in 2016-17.</p>
<p>7 – Discipline</p> <p>Chief Executive Officers may develop discipline procedures consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation and any relevant award or enterprise agreement.</p> <p>Subsection 18(2) of the Act requires the Commissioner to report annually on the extent to which the disciplinary procedures have been invoked in the Public Sector. Chief Executive Officers shall provide the information necessary for the Commissioner to comply with the reporting requirement.</p>	<p>Required information has been provided to the Commissioner for Public Employment.</p> <p>This year, the department had four discipline matters, three have been finalised with one currently still ongoing.</p>
<p>8 – Internal Agency Complaints and Section 59 Grievance Reviews</p> <p>The department must develop an internal employee grievance-handling policy and procedure consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation and any relevant award or enterprise agreement.</p>	<p>Human Resources provides advisory services to all employees and managers in relation to grievances and internal agency complaints. Four internal employee complaints were lodged in 2016-17. All complaints have been finalised.</p> <p>This was identified by the department as an area for improvement in the last People Matter Survey. The department's Grievance Policy was updated during the year and is available to all employees and managers from the intranet online service centre. The department's internal complaints handling procedures has been reviewed and updated in 2016-17.</p>

Employment Instruction - Number and Description	Achievements 2016-17
<p>9 – Employment Records</p> <p>The department has responsibility for keeping employees' employment records. The department must comply with the requirements of the <i>Information Act</i> regarding correction, collecting and handling of personal information contained on an employee's employment record.</p>	<p>The Department of Corporate and Information Services keeps all personnel files for the department. The department keeps individual files on Personal Development Review discussions which have restricted access to the individual employee and their manager.</p>
<p>10 – Equality of Employment Opportunity Programs</p> <p>The department must develop an Equality of Employment Opportunity Program consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation, the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act</i> and any relevant award or enterprise agreement.</p>	<p>Special Measures recruitment processes were applied to relevant positions during the year.</p> <p>This year the department continued the early careers programs aimed at growing our own Aboriginal employees with relevant skills, experience and qualifications.</p> <p>Details of the department's Aboriginal employment and career development initiatives are reported in Section 4: Our People.</p>
<p>11 – Work Health and Safety Standards and Programs</p> <p>The department must develop programs and procedures to ensure employees are consulted in the development and implementation of work health and safety (WHS) policies and other governance documents.</p> <p>The department must provide WHS information in the annual report in relation to the department's work health and safety programs.</p>	<p>The department adheres to the Model Code of Practice for Work Health and Safety Consultation.</p> <p>A description of WHS governance is included in Section 2: Corporate Governance and WHS programs are described in Section 4: Our People.</p>
<p>12 – Code of Conduct</p> <p>The Code of Conduct stipulates the basic level of conduct expected of Public Sector Officers as defined in the Act.</p> <p>The department may issue an agency-specific Code of Conduct that is consistent with the Act.</p>	<p>The Code of Conduct is provided to new employees upon commencement, through the NTG online Induction process. This was reviewed during the year. The department does not have its own Code of Conduct.</p>
<p>13 – Appropriate Workplace Behaviour</p> <p>The department must develop an agency policy and procedure to foster appropriate workplace behaviour and a culture of respect, and to deal effectively with inappropriate workplace behaviour and bullying.</p>	<p>Three formal complaints were made in relation to inappropriate workplace behaviour this year.</p>

Employment Instruction - Number and Description	Achievements 2016-17
<p>14 – Redeployment and Redundancy Procedures</p> <p>Assists the department and employees in understanding their rights and obligations in a redeployment or redundancy situation.</p>	<p>The department provides employees in these situations with appropriate levels of assistance. A case manager is assigned to assist in the identification of suitable vacancies and maximise the potential for redeployment. One employee was declared as a redeployee during the year.</p>
<p>15 – Special Measures</p> <p>Stipulates the requirements for special measure programs, plans or arrangements.</p>	<p>The department adopted a Special Measures Plan approved by the Commissioner for Public Employment, which allowed Aboriginal applicants to be given consideration before other applicants for all vacancies, in line with the Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy 2015-2020. The effectiveness of this plan will be reviewed in 2017-18.</p>

Appendix 2 - Funding

Table 7.2. 2016-17 Grants and Sponsorships Programs

GRANTS PROGRAM Recipient	Expenditure \$
ANIMAL WELFARE FUND	
RSPCA Darwin Regional Branch Incorporated	49 980
Animal Management In Rural & Remote Indigenous Communities Incorporated	39 290
Ark Aid Incorporated	37 770
NT Cattlemen's Association Incorporated	25 520
Nhulunbuy Pets and Wildlife Shelter Incorporated	23 100
Wildcare Alice Springs Incorporated	10 000
Darwin Wildlife Sanctuary	6 050
Greyhound Rehoming Association NT Incorporated	5 000
Wildcare Incorporated	3 290
TOTAL	200 000
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS	
NT Farmers Association Incorporated	250 750
Amateur Fishing Association of the NT	185 000
NT Seafood Council (AOTA)*	180 000
NT Guided Fishing Industry Association Incorporated (AOTA)*	88 000
NT Livestock Exporters Association Incorporated	75 000
TOTAL	778 750
ABORIGINAL MARINE RANGER GRANTS	
Northern Land Council	120 000
Anindilyakwa Land Council	60 000
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	60 000
Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation	60 000
Marthakal Homeland and Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation	60 000
Thamarrurr Development Corporation Ltd	60 000
TOTAL	420 000
OTHER GRANTS	
NT Farmers Association Incorporated - Strategic Fund Grant	588 000
NT Cattlemen's Association - Strategic Fund Grant	140 000
NT Seafood Council - NT Caught Program (AOTA) *	75 000
Amateur Fishing Association of the NT - Strategic Grant Fund	50 000
Department of Trade, Business and Innovation - Aboriginal Land and Sea Economic Development Agency Program Grant	50 000
NT Seafood Council - Strategic Grant Fund	50 000
Department of Trade, Business and Innovation - Centrefarm Horticultural Limited Grant	25 000
TOTAL	978 000

GRANTS PROGRAM Recipient	Expenditure \$
RESOURCES GRANTS	
Geophysics and Drilling Collaboration Program	519 470
TOTAL	519 470
CAPITAL GRANTS	
NT Livestock Exporters Association - Export Yards	4 100 000
TOTAL	4 100 000
SPONSORSHIP	
Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association - Conference Sponsorship	10 000
Territory Resource Management Incorporated - Conference Sponsorship	6 000
Australian Mango Industry Association - 2017 Mango Conference	3 500
Centralian Beef Breeders Association - 2017 Alice Springs Show Sponsorship	2 100
Minerals Council of Australia (NT) - Gala Dinner Sponsorship	1 855
Dr Andrew Fisher - Barkly Herd Management Forum 2017 Speaker Sponsorship	1 728
Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory Incorporated - 2017 Darwin Show Sponsorship	1 020
Australian Stock Horse Society NT/WA Branch Incorporated - Timber Creek Campdraft Sponsorship	1 000
North Australia Beef Research Council - Conference Sponsorship	1 000
The Nightcliff Orchid Society of the Northern Territory Incorporated - Annual Orchid Spring Show Sponsorship	150
TOTAL	28 353
EARTH SCIENCES/MINING/PETROLEUM SCHOLARSHIP	
Adam Johnston	12 000
Lucas Frichot	12 000
Ricky Phayer	8 000
TOTAL	32 000

The Northern Territory Government's Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus Interest Rate Subsidy Scheme is administered by the department. The assistance package provided interest rate subsidy on commercial borrowings in 2015-16 and 2016-17 to affected growers that met the eligibility criteria.

CUCUMBER GREEN MOTTLE MOSAIC VIRUS INTEREST RATE SUBSIDY SCHEME	Number of payments	Expenditure \$
Melon Growers	10	209 315
TOTAL	10	209 315
GRAND TOTAL		7 265 889

* Note: does not reconcile to Grant Payments in Financial Statements due to payments from AOTA



Figure 7.1. Early morning mist at Berrimah Farm. Photo: Karen Timms