



Northern
Territory
Government

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND RESOURCES

Annual Report

2008–2009



DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND RESOURCES

ANNUAL REPORT
2008—09

Acknowledgements

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Dear Ministers

In accordance with section 28 of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, I submit to you a report on the operations of the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR) for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

In respect to my duties as Accountable Officer, pursuant to section 13 of the *Financial Management Act*, I advise to the best of my knowledge and belief that:

- a) Proper records of all transactions affecting the agency are kept, including the recording of this agency's transactions undertaken by the Department of Business and Employment. Employees under my control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, the Financial Management Regulations and the Treasurer's Directions;
- b) Procedures within the agency 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 agency 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; and
- f) All Employment Instructions issued by the Commissioner for Public Employment have been satisfied.

Yours sincerely


RICHARD GALTON
Chief Executive

20 September 2009

Purpose of the annual report

Our annual report describes the achievements, performance and priorities of staff of the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources during 2008–09. It corroborates our mission to work with our partners to stimulate and sustain economic growth for the whole Territory community.

The report provides an account of our functions and responsibilities, our resource use and outputs, our fiscal management and performance against budget to inform Parliament, our industry stakeholders, staff and Territorians generally.

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Introduction and overview



Chief Executive's message



The Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR) was created in August 2008 from the merger of the regional and Indigenous economic development functions of the former Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development with the former Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines.

This new department has since played a lead role in partnership with government agencies and business, industry and the community, in stimulating and sustaining growth in the Territory's rural and regional economies.

Earlier this year, the government launched the Working Future initiative, a plan for improving the lives of Indigenous Territorians living in remote communities.

Indigenous economic development plays a significant part in this initiative and to address this the department released a draft Indigenous Economic Development Strategy 2009–2012 in June, for comment. This strategy, which is expected to be endorsed for implementation in 2010, promotes improved training, employment and business participation/ownership outcomes for Indigenous Territorians.

While the Australian Bureau of Statistics provides statistics at a statewide level, the department, in an effort to better understand the state of the economy of the Territory's regional centres, conducted extensive surveys of local businesses and published profiles for Alice Springs and Katherine.

Communities bounding the Gulf of Carpentaria benefited from McArthur River Mine's Community Benefits Trust this year.

Examples of these benefits include:

- King Ash Bay Fishing Club – KABFC funding approved for a two-year barramundi fish monitoring project.
- The Borroloola region's Indigenous community through the purchase of a local store by local Aboriginal partnership.
- The Smith Family's ongoing approved project, working in partnership with the Borroloola Community Education Centre.
- Indigenous employment and training strategy for the Borroloola region.

The department took advantage of sustained—albeit slowing—growth in China over the past year, by continuing to promote the Territory as an area of high mineral prospectivity. Two Ministerial delegations travelled to China and 24 Chinese companies travelled to Darwin to investigate investment opportunities. Six agreements with Chinese companies were signed and two exploration joint ventures between Territory companies and Japanese corporations were entered into. Their combined value exceeds \$20 million.

The Territory is still the only jurisdiction in Australia with a dedicated China / Japan investment attraction strategy. This and other departmental strategies have contributed to the Territory weathering the global financial crisis more successfully than other states.

Negotiations continue with land councils and Traditional Owners to reach an outcome for waters affected by the Blue Mud Bay High Court decision in July 2008. The outcomes sought aim to provide sustainable and secure access for commercial and recreational fishers, while meeting the aspirations of the Indigenous sector. Temporary permits have been extended. Unfortunately, the matter continues to delay the review of the *Fisheries Act*.

In mid 2009, the Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources announced new recreational fishing rules which will come into effect in January 2010. These included:

- a reduction of the black jewfish and Spanish mackerel possession limits from five fish to two
- a new possession limit of thirty for cherabin and/or red claw yabbies
- new possession limit of three sharks of any species
- total prohibition on the take of giant clam and sawfish sharks
- introduction of a boat limit of ten freshwater pots per vessel when two or more people are on board
- introduction of requirements for freshwater pots to have turtle excluder devices.

The buyback of commercial fishing licences continues with three licences now purchased. Negotiations continue to buy back a further three licences, expanding the areas set aside for recreational fishing.

The Barkly region received record rainfalls, alleviating the drought conditions experienced last year and allowing restocking of most properties within the region. Turnoff of sale stock will have been dramatically reduced for the region this year, due to the removal of high numbers of breeding stock during the drought, but with their return this year after the wet season, we should see good turnoff numbers again in 2010.

Drought conditions still exist in parts of the Alice Springs region and cattle producers that remain effected are not yet in a position to commence restocking.

Current markets in Indonesia for live cattle exports remain vital to the Territory while we develop new opportunities in Vietnam. A combined industry and Ministerial delegation travelled to Vietnam in November 2008 and saw a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and industry within Vietnam, witnessed by the Northern Territory Government. The MoU enables a pathway to provide technical assistance and training in the design and operation of a feedlot and abattoir facilities, as a foundation for establishing a live export trade between Vietnam and the NT.

The department recently produced a 40-page guidebook to aid potential investors in agricultural enterprises to obtain required approvals for their development proposals. The department also completed a manual of best practice for cattle and land management in the Katherine region. These publications supplement the many projects undertaken this year to develop sustainable and productive farming practices.

I look forward to the opportunities and challenges we face in the coming year and intend to focus on building networks both internally and externally to capitalise on the strengths and assets we have.



RICHARD GALTON
Chief Executive

September 2009

About the department

The Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR) was created by an Administrative Arrangements Order on 18 August 2008.

The new department brings together the responsibility for development and management of the Northern Territory's major resource industries from the former Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, and responsibility for regional and Indigenous economic development from the former Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development.

The merger recognises the crucial importance of these industries, particularly those located in regional areas, in creating wealth and opportunities to generate lasting economic benefits, both for regional communities and for the Territory as a whole.

During the year, DRDPIFR was responsible to the Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources, the Hon Kon Vatskalis MLA and the Minister for Regional Development, the Hon Karl Hampton MLA.

Our Vision

Flourishing regional economies underpinned by profitable and sustainable industries.

Our Mission

To work with our partners to stimulate and sustain economic growth for the whole community.

Our Objectives and Strategies

Thriving regional communities

Will be achieved by:

- Promoting enterprise opportunities in Indigenous communities
- Improving Indigenous employment opportunities
- Facilitating economic development committees to achieve regional community aspirations
- Managing selected projects to stimulate regional growth and maximise investment opportunities
- Influencing and coordinating government efforts to support regional and Indigenous economic growth.

Flourishing regional economies underpinned by profitable and sustainable industries.



Sustainable and productive farming

Will be achieved by:

- Advocating for industry access to land and water resources and infrastructure
- Developing and administering biosecurity laws relating to plant and animal health
- Developing and administering regulatory regimes relating to the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals
- Guiding and assisting plant and animal based industries through extension services
- Obtaining information for potential investors in agricultural enterprises
- Assisting primary producers to access markets
- Undertaking applied research that develops innovative ways of assisting industry.

Sustainable use of fish resources

Will be achieved by:

- Developing fisheries while also maintaining ecological values
- Sharing fish resources between Indigenous, recreational and commercial users
- Protecting aquatic ecosystems from pests and diseases
- Assisting in aquaculture industry development
- Facilitating the provision of fishing facilities and access opportunities.

Responsible recovery of minerals and energy resources

Will be achieved by:

- Promoting responsible development of the Territory's mineral and energy resources
- Assisting in the exploration of greenfield areas
- Facilitating project development including access to Indigenous land
- Administering laws to regulate exploration, mining and production of minerals and energy products
- Promoting continual improvement and best practice environmental management during operations and closure.



Thriving regional communities

Sustainable and productive farming

Sustainable use of fish resources

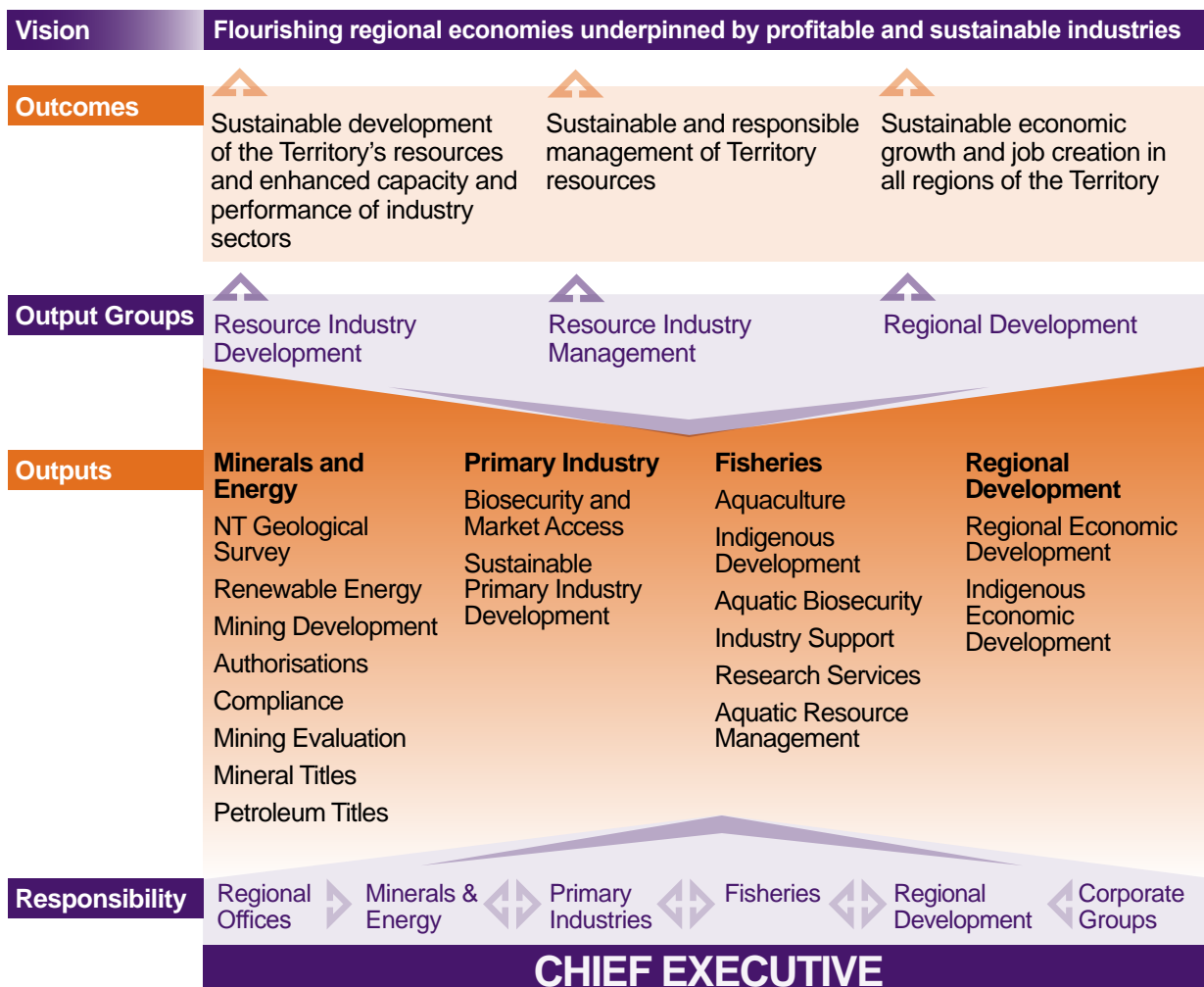
Responsible recovery of minerals and energy resources

Our structure

DRDPIFR has four main business divisions that develop, advise and service the needs of regional people and primary industry, fisheries and resources stakeholders in the Northern Territory.

The organisational structure of the divisions is designed to achieve:

- A management system based on modern principles of public administration
- Natural and supportive points of reference and contacts for staff, clients and the public
- More democratic, collaborative and delegated management styles
- A comprehensive approach to service delivery, ensuring all inter-related aspects of sustainable and responsible resource management and development in the Territory work together.



Regional Development

The Regional Development group facilitates the creation of strong Northern Territory regions in several ways:

- It advocates on behalf of regions by providing hard facts about regions like “economic profiles”
- It strengthens relationships and facilitates the flow of information between stakeholders, including private enterprise and all levels of government, to support the implementation of key projects
- It supports economic growth through funding programs such as the Indigenous Business Development Fund and the Regional Economic Development Fund
- It manages nine regionally based economic development committees.

Services include:

- Assisting Indigenous people to establish and own businesses through the Indigenous Business Development Program
- Assisting with the development of business and industry capability in all Northern Territory regions through the Regional Economic Development Fund, which stimulates and supports regional economic development through locally-based initiatives
- Managing Economic Development Committees to ensure that community economic priorities and aspirations are communicated directly to the Northern Territory Government
- Co-funding placement of four Economic Development Officers in Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Alice Springs to foster local Indigenous economic activity and support the development of such economic activity by facilitating and negotiating on appropriate support services
- Developing and delivering key strategic projects, such as economic profiles for each region
- Providing project officer support for the McArthur River Mine Community Benefits Trust.

Minerals and Energy

The Minerals and Energy group provides strategic services to support exploration and development of mineral and petroleum resources and the efficient and economic use of energy.

It regulates mining and petroleum tenure and conducts inspections and audits to ensure best practice in environmental management and the evaluation and reduction of environmental impacts arising from mining activity.

Services include:

- Attracting investment and promoting mineral prospectivity and mining opportunities to explorers and investors
- Facilitating development projects
- Supplying new and historical geoscientific data to prospective explorers and investors, through publications, maps and reports, online and on loan
- Managing and providing access to offsite drill core collections
- Supporting companies in the application, granting and maintenance of exploration licences and petroleum and mining titles
- Administering the process of granting and maintaining exploration licences and mining and petroleum titles
- Providing assistance and advice through Indigenous liaison to facilitate land access and ensure compliance with the Commonwealth *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT)* and the *Native Title Act 1993*
- Promoting opportunities in energy-related areas, including oil, gas, petroleum, geothermal and alternative energy
- Enforcing mining and petroleum legislation and conducting audits and inspections to ensure compliance with Mining Management Plans and relevant standards

- Maintaining records of all granted exploration, mining and petroleum titles
- Authorising, assessing and reviewing mining and petroleum documentation and rehabilitation security liabilities, and monitoring and evaluating data to identify environmental aspects associated with operational activities to enable early intervention and minimise post operational legacies.

Fisheries

The Fisheries group works in partnership with commercial and recreational fishers, fishing organisations, the aquaculture sector and Indigenous communities to help manage the sustainable utilisation of aquatic resources and develop an ecologically sustainable aquaculture industry.

Services include:

- Facilitating the sustainable commercial catch, sale and processing of fish and aquatic life through license allocation
- Encouraging industry development
- Supporting the recreational fishing industries
- Preventing the introduction of aquatic pests into the Territory
- Contributing to the research needs for each Territory fishery
- Working in partnership to address the needs of the aquaculture industry
- Operating the commercial barramundi hatchery/nursery business
- Assisting Indigenous communities in relation to fishing issues
- Providing education resources for schools and delivering community education.

Primary Industry

The Primary Industry group works in partnership with producers, industry bodies, community groups and related agencies to develop primary industry, including the pastoral, agricultural and horticultural sectors.

Services include:

- Supporting the development of the Territory beef cattle industry
- Providing inspection, treatment and certification services for animals and animal products
- Delivering animal and plant health services
- Providing a veterinary laboratory service for livestock health, production and export
- Supplying testing services for water quality programs
- Supporting development of mixed farming in the Territory
- Supporting development of the Territory's emerging livestock industries
- Promoting timber production in the Top End
- Delivering research and extension programs through the:
 - Arid Zone Research Institute (Alice Springs)
 - Berrimah Farm (Darwin)
 - Beatrice Hill Research Farm
 - Coastal Plains Horticulture Research Farm
 - Douglas Daly Research Farm
 - Katherine Research Station
 - Old Man Plains Research Station
 - Ti Tree Research Farm
 - Victoria River Research Station
- Supporting horticultural industry development
- Providing chemical and plant analysis.

Our support groups

Five corporate groups provide strategic services and support to these three sectors.

The groups are:

- **Finance** - which provides strategic advice and training on its core business of budget management, financial reporting, accounting, travel, procurement, infrastructure and asset management
- **Human Resources** – which provides client-focused support services for the effective management of DRDPIFR employees
- **Information Management** - which manages and implements appropriate systems to keep track of information generated by the department, including freedom of information and privacy issues
- **Marketing and Communications** - which promotes products, services and departmental achievements through marketing and public relations and handles all interactions with the media
- **Executive Support** - which provides support to the Chief Executive and the senior management group. The group coordinates across-agency and whole-of-government policy matters impacting on the department's business areas. It provides leadership on agency governance, business planning and assurance and coordinates performance and statutory reporting responsibilities. The department's internal audit and risk management functions are also positioned within the Executive Support group.

Our committees

Management Board

The role of the Management Board is to provide effective leadership and guidance on strategic and performance issues. It is the department's principal strategic planning body, provides guidance for decision-makers and sets and monitors the goals, strategies and performance targets for the department.

Advisory Committees

Three advisory committees have been formed to assist the Management Board.

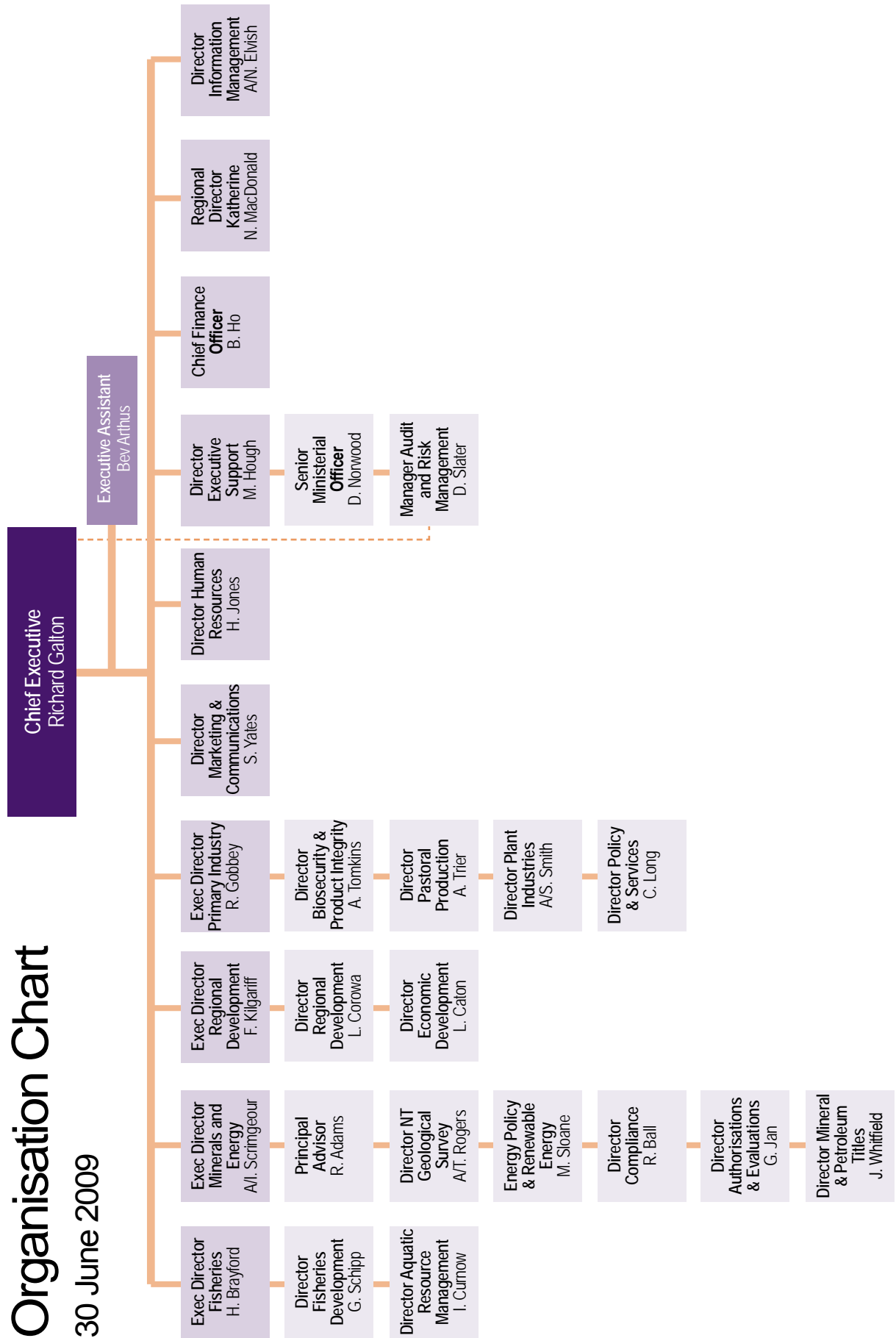
They are the:

- Risk Management and Audit Committee
- Information Management Committee
- Occupational Health and Safety Steering Committee.

These committees evaluate and monitor their specific areas, all of which contribute to good governance and assist the department to meet its government and corporate obligations.

Organisation Chart

30 June 2009



Industry sectors

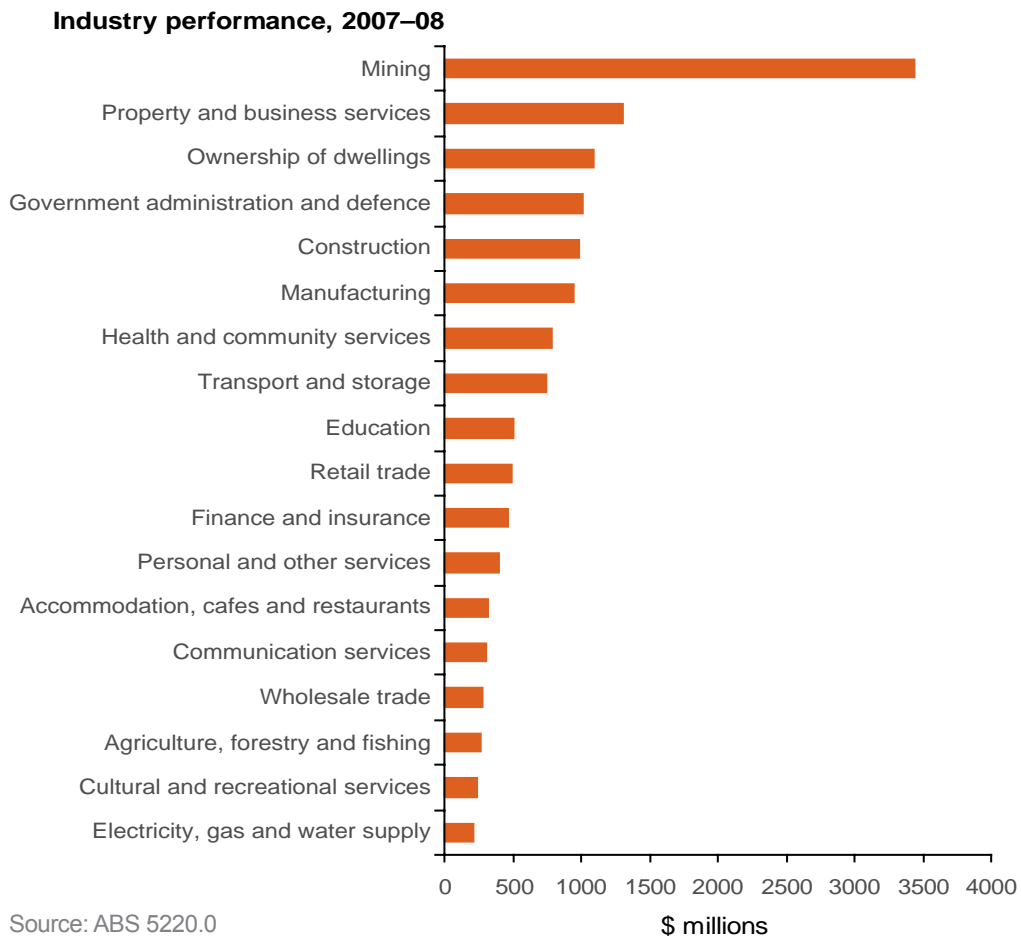
Trends and analysis

The Northern Territory economy is dominated by the mining sector, which includes minerals and petroleum.

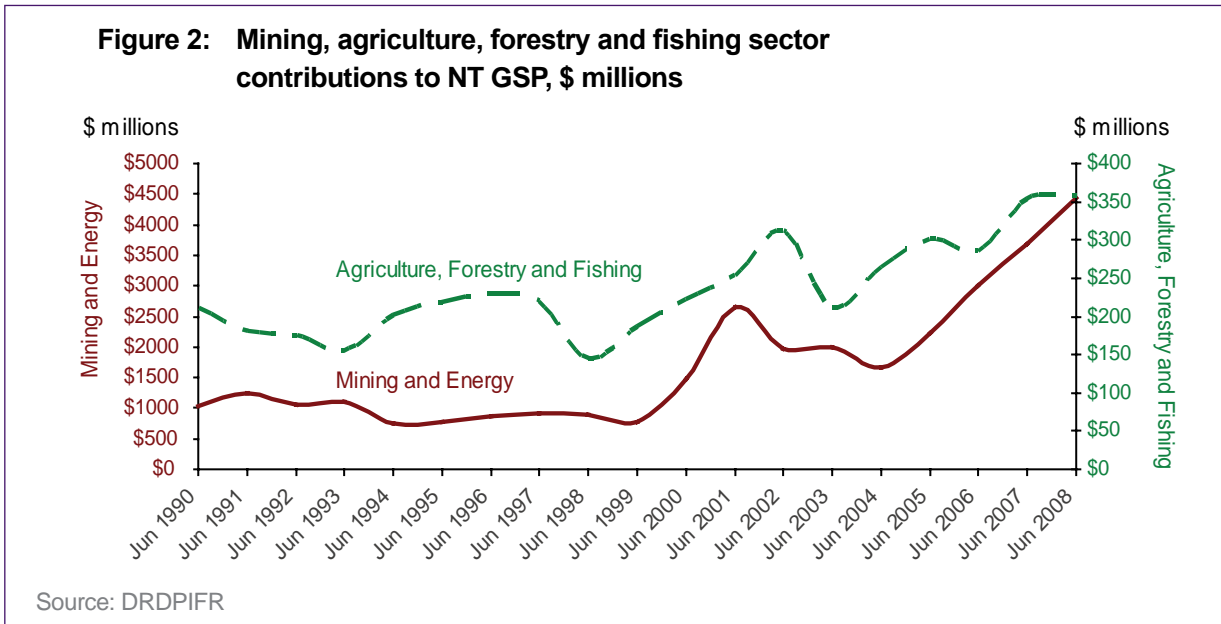
In 2007–08, the mining sector accounted for 24.9% of the Territory economy, with the next largest sectors being property and business services at 9.4% and government administration and defence at 7.4% of the economy. The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is one of the smaller sectors, accounting for 1.9% of the Territory economy in 2007–08. These industry sector relativities are likely to have been maintained in 2008–09 when the Northern Territory economy is estimated to have grown by 4.1%, and similar results are expected during 2009–10 when growth is projected to be 2%. (Source: ABS 5220.0)



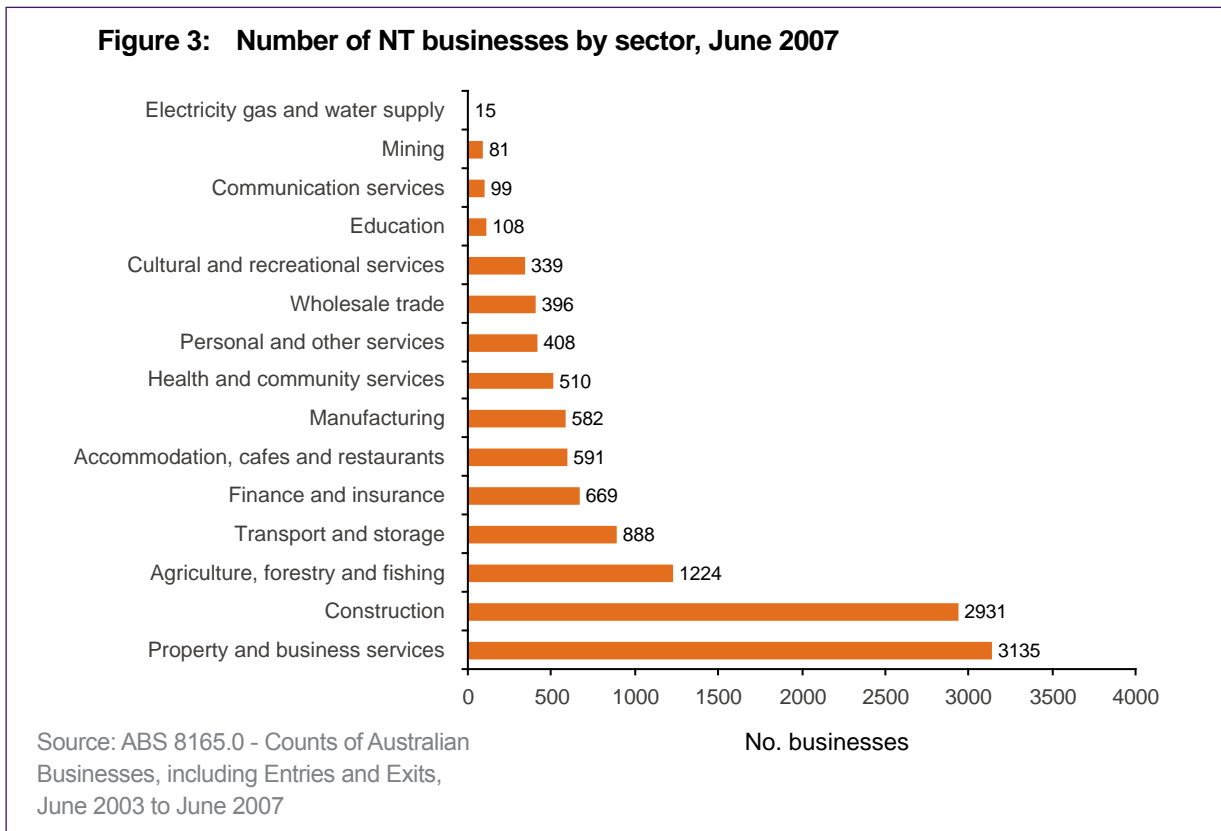
Figure 1: Industry sector contribution to NT GSP, \$ million, 2007–08



Both the mining, agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors are capital intensive, but their growth patterns over the last decade-and-a-half have been markedly different. Industry trends show that after a period of stability in the 1990s, the mining sector's contribution to the Territory economy has increased rapidly, initially on the back of oil, and more recently gas and mineral expansions. In contrast, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector has seen relatively steady growth over the entire period.



The mining sector is represented by only 81 active businesses, or 1% of total Territory businesses in June 2007. In contrast, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector supports 1224 active businesses, or 10% of the total, with most linked to the horticulture industry.



Industry sectors outlook and priorities

Minerals and Energy

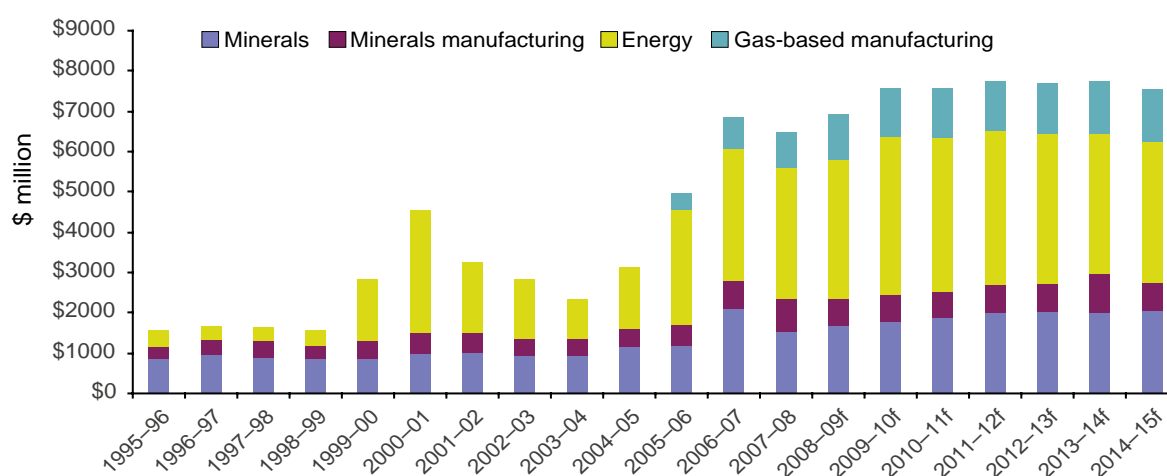
In 2008–09, the value of energy resource production and processing is estimated to increase marginally by 6.7% to \$6 909 million before increasing by a further 9.4% in 2009–10 and then easing in the following years. The main driver of growth in energy production and processing is the liquefied natural gas (LNG) manufacturing plant at Wickham Point, which is offsetting declines in oil production. During the next two years, energy production value is forecast to rise by 11.4%, mainly due to an 11.0% increase in LNG manufacturing (as volume and price increase) and an 11.6% increase in the value of oil production. The value of uranium production is forecast to increase by 11.8% in 2008–09 and to rise by a further 22.5% over the following two years.

In 2009–10, the total value of mineral and energy production (extraction) and processing (manufacturing) is estimated to increase by about 9.4% to \$7 561 million. The small increase is mainly due to the recovery of the global

economy from recession with small increases across minerals, minerals manufacturing (mainly alumina), energy (oil) and energy manufacturing (LNG). The value of mineral and energy production is forecast to rise by a further 0.3% in 2010–11 followed by an easing of production values in 2011–12 and beyond (see Figure 4). These estimates include half the value of production arising out of the Joint Petroleum Development Area.

In 2009–10, the value of (non-uranium) mineral production and processing is estimated to rise by 3.6% to \$2 449 million, with mineral production rising by 5.1% and minerals manufacturing by 0.1%. Over the next two years, the total value of minerals is forecast to rise by 10.1% with production increasing by 14.4% and processing falling by -1.2%. The expansion of existing mines, new mines and expanded mineral manufacturing in the short and medium term are dependant on the prevailing global economic climate.

Figure 4: NT minerals and energy production and processing values



Source: Territory Futures Minerals and Petroleum Economic Outlook 2008

f = forecast

Table 1: Northern Territory Mining Production 2008–09

	2008–09 Quantity	2008–09 Estimated Value
Metallic Minerals		
Alumina (t) (a)	2 392 869	\$596 418 369
Bauxite (t)	6 295 879	\$296 798 297
Gold (g)	8 257 668	\$238 940 992
Iron Ore (t)	1 228 547	\$88 494 364
Manganese (t)	3 467 052	\$1 455 571 529
Silver (g)	785 104	\$233 818
Zinc/Lead Concentrate (t)	320 291	\$193 104 244
Metallic Minerals Value:		\$2 869 561 613
Non-Metallic Minerals		
Crushed Rock (t)	606 190	\$8 514 248
Dimension Stone (t)	1 210	\$110 000
Gravel (t)	100 555	\$900 663
Limestone (t)	65 005	n.p.
Quicklime (t)	21 131	n.p.
Sand (t)	131 755	\$1 919 432
Soil (t)	21 308	\$195 938
Vermiculite (t)	6 548	\$1 907 537
Non-Metallic Minerals Value:		\$13 547 818
Energy Minerals		
Uranium Oxide (t)	5 594	\$668 139 750
Energy Minerals Value:		\$668 139 750
Total Value of Minerals:		\$3 551 249 181

t = tonnes, g = grams

Data explanatory notes

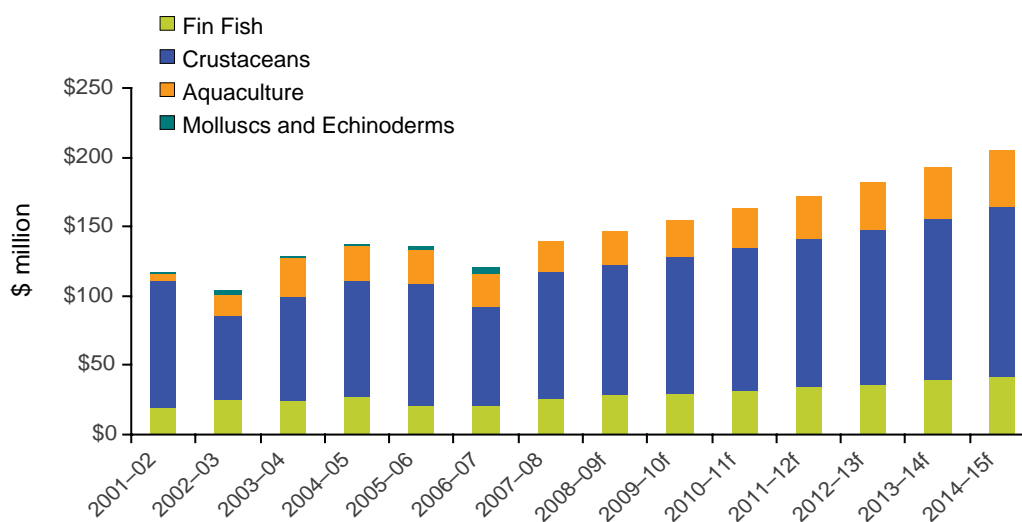
1. Fiscal year is 1 July to 30 June.
2. Data is from production returns lodged by operators.
3. \$ value is Australian dollars and an estimate only.
4. Quantity and \$ value have been rounded.
5. (a) denotes that value is nett value after accounting for feedstocks.
6. n.p. denotes not available for publication.
7. Data is as at 11 September 2009.



Fisheries

In 2008–09, the estimated total value of NT fishing (wild catch fish, wild catch crustaceans including the Commonwealth-managed Northern Prawn Fishery, wild catch mollusc and echinoderms and aquaculture) production increased by 5.3% to \$148.4 million. This represents 20.3% of the total estimated value of all rural industries and fisheries. The outlook is for a small increase in value in 2009–10 by 5.4% to \$156.3 million. The value of Northern Territory managed fisheries and aquaculture in 2008 was in excess of \$50 million.

Figure 5: NT Fisheries production values



Source: Territory Futures Rural Industries and Fisheries Economic Outlook 2008
f = forecast

- Fish** (barramundi, shark, gold band snapper, other snapper, tuna, threadfin salmon, mackerel, jewfish, emperor, cod, Spanish mackerel and sea perch) In 2008–09, the estimated value of wild catch fish production was \$28.1 million, up 6.3% from the previous year. The outlook for the next two years is for a steady rise in production values.
- Crustaceans** (prawns, lobster and mud crab) The estimated value of wild catch crustacean production in 2008–09 was \$94.2 million (including the Commonwealth-managed Northern Prawn Fishery), a 4% increase over the previous year. The value of crustaceans has been increasing gradually since 2002–03. The outlook for the next two years is a continuing rise in production value.
- Molluscs and echinoderms** (squid, trepang, octopus, cuttlefish and scallops) In 2008–09, the estimated value of wild catch mollusc and echinoderm production was \$1.4 million. This is a drop in production value from the previous year, mainly due to a significant decrease in the bumper 2006–07 harvest of other molluscs and echinoderms. The outlook for the next two years is for an estimated production value of \$1.4 million and \$1.5 million respectively.
- Aquaculture** (farmed aquatic organisms including prawns, barramundi, pearls, and aquarium and micro algae) In 2008–09, the estimated value of aquaculture production was \$24.5 million, an increase of 8.7% over the previous year. The outlook for aquaculture production is promising with a forecast 8.0% expansion in 2009–10 to \$26.7 million. The positive outlook is influenced by a number of potential developments in the farmed barramundi and trepang industry.

Table 2: Northern Territory Primary Industry and Fisheries value of production (\$m)

Value of NT Horticulture	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09e	2009–10f
Mangoes	30.7	53.4	57.9	62.8	68.2
Table grapes	5.8	9.0	9.9	10.9	11.9
Bananas	3.5	10.9	11.9	13.0	14.1
Melons	8.6	25.0	33.3	44.4	59.1
Other fruits	3.2	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.7
Vegetables	26.9	26.9	31.5	36.9	43.3
Nursery and cut flowers	17.0	17.0	18.9	21.0	23.4
Total	95.7	145.1	166.6	192.4	223.7

Note: Data for horticulture is for the previous calendar year

Value of NT Fisheries	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09e	2009–10f
Fish	20.9	20.3	26.4	28.1	29.9
Crustaceans	87.4	71.8	90.5	94.2	98.2
Aquaculture	26.0	24.6	22.6	24.6	26.7
Molluscs and echinoderms	1.8	3.6	1.4	1.4	1.5
Total	136.1	120.3	141.0	148.4	156.3

Value of NT cattle, other livestock and mixed farming	2005–06	2006–7	2007–08	2008–09e	2009–10f
Cattle	211.0	212.9	323.8	343.8	365.0
Other livestock	7.6	10.2	15.9	16.4	16.9
Field crops	15.4	18.9	23.8	30.1	38.1
Forestry	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Total	235.3	243.5	365.0	391.8	421.5

Total NT rural industries and fisheries	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09e	2009–10f
Horticulture	95.7	145.1	166.6	192.4	223.7
Fisheries	136.1	120.3	141.0	148.4	156.3
Cattle	211.0	212.9	323.8	343.8	365.0
Other Livestock	7.6	10.2	15.9	16.4	16.9
Field crops	15.4	18.9	23.8	30.1	38.1
Forestry	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Grand Total	467.1	508.9	672.6	732.6	801.5

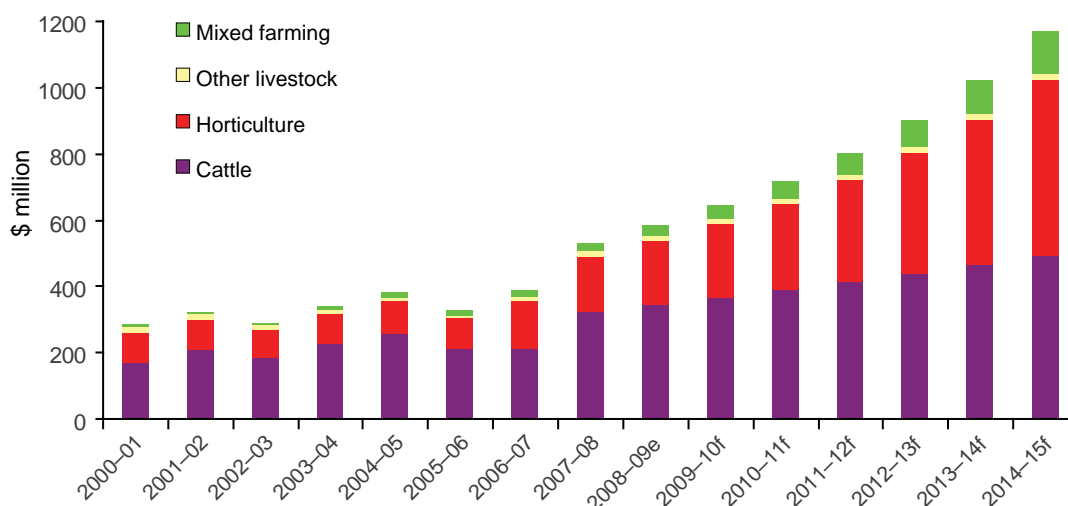
(a) e = estimate, f = forecast (b) numbers have been rounded

Source: Territory Futures Rural Industries and Fisheries Economic Outlook 2008

Primary Industry

The estimated value of production of Northern Territory primary industries (cattle, other livestock, horticulture and mixed farming) in 2008–09 was \$584.2 million, a rise of 9.9% from \$531.6 million for the previous year. The outlook is for a 10.5% increase in value to \$645.3 million in 2009–10, followed by an 11.1% rise to \$716.8 million by 2010–11.

Figure 6: NT Primary industry production values (excluding fisheries)



Source: Territory Futures Rural Industries and Fisheries Economic Outlook 2008
e = estimate, f = forecast

- Cattle** In 2008–09, the estimated value of the NT cattle industry production was \$343.8 million, a rise of 6.2% from the previous year. This was mainly due to an increase in both live cattle exports and the movement of cattle interstate. The outlook for the cattle industry in the Territory depends heavily on the economic conditions facing interstate and international markets and on-going drought conditions. The value of the cattle industry is expected to increase by an estimated 6.2% in 2009–10, followed by a further rise to \$387.6 million by 2010–11.
- Other livestock** (buffalo and crocodiles) In 2008–09, the estimated value of other livestock production was \$16.4 million, an increase of 3.3% over the previous year. This is mainly due to increased exports of buffalo and crocodile production. The outlook for 2009–10 is for this sector to be worth an estimated \$16.9 million, with continued growth in these industries.
- Mixed farming** (field crops, hay and seeds and forestry) In 2008–09, the estimated value of mixed farming production was \$30.1 million. The outlook for 2009–10 is estimated at \$38.1 million, an increase of 26.6% over 2009–09. This increase is mainly dominated by peanuts and hay/fodder crops grown in the Katherine, Douglas/Daly and Darwin areas for the live cattle export industry.
- Horticulture** (fruit, vegetables, nursery and cut flowers) In 2008–09, the estimated value of horticulture production was \$192.4 million, a growth of 15.5% over the previous year. This increase was largely driven by higher prices for mango, melons and vegetables. The outlook for 2009–10 is for a 16.3% increase in the value of production to \$223.7 million, due to the biennial production cycle of mango trees and continued growth in the value of banana, mango and melon production.

Achievements and priorities

Regional Development

OUR OBJECTIVE — Thriving regional communities

DRDPIFR will achieve this by:

Promoting enterprise opportunities in Indigenous communities

Achievements for 2008–09

- Provided \$841 520 in Indigenous Business Development Grants, to assist 54 Indigenous businesses
- Completed the draft Indigenous Economic Development Strategy
- Completed the Maningrida Study to identify the economic gap in the community.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Finalise and implement the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy
- Complete the Fourth Indigenous Economic Development Forum in Alice Springs in October 2009
- Complete the research project on Barriers to Small and Medium Enterprise Investment in Indigenous Communities.

Improving Indigenous employment opportunities

Achievements for 2008–09

- Provided \$228 000 to support the Aboriginal Resource Development Service
- Undertook a pilot study on *Employing Indigenous Territorians* with Alice Springs businesses.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Progress employment and enterprise development opportunities for the Yuendumu, Lajamanu, and Kalkarindji/Dagaragu communities under the Tanami Regional Partnership Agreement signed in August 2008.

Facilitating economic development committees to achieve regional community aspirations

Achievements for 2008–09

- Finalised a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Government on the development of the national body, Regional Development Australia, in the Northern Territory
- Facilitated nine Economic Development Committees across the Northern Territory – for the Tiwi Islands, East Arnhem, Katherine, Victoria River, Gulf, Tennant Creek, Anmatjere, West MacDonnell and Alice Springs.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Thriving regional communities

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to progress initiatives proposed by the Territory's nine Economic Development Committees
- Finalise the Ti-Tree *Plan for Growth* and start the Tennant Creek and Katherine *Plans for Growth*
- Complete the Tennant Creek Economic profile and re-survey Alice Springs businesses as the next stage of the Alice Springs Economic Profile
- Introduce the Alice Springs Workforce Development project
- Support economic development through the *Territory Growth Towns*.

Managing selected projects to stimulate regional regrowth and maximise investment opportunities

Achievements for 2008–09

- Developed the Tennant Creek Foundation as an umbrella organisation for the Battery Hill Mining Centre and Nyinkka Nyunyu Arts and Cultural Centre
- Provided \$150 000 to support the Tennant Creek Foundation
- Completed the Katherine Economic Profile and Tennant Creek Preliminary Profile, *At a Glance*
- Provided \$377 632 to regional organisations to stimulate regional economic growth through the Regional Economic Development Program
- Provided funding and administrative assistance to support the development of the Growing Katherine Business “Sirolli” project in Katherine
- Provided project officer and director support to the McArthur River Mine Community Benefit Trust, to ensure Gulf communities benefit from Xstrata mining operations.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to support the Growing Katherine Business “Sirolli” project to increase the number of initiated businesses
- Develop strategic and business plans for the Tennant Creek Foundation to help increase tourist and community usage of the two sites
- Create a successful partnership with the Alice Springs Town Council for the *Get a Life* employment promotion project
- Continue to support the McArthur River Mine Community Benefit Trust to enhance regional business and stimulate employment
- Provide support for regional and remote private sector transport initiatives.

Influencing and coordinating government efforts to support regional and Indigenous economic growth

Achievements for 2008–09

- Relocated DRDPIFR headquarters to Alice Springs. Regional Development staff are now located in the Peter Sitzler Building, North Stuart Highway
- Participated on the Daly River Management Advisory Committee
- Coordinated the Indigenous Economic Development Taskforce
- Participated in cross-agency and community working groups on: SIHIP (Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program), CDU (Charles Darwin University) and BIITE (Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education) partnerships, Ord Stage 2, Desert Knowledge CRC, Renewable Energy Industry Working Group Alice Springs, Regional Integrated Transport Strategy and Alice Springs Planning for the Future.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Prioritise Regional Development activities around Northern Territory Government policies under *Working Futures*
- Provide support for the Service Delivery Coordination Unit and the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement to improve service delivery and economic outcomes in *Territory Growth Towns*
- Implement a new Indigenous Economic Development Taskforce
- Continue participation on cross-agency and community taskforces to stimulate regional growth.



Minerals and Energy

OUR OBJECTIVE – Responsible recovery of minerals and energy resources
DRDPIFR will achieve this by:

Promoting responsible development of the Territory's mineral and energy resources

Achievements for 2008–09

- Mining operators were required to submit a rehabilitation security for 100% of known environmental liability. A comprehensive review of applicable costing was undertaken to ensure that the level of rehabilitation security requested is appropriate
- Rebates for a total of 69 renewable energy projects were approved in 2008–09 under the Australian Government funded Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP) Extension, resulting in committed funding of about \$3.57 million. Of these projects, 28 were for pastoral properties and eight for tourism projects
- A total of 86 projects (54 solar power generation and 32 water pumping) were completed under both the old RRPGP and RRPGP Extension and rebates totalling about \$4.95 million were paid out
- Under the RRPGP program, 17 site inspections of solar power installations were conducted in the Alice Springs, Barkly and Darwin-Katherine regions in order to assess compliance with the RRPGP guidelines
- Contributed to the development and implementation of Ministerial Council of Energy endorsed projects through NT Treasury
- Worked closely with Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Power and Water Corporation and other agencies to facilitate economic and efficient use of energy
- Provided input through the Department of the Chief Minister's Office of Climate Change by contributing to the national expanded Renewable Energy Target and Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme
- Promoted the Territory as an exploration destination at national and international forums including the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) mining investment show in Toronto, the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) Uranium conference in Darwin and Mining 2009 in Brisbane

- Two Ministerial industry delegations went to China in November and May and undertook Northern Territory minerals investment seminars in Beijing and Shanghai, targeting company meetings and matching of Territory and Chinese companies
- Six agreements signed following 24 visits by Chinese companies to the Northern Territory to investigate investment opportunities
- Continued promotion in Japan, with two exploration joint ventures developed between Territory companies and Japanese corporations, worth over \$20 million
- Presentations made and information and advice provided to industry and other stakeholders at peak industry forums, including the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC), South East Asian Offshore Oil Conference (SEAOOC), Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) and Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA).

Priorities for 2009–10

- Maintain the ongoing functionality of the Security Assessment Board
- Develop a draft Northern Territory Energy Policy and recommendations consistent with the Territory Climate Change Strategy, for policy implementation
- Continue national and international promotion of the Territory as an exploration destination
- Attend the AGES 2010 conference to be held in Alice Springs in March
- Continue efforts to attract new investment in mineral and petroleum exploration from China and Japan
- Continue to promote the Territory in high level forums by providing accurate advice and information to industry and other stakeholders.

Assisting in the exploration of greenfield areas

Achievements for 2008–09

- Completion of the first round of Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations under the *Bringing Forward Discovery* initiative, including five drilling programs and four gravity programs
- Release of findings from an NTGS mapping program in the Arunta Region, resulting in increased nickel and copper exploration in the Harts range area
- Ongoing release of new mapping and geoscience data from the Georgina Basin, Arunta Region and western Arnhem Land.
- Completion of a 370 km long deep crustal seismic survey over southern Georgina Basin and eastern Arunta Region, in collaboration with Geoscience Australia
- Release of the Central Arunta gravity survey and coverage of a further 116 000 km² of the Barkly Region, with new regional gravity stations to assist undercover exploration
- Granting and maintenance of a high level of exploration licences
- Administering part IV of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act* on behalf of the Commonwealth to facilitate the granting of exploration licences on Aboriginal land.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Complete the second round of Geophysical and Drilling Collaborations under the *Bringing Forward Discovery* initiative, including 12 drilling programs and two gravity programs
- Complete the gravity coverage over the Barkly region and new gravity acquisition over the Warumpi Province
- Complete the flagship volume *Geology and Mineral Deposits of the Northern Territory*

- Commence the hyperspectral logging of drill core at the Farrell Crescent core facility and incorporate the interpreted data into a National Virtual Core Library
- Continue the release of new mapping and geoscience data from the Murphy Inlier, Arunta Region and Pine Creek Orogen
- Continue to process and monitor exploration licences.

Facilitating project development including access to Indigenous land

Achievements for 2008–09

- Of 69 renewable energy projects applied for, 22 solar rebate applications worth a total of \$1.51 million, were approved for Indigenous communities and outstations
- Solar rebates were approved for various regional Indigenous communities including:

- Alice Springs	\$205 894
- Barkly	\$345 389
- Darwin	\$ 73 350
- East Arnhem	\$871 328
- Katherine	\$ 22 750
- Five solar rebates worth \$529 437 were approved for Indigenous outstation system installations through the Bushlight program
- Seventeen solar rebates were approved for Indigenous communities (16 outstations and one large Indigenous community) for non-Bushlight systems with the total rebate worth \$989 273
- Total installed capacity of solar power systems for various remote Indigenous communities was 113 kW
- Total estimated savings of 161 kilolitres of diesel fuel (an estimated saving to Indigenous communities of about \$290 000 per annum at \$1.80 per litre) and 431.8 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions

- Facilitated one mining and processing operation to authorisation and production stage, and four mining development proposals to environmental assessment and/or mining authorisation submission stage
- The dedicated Indigenous engagement unit within the Geological Survey has resulted in enhanced access to Aboriginal freehold land to investigate exploration potential
- Assisted the INPEX Browse pipeline project towards the issuing of onshore and offshore pipeline licences
- Granted the necessary approvals for the Blacktip Gas Project and Bonaparte pipelines to be constructed.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continued assistance and advice to all Northern Territory resource development projects seeking help with preparation of documents for submission for environmental, mining and other government approvals
- Increased exploration on Aboriginal Freehold and Native Title Land through cooperative relations with land councils and stakeholders, increasing awareness of processes for exploration and continuing improvement in policy and processes.

Administering laws to regulate the exploration, mining and production of minerals and energy products

Achievements for 2008–09

- Assessed more than 230 mine planning documents as required under the *Mining Management Act* (MMA)
- Referred eight projects for further assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA)

- Issued 52 new mining authorisations of which 29 were to new operators. New authorisations issued including 39 for exploration, three for mining, nine for extractive and quarrying activities and one for other mining related activity
- Progressed the review of the *Mining Act* and introduced the *Geothermal Energy Act*, which was passed by Parliament in April 2009
- Ensured a stronger focus on compliance with the *Mining Management Act* by operators, resulting in a more than 20% increase of mining management plans assessed during the financial year.
- Provided technical guidance to Environmental Earth Sciences, Victoria, the body contracted to independently monitor the environmental performance of the McArthur River Mine for five years
- Increased numbers of field trips to ensure operators across the NT were delivering appropriate standards of environmental management
- Established an Alice Springs based mining officer to improve supervision of mining operations in Central Australia.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Assess new mining, extractive and exploration proposals within the Territory for the purpose of granting or refusing an Authorisation under section 36 of the NT MMA
- Commence a review of mining proposals being assessed under the EAA
- Finalise the review of the *Mining Act* and implement the new Act
- Implement the *Geothermal Energy Act*
- Continue a strong focus on increasing the number of operations with updated mining management plans and security bonds.
- Evaluate the scientific integrity of technical information provided by mining operators and independent verification and assessment of company environmental and operational data
- Collect and analyse monitoring data to enable assessment of mine site environmental performance
- Progress the development of a rehabilitation strategy for the Mount Todd Mine site
- On behalf of the Commonwealth, administer funds to procure and manage environmental site maintenance works and monitoring programs, and commission consultancy studies to inform an improved rehabilitation strategy for the Rum Jungle Mine site
- Continue to deliver a program of targeted field visits in key regions of the NT with the aim of ensuring operators at all levels deliver high standards of environmental management. This program will include a number of audits of selected sites.

Promoting continual improvement and best practice environmental management during operations and closure

Achievements for 2008–09

- Developed advisory notes to assist industry with reporting requirements, e.g. the advisory note on Water Management Plans and Weed Management

MINERALS AND ENERGY
Responsible recovery of minerals and energy resources

Fisheries

OUR OBJECTIVE – Sustainable use of fish resources

DRDPIFR will achieve this by:

Developing fisheries while maintaining ecological values

Achievements for 2008–09

- Commenced a large scale recreational fishing survey
- Obtained accreditation of the Spanish mackerel, offshore net and line, trepang, and Timor Reef fisheries under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- Progressed toward an Individual Transferable Quota management framework for the Timor Reef Fishery
- Worked with marine rangers on two fisheries research programs examining juvenile snapper and mud crab locality, distribution and abundance
- Held two capacity building workshops with marine rangers, focusing on fisheries monitoring and compliance
- Introduced labelling requirements for licensed fish retailers to assist consumers in making informed seafood choices
- Completed a review of logbook and monitoring information across all commercial fisheries
- Finalised a report on the *Utilisation of GIS Spatial Statistical Methods to Assist in the Development of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Strategies Using the Northern Territory Demersal and Timor Reef Fisheries as Case Studies*
- Sent the final report on *The Timor-Leste Coastal/Marine Habitat Mapping for Tourism and Fisheries Development Project* to Charles Darwin University and the Government of East Timor
- Undertook a review of fishing possession limits for key recreational target species.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Develop sound legislation to underpin the management, development and protection of Territory's aquatic resources
- Conduct strategic research into the Territory's aquatic resources
- Finalise the large-scale recreational fishing survey across the Territory
- Consider options for the future management and development of the guided fishing industry
- Finalise the Individual Transferable Quota management framework for the Timor Reef fishery
- Develop a long-term flexible management framework for the mud crab fishery
- Continue development of marine ranger involvement in fisheries management, monitoring and compliance.

Sharing fish resources between Indigenous, recreational and commercial uses

Achievements for 2008–09

- Commenced buy-back of barramundi fishing licences
- Conducted an Ecological Risk Assessment for the mud crab fishery to help determine future management needs.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue the buy-back of barramundi fishing licences
- Consider the future management framework of the Spanish mackerel fishery, including management of the commercial fishery sector by Individual Transferable Quota
- Undertake further ecologically sustainable development of offshore snapper resources

- Undertake a review of Aboriginal consultative processes to provide for greater engagement and understanding in fisheries management and economic development opportunities.

Protecting aquatic ecosystems from pests and diseases

Achievements for 2008–09

- Designed a marine pest survey of Darwin Harbour to national standards
- Successfully detected and treated marine pest species on two incoming vessels
- Collaborated with marine rangers on aquatic biosecurity monitoring
- Participated in an emergency response exercise.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Commence a large-scale survey of Darwin Harbour for marine pests according to national standards
- Continue vessel inspections and monitoring protocols
- Continue to progress the implementation of the National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions.

Assisting in aquaculture industry development

Achievements for 2008–09

- Held a farm feed management workshop for the barramundi aquaculture industry
- Continued feasibility trials of giant clam production
- Facilitated small-scale land-based growout trials for sea cucumber
- In liaison with industry, considered future legislative requirements for aquaculture development in the Northern Territory
- Submitted the final report to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation on a three-year collaborative mud crab larval rearing project
- Produced more than 970 000 barramundi fingerlings for sale to local farms.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Provide effective and efficient industry support and extension services
- Expand marine ranger involvement in aquaculture development activities
- Investigate the feasibility of edible oyster culture in Indigenous communities
- Undertake the first trials of sea cucumber ranching and provide continued support for land-based grow-out trials of sea cucumber
- Continue the licensing of aquaculture activities
- Continue support for the research of aquatic animal diseases.

Facilitating the provision of fishing facilities and access opportunities

Achievements for 2008–09

- Established a community-based recreational fishing development working group
- Drafted a discussion paper on the future management and development of the NT guided fishing industry
- Provided agreed funding and a works scheduling program for recreational fishing infrastructure
- Provided toilets at Corroboree Billabong and Adelaide River boat ramps
- Expanded the artificial reef network.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Draft a strategic development plan to ensure the sustainable management and development of recreational fishing into the future
- Continue delivery of recreational fishing infrastructure projects according to the agreed funding and works scheduling program.

FISHERIES
Sustainable use of fish resources

Primary Industry

OUR OBJECTIVE — Sustainable and productive farming

DRDPIFR will achieve this by:

Advocating for industry access to land and water resources and infrastructure

Achievements for 2008–09

- Provided input into a range of draft Northern Territory natural resource management policies, strategies and legislation to ensure consideration of sustainable development
- Prepared briefs for government and industry associations on emerging global, national and local primary industry related trends.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Early strategic participation in primary industry and natural resource management draft policy development.

Developing and administering biosecurity laws relating to plant and animal health

Achievements for 2008–09

- The Livestock and Plant Health Acts were passed through Legislative assembly.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Introduce the *Plant Health Act* and *Livestock Act*.

Developing and administering regulatory regimes relating to the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals

Achievements for 2008–09

- Expanded the chemical residue testing program
- Implemented the new management plan for the control of vertebrate pests using manufactured 1080 baits.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Maintain a chemical residue testing regime and follow up program
- Facilitate the introduction of wet bait 1080 manufacturing by the private sector
- Provide input via the Product Safety and Integrity Committee on behalf of the Territory on the national reorganisation of pesticide regulation.

Guiding and assisting plant and animal-based industries through extension services

Achievements for 2008–09

- Conducted several new technology workshops for mango growers
- Supported the nursery industry to improve its water use and to achieve quality accreditation
- Provided agronomic advice to support the melon industry
- Provided ongoing technical advice to farmers on integrated pest management
- Completed a manual of best practice for cattle and land management in the Katherine region, based on researcher and producer experience
- Devised and delivered the Northern Transporters' Course which teaches animal handling and welfare to truck-drivers
- Continued the Grazing Land Management program in the Alice Springs and Katherine regions
- Conducted courses on animal nutrition and genetics for cattle producers.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Gain a clear picture of the structure of plant industries through improved collection of statistics
- Continue to support the mango industry by delivering workshops aimed at assisting business outcomes
- Develop improved and innovative pathways to extend and receive information from the NT farming community
- Develop a Grazing Land Management course tailored for the Barkly region
- Commence an updated survey of the pastoral industry across the Territory
- Complete a best practice manual for cattle production in the Top End
- Further develop the Transporters' Course to include stevedores and have it accredited
- Publish books for the pastoral industry on weaning and on phosphorus supplementation.

Obtaining information for potential investors in agricultural enterprises

Achievements for 2008–09

- Produced a 40-page guidebook to aid potential investors in agricultural enterprises to obtain required approvals for their development proposals. The guide is available on the web, from key development approval outlets in NT Government agencies and through industry associations
- Developed methods of objectively estimating the carrying capacity of land, used for station valuation, subdivision and development of new pastoral areas, particularly Indigenous land
- Completed the Pigeonhole project which demonstrated the potential of the NT pastoral industry to expand

- Collaborated with a meat product packaging marketing firm to successfully develop a new business supplying local and international markets.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Keep the information contained in the guidebook to aid potential investors up-to-date with changing agency requirements
- Further develop the accuracy of the safe carrying capacity estimation for the pastoral industry through a project studying the long term effect of commercial stocking rates.

Assisting primary producers to access markets

Achievements for 2008–09

- Provided Property of Origin certificates for about 200 000 animals exported to South East Asia
- Provided certification and inspection for about 250 000 animals sent to interstate markets
- Maintained market access for NT horticulture produce within Australia under approved Interstate Certification Assurance arrangements
- Continued to provide diagnostic and monitoring services that enable maintenance of pest area freedom for parts of the Northern Territory
- Maintained close relationships with South East Asian customers for live cattle exports through a number of trade delegations and high level visits
- Facilitated access and provided technical assistance to a new live cattle export market in Vietnam
- Commenced a survey of Territory citrus to provide proof of area freedom for the citrus greening bacterium.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Provide surveillance for early detection of targeted plant pests to maintain market access
- Monitor and conduct surveillance of important plant pests to prove the Territory's clean and green status
- Continue to provide assistance to the major live export markets, particularly Indonesia and the new market in Vietnam
- Investigate other possible emerging markets for the live cattle industry.

Undertaking applied research that develops innovative ways of assisting industry

Achievements for 2008–09

- Published a paper on the environmental impacts of plant industries on inland water resources in the Northern Territory
- Published a paper in an international journal on the potential for improved rootstocks in mango
- Developed a method to overcome the problem of early dieback in snake bean crops grown in the Darwin region
- Successfully researched methods to quickly and accurately identify grapevine leaf rust
- Commenced major research projects on improving reproductive and growth performance across the NT cattle industry
- Commenced a project to develop a selection index for Brahman cattle targeting the South East Asian live export trade
- Prepared a project to predict the effect of climate change on the NT pastoral industry.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Develop crop rotations that maintain and improve soil health in the Katherine / Douglas region
- Continue to develop improved varieties of African Mahogany for hardwood timber production
- Develop growing systems for passionfruit in tropical Australia
- Evaluate the use of recycled water for crop production in Central Australia
- Analyse and provide improvements in the supply chains of mangos and rambutans for improved fruit quality
- Commence a project to predict the effect of climate change on the grazing industries of the Alice Springs and Katherine regions
- Carry out projects to assess the effect of different grazing strategies on soil carbon storage
- Continue to demonstrate alternative breeds to incorporate in cross-breeding, to provide the cattle industry with a broader range of market options
- Investigate ways of improving cattle performance from low quality roughage diets.

PRIMARY INDUSTRY
Sustainable and productive
farming

Regional offices



KATHERINE

Achievements for 2008–09

- Provided support for Growing Katherine Business Ltd, resulting in a community enterprise facilitator being engaged
- Facilitated the Economic Development Committees in the Gulf, Victoria River and Katherine regions
- Completed the Katherine Economic Profile and the *At a Glance* summary which provides a snapshot of the economy and investment opportunities
- Provided project and director support for the McArthur River Community Benefits Trust
- Provided support for the Bodhi Bus to establish a new regional transport service
- Held workshops on spraying techniques, optimising harvest quality in mangoes, and testing mango dry matter
- Developed a program to enable University of Queensland agriculture students to do their internship and research projects in the Territory
- Conducted biofuel trials, concentrating on Pongamia, a native tree whose seeds yield high quality oil
- Completed the Pigeonhole Grazing Project
- Commenced the Cash Cow project on improving cattle reproduction and the Liveweight Gain project on improving cattle growth
- Secured funding from Meat and Livestock Australia to establish a North Australian breeding index
- Initiated a number of projects with marine ranger groups including research into the spawning cycle of juvenile red snapper and the location and abundance of juvenile mud crabs

- Held the Katherine Farm and Garden Day
- Successfully applied to Australia's Farming Future for funding for a project to predict the effect of climate change on northern grazing industries
- Commenced a joint project with the University of Queensland to investigate ways of improving cattle performance on low quality feeds in Indonesia and the Territory
- Completed the content structure for Certificate II in Fisheries Compliance in conjunction with the Police Marine and Fisheries Enforcement Unit and Charles Darwin University.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Facilitate projects to support the priorities of the Economic Development Committees in the Gulf, Victoria River and Katherine regions
- Support the Jawoyn Association and its plans for new accommodation infrastructure at Nitmiluk
- Complete a regional development and power needs study for the Katherine region
- Provide administration and director support for the McArthur River Community Benefits Trust
- Investigate and capitalise on the regional benefits which may accrue in conjunction with the Ord Stage 2 development
- Participate on the Daly River Management Advisory Committee and contribute to the development of a Water Allocation Plan for the Ooloo Aquifer
- Provide support for Growing Katherine Business Ltd
- Continue and finalise current projects.

TENNANT CREEK

Achievements for 2008–09

- Established the Tennant Creek Foundation to lease the Battery Hill Mining Centre and Nyinkka Nyuyu Art and Culture Centre, and to pursue development of the centres' commercial outcomes to support regional growth
- Produced the Tennant Creek *At a Glance* brochure following a business survey and economic profiling activity
- Facilitated the Tennant Creek Economic Development Committee
- Commenced the Carrying Capacity project to develop sustainable carrying capacities for the major Barkly land systems
- Commenced the Rockhampton Downs Grazing Project to develop a grazing system for enhancing the utilisation of feed by alternating watering points
- Commenced the Selection Index project to develop a selection tool for optimising genetic progress in Territory cattle herds
- Conducted workshops on the Selection Index project and the Northern Grazing Systems project.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Complete the Tennant Creek Economic Profile
- Develop projects to support the work of the Tennant Creek Economic Development Committee and other projects stemming from the economic profiling activity
- Implement the Patta Education Trust to complete the native title settlement for Tennant Creek
- Continue and finalise current projects.

ALICE SPRINGS

Achievements for 2008–09

- Facilitated the Alice Springs, Anmatjere and West MacDonnell Economic Development Committees
- Commenced the *Employing Indigenous Territorians* pilot with the Alice Springs Chamber of Commerce and local businesses
- Provided \$30 000 in funding to support the Tanami Regional Partnership Agreement
- Achieved National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accreditation for the Water Microbiological Laboratory at the Arid Zone Research Institute
- Promoted better drought preparedness by determining resource capabilities and use, through capacity program and grazing strategies
- Held a corporate governance program trial on three Indigenous pastoral operations, enhancing the operations and skills base of these properties
- Held training programs in stock handling, soil erosion, land management and station operation skills
- Invested \$600 000 in infrastructure on Indigenous pastoral properties
- Successfully applied for landcare funding for the modification of the grazing land management program and Indigenous property resource assessments
- Expanded the soil aquifer treatment ponds for infiltration of re-use water
- Completed a pilot study to demonstrate a commercial production system for bush tomato
- Held the 10th Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) in Alice Springs in March with a record number of attendees despite industry downturn
- Released new gravity data over 115 000 km² of central Australia to assist mineral exploration

- Undertook a 370 km deep crustal seismic survey east of Alice Springs in collaboration with Geoscience Australia
- Continued geological mapping programs east and northeast of Alice Springs to stimulate mineral exploration.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Finalise a *Plan for Growth* for the Ti Tree region
- Implement a Workforce Development project in partnership with the Alice Springs Economic Development Committee
- Continue support for the Tanami Regional Partnership Agreement
- Conduct the Indigenous Economic Development Forum in Alice Springs in October 2009
- Investigate options for a business facilitation project in Ti Tree
- Partner with the Alice Springs Town Council for the *Get a life* campaign aimed at attracting workers to Alice Springs
- Emphasise extension programs to promote industry uptake of technology and land management strategies
- Continue developing Old Man Plains as a training and demonstration facility to support industry
- Continue to focus on training, employment and infrastructure development on all Indigenous pastoral operations
- Demonstrate the feasibility of re-use water in the establishment of plant industries
- Assist growers in transitioning to sustainable production practices
- Hold the 11th AGES conference in Alice Springs
- Acquire new regional gravity data in areas west and northwest of Alice Springs
- Continue geological mapping and the release of new geoscience information from the Arunta region.

Indigenous economic development

DRDPIFR undertakes a variety of activities aimed at providing outcomes for Indigenous Territorians and is involved in several whole-of-government strategies and committees focused on Indigenous outcomes.

In October 2007, the Management Board of DRDPIFR's predecessor agency discussed options for developing a document to bring together all the activities of the department in a single statement of commitment and action.

Considerable consultation was carried out in developing the document to ensure that Indigenous and non-Indigenous views and ideas were incorporated. Staff members across DRDPIFR, along with key Indigenous stakeholders and staff from Charles Darwin University and the Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education, were consulted to develop a high level document capturing the initiatives of the department.

The document has been developed for use as an overarching business plan for the Management Board to guide and track the department's effort to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

The document summarises existing and proposed DRDPIFR initiatives and is titled the Indigenous Engagement and Participation Plan (IEPP).

The IEPP has four key objectives:

- **To build collaborative working relationships**
- **To foster respect and recognition of Indigenous culture in our workplace**
- **To achieve increased Indigenous participation in the DRDPIFR workforce**
- **To achieve improved Indigenous economic development and social outcomes.**

The plan was finalised in June 2009 and will be reported on each year in future annual reports.

This year however, we have recorded DRDPIFR's achievements for 2008–09 and the future goals for Indigenous economic development in 2009–10.



Regional Development

Achievements for 2008–09

- Completed a Territory-wide review of the NT Indigenous Economic Development Strategy 2005–2008
- Developed the Draft Indigenous Economic Development Strategy 2009–2012
- Developed an Indigenous Employment Strategy in the Music Sector
- Completed a whole-of-government market research project concerning business aspirations, housing and employment
- Completed an economic gap analysis for Maningrida, titled *Maningrida Study*
- Completed an enterprise benchmarking report which provides guidance on population requirements for enterprise development
- Convened an inter-agency working group to focus on measuring Indigenous economic development
- Convened four Indigenous Economic Development Field Officers Network meetings
- Actively participated in the Indigenous economic development component of the Garma Festival
- Provided \$841 519.72 in Indigenous Small Business Development grants to 54 start-up and existing Indigenous businesses across the Northern Territory.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Launch the Indigenous Employment Strategy in the Music Sector
- Apply to the Aboriginal Benefits Account for \$500 000 to increase the funding available in the Indigenous Business Development Program for 2009–2010

- Attend the *Gathering Success* Symposium, an international Indigenous Economic Development Conference in Alberta Canada
- Participate in an international study tour hosted by the Alberta Government
- Commence the public consultation process on the draft Indigenous Economic Development Strategy 2009–2012
- Launch the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy 2009–2012 and promote and implement the strategy across the Territory
- Establish a Ministerial appointed Indigenous Economic Development Taskforce
- Hold the Indigenous Economic Development Forum at the Alice Springs Convention Centre in October 2009
- Maintain and coordinate the Indigenous Economic Development Field Officers Network
- Model Indigenous economic development in *Territory Growth Towns*
- Actively participate in the Indigenous economic development component of the Garma Festival 2010
- Increase Indigenous employment and economic development as a result of SIHIP (Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program)
- Pursue the implementation of taxation incentives to promote private sector involvement on Indigenous land
- Maintain a whole-of-government approach to Indigenous economic development in the NT
- Establish, strengthen and maintain working relationships with the land councils with a view to progressing Indigenous economic development in the NT.

Minerals and Energy

Achievements for 2008–09

- Of the 69 renewable energy projects applied for, a total of 22 solar rebate applications were approved for Indigenous communities and outstations at a total rebate value of \$1.51 million
- Solar rebates were approved for various regional Indigenous communities including:
 - Alice Springs \$205 894
 - Barkly \$345 389
 - Darwin \$ 73 350
 - East Arnhem \$871 328
 - Katherine \$ 22 750
- Five solar rebates were approved for Indigenous outstations, to be installed through the Bushlight program with a total rebate value of \$529 437
- Seventeen solar rebates were approved for Indigenous communities (16 outstations and one large Indigenous community) for non-Bushlight systems with a total rebate value of \$989 273
- Total installed capacity of solar power systems for various remote Indigenous communities was 113 kW
- Total estimated savings of 161 kilolitres in diesel fuel (an estimated saving to Indigenous communities of approximately \$290 000 per annum at \$1.80 per litre) and 431.8 tonnes in greenhouse gas emissions
- Facilitated one mining and processing operation to authorisation and production stage
- Facilitated four mining development proposals to environmental assessment and/or mining authorisation submission stage
- Created a dedicated Indigenous engagement unit within the Geological Survey which has resulted in enhanced access to Aboriginal freehold land to investigate exploration potential

- Assisted the INPEX Browse pipeline project towards the issuing of onshore and offshore pipeline licences
- Granted the necessary approvals for construction of the Blacktip Gas Project and Bonaparte pipelines.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue providing support and advice to all Northern Territory resource development projects needing assistance with preparation of documents for submission for environmental, mining and other government approvals
- Achieve greater exploration on Aboriginal Freehold and Native Title land through cooperative relations with land councils and stakeholders, by increasing awareness of processes for exploration and by continuously improving policy and processes.



Fisheries

Achievements for 2008–09

- Funded eight marine ranger programs
- Held two capacity building workshops with marine rangers focusing on fisheries monitoring and compliance
- Involved marine rangers in two fisheries research programs examining juvenile snapper and mud crab locality, distribution and abundance
- Developed and implemented standardised reporting processes to enhance marine ranger contribution to fisheries monitoring and compliance
- Granted five licences to Aboriginal coastal communities to harvest and sell fish within their communities.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue development of marine ranger involvement in fisheries management, monitoring and compliance
- Develop standard operating procedures and policies for marine rangers with a focus on Occupational Health and Safety
- Commence a review of Aboriginal consultative processes to provide for greater engagement and understanding in fisheries management, and economic development opportunities
- Develop Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance to provide for further training opportunities for marine rangers.

Primary Industry

Achievements for 2008–09

- Continued the Indigenous Pastoral Program, including the Indigenous Trainee Scheme, and provided business development assistance
- Continued to contribute to the development of Indigenous plant industries by providing specialist agricultural and horticultural advice
- Provided the Ti-Tree research farm as a facility for conducting on-farm Indigenous training programs
- Incorporated a number of Indigenous apprentices within the department's primary industries work program.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to increase cattle production and facilitate Indigenous participation in the cattle industry through the Indigenous Pastoral Program
- Support Indigenous community development through engagement in forestry and horticulture enterprises, both via commercial ventures and local production for consumption
- Continue to provide the Ti-Tree research farm as a high quality training venue for Indigenous programs
- Work with regional development programs to further develop community supported agriculture in Indigenous communities through the *Box of Veg* program.



Finance

Achievements for 2008–09

- Completed implementation of the Travel Request Information Processing System (TRIPS) throughout the department
- Managed the transition to procurement tier changes
- Implemented the revised Treasurer's Directions on Corporate Credit Cards, supplemented by the development of in-house policy and guidelines
- Reviewed and updated financial policies and delegations
- Sourced \$300 000 in funding to undertake the first stage of a Fixed Assets Replacement program
- Reconciled and had all relevant business units' directors sign-off the department's Portable and Attractive Items register to improve accountability and asset tracking
- Improved vehicle fleet management with four-cylinder vehicles increasing from 63% to 70% for the year compared to the whole of government's ratio of 64%. Fleet fuel consumption decreased by 29 705 litres for the year, representing an 8.6% improvement. These successes resulted in DRDPIFR being promoted by NT Fleet to other agencies as a "model agency" for best business practice
- Broadened knowledge and skills, with a staff member spending a successful six month stint at the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's Building Asset Management System unit as part of a mutual staff development program
- Successfully integrated and incorporated into the agency's ledger, financial reports and associated budget transfers of the Regional Development function, as a result of the Administrative Arrangements Order changes on August 2008.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Manage and implement the Electronic Invoice Management System (EIMS) within the department
- Manage the transition to the Procurement Outsourcing Model
- Develop a procurement champion program
- Develop and enhance TRIPS management reporting relevant to DRDPIFR, in conjunction with the Department of Business and Employment.
- Modify, develop and extend training on Corporate Credit Cards and basic procurement to department officers, and continue to train and assist staff in better understanding financial reports and the budget process
- Replace the air conditioning plant and associated equipment at the John England Building at Berrimah Farm with an emphasis on energy efficiency and minimal disruption to staff
- Seamlessly complete the fit-out and refurbishment of the Peter Sitzler Building for the relocation of Regional Development and head office staff to Alice Springs
- Achieve the government's *Greening the Fleet Strategy* of a 7% annual agency fleet emission target
- Develop an insurable risk framework by identifying, managing and mitigating risks within the group's functional responsibilities.

Marketing and Communications

Achievements 2008–09

- Developed on-line induction system
- Commenced re-design of Primary Industry web site
- Developed Chinese web pages to support *Bringing Forward Discovery* strategy
- Participated in, and commenced implementation of recommendations from, intranet review
- Produced CE and IED newsletters
- Undertook consultation, design, planning and production for show circuit
- Developed templates for AGES seminar
- Provided marketing and advertising for Katherine Field and Garden Day
- Assist and provide communication and display material for the STAR Awards, Rural Women's Award and Meet the Buyer
- Developed and implemented communication strategies for Katherine business survey, Recreational fishing survey and Tennant Creek business survey
- Prepared communication strategy and provided support for the graphic design elements of the IED Strategy
- Provided media management and on-the-ground coordination of interviews at the IED Forum
- Developed on-line camtasia training for government credit card users
- Renewed image library with photo shoots in Alice Springs and central Australia, Tennant Creek and the Barkly, Katherine region and Top End including Arnhem Land
- Produced videos of DRDPIFR *Knowledge Seminars* through the year and posted on-line
- Produced videos (now 750) for a range of clients showing departmental projects including snake bean propagation, passionfruit flowering, mango packing, catch and release techniques for recreational fishing, new mud crab trap operation, safe stock handling, the Old Man Plains project and electro-fishing (All made available through the publications portal)
- Issued 124 media releases, many fact sheets, Q&As and media stories.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to meet requirements of five client groups in a timely and professional manner
- Implement and utilise DCM-developed Project Tracking System with full reporting functions
- Manage second-tier branding as required by DCM
- Finalise recommendations from intranet review
- Refine and re-develop processes for delivering departmental information to stakeholder organisations and individuals.

Human Resources

Achievements for 2008–09

- Developed the department's strategic human resources plan, Our People Plan 2009, supporting the achievement of objectives detailed in the Corporate Plan 2009–2012
- Developed the 2009–2012 Indigenous Employment Strategy, focusing on attraction, retention and workplace environment for Indigenous staff
- Organised the annual STAR Awards and Milestone recognition ceremony
- Conducted a series of organisational performance and governance workshops in Darwin and Alice Springs for middle managers
- Introduced the Indigenous Scholarship to provide financial support for Indigenous people to undertake study and enable employment in the department at the completion
- Initiated the Senior Staff Development Program to promote succession planning and develop potential future leaders in the department.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Supporting the achievement of *thriving regional communities* from the Corporate Plan 2009–2012 by continuing to focus on increasing the number of Indigenous employees in the department
- Ensuring the department has the people and skills to achieve the objectives of our Corporate Plan by undertaking workforce planning

- Developing our managers to ensure they continue to have contemporary management skills. A range of skills development workshops and short courses have been developed to address identified needs
- Organise Knowledge Management workshops to develop middle managers skills across the department.

Information Management

Achievements for 2008–09

- Continued the major project to update DRDPFR file titling thesaurus and associated disposal schedules that govern the life of departmental records. Primary Industries and Fisheries schedules were completed
- Submitted the first draft of the Minerals and Energy and Mines Operations disposal schedule to the Records Retention and Disposal Committee for consideration
- Disposed of 7000 records for 2008–09
- Provided training on TRIM (Tower Records Information Management System) to 100 new and existing staff
- Held five *Freedom of Information* sessions for staff in Darwin and Alice Springs
- Completed the annual file census
- Created 6700 new files.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Complete the Minerals and Energy Disposal Schedules
- Upgrade and implement TRIM version 6.2.4
- Continue the records disposal project
- Conduct the annual file census.

Executive Support

Achievements for 2008–09

- Engaged consultants to review the Minerals and Energy function, the Corporate Services function and the Industry Development Support Program (IDSP)
- Engaged independent consultants to undertake a client satisfaction survey
- Implemented recommendations from the IDSP review and provided grant funding to seven industry associations under the new structure
- Finalised the Indigenous Economic Participation Plan
- Coordinated and assisted in the development of the Corporate Plan 2009–2012
- Commenced development of a discussion paper for the review of the *Veterinarians Act*
- Coordinated input to Territory 2030 on behalf of the department
- Coordinated the preparation of high level advice on operational issues, at the request of the Minister.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Provide high level advice to the Chief Executive, Ministers and Cabinet
- Review of the department's performance measures
- Review of the Resource's Investment Attraction program
- Coordinate reporting against the department's Indigenous Engagement and Participation Plan
- Coordinate the working group established to mitigate the department's insurance risk
- Develop departmental policies and guidelines, and coordinate the provision of advice
- Coordinate the flow of information between the Minister's office and the department
- Coordinate preparation of the DRDPIFR Annual Report
- Coordinate the department's grants and sponsorships programs.

Corporate governance



Corporate governance

Corporate governance refers to the administration and management processes adopted by an agency to ensure that it operates and functions in an ethical and legal manner.

Good governance is directed to two main requirements of an organisation:

- Performance — using an organisation's governance arrangements to contribute to its overall performance and the delivery of its services and programs
- Conformance — using governance arrangements to meet legislative requirements, complying with necessary regulations and standards and satisfying community expectations of probity, accountability and transparency.

Achieving good governance of performance and conformance are underpinned by the following principles:

Accountability – We take responsibility for our decisions and actions.

Transparency – Our decisions, actions and advice will withstand scrutiny and instil confidence in government, our stakeholders and the broader community about our decision-making processes.

Integrity – We recognise the need to promote honesty and ethical conduct in all our dealings and by practicing appropriate standards of behaviour that meet and satisfy community expectations.

Equity – We act in a fair and ethical way and are free of bias in all decision-making.

Leadership – Our executives behave ethically, work in a manner that espouses our departmental values and follow management practices that support this culture across the department.

DRDPIFR Corporate Values

- Responsible and professional
- Recognise and celebrate success
- Results through innovation, initiative and teamwork
- Respectful and culturally sensitive

Management Framework

In addition to achieving performance and conformance there are a number of critical elements of the internal organisational framework within which DRDPIFR is controlled and held accountable. These include the Corporate Plan, departmental structure, Management Board, risk management processes, departmental policies and other boards and committees. These provide for clear lines of accountability and a clear understanding of organisational and individual responsibilities.

DRDPIFR

Corporate Plan 2009-2012

The DRDPIFR Corporate Plan was finalised in March 2009 and was developed by a committee of departmental directors in conjunction with Professor Phil Bretherton, who was engaged under the partnership agreement between Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government. Professor Bretherton is the Head of the School of Law and Business and a researcher in the field of organisational performance.

The Corporate Plan provides a statement of the department's intentions for the next five years, with the outcomes of these intentions as:

- building sustainable industries
- economic growth
- regional growth
- supporting and reinforcing compliance and regulation
- ensuring market access for industries through biosecurity and product integrity
- building a responsive and adaptable department.

It provides our external stakeholders with a clear indication of our roles and strategic priorities, and is a key reference for the internal development of group business plans and the allocation of resources.

Corporate Plan 2009–2012

Our vision

Flourishing regional economies underpinned by profitable and sustainable industries

Our mission

To work with our partners to stimulate and sustain economic growth for the whole community

Our objectives

1

Thriving regional communities

DRDPIFR will achieve this by:

- Promoting enterprise opportunities in Indigenous communities
- Improving Indigenous employment opportunities
- Facilitating economic development committees to achieve regional community aspirations
- Managing selected projects to stimulate regional growth and maximise investment opportunities
- Influencing and coordinating government efforts to support regional and Indigenous economic growth

2

Sustainable and productive farming

DRDPIFR will achieve this by:

- Advocating for industry access to land and water resources and infrastructure
- Developing and administering biosecurity laws relating to plant and animal health
- Developing and administering regulatory regimes relating to the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals
- Guiding and assisting plant and animal based industries through extension services
- Obtaining information for potential investors in agricultural enterprises
- Assisting primary producers to access markets
- Undertaking applied research that develops innovative ways of assisting industry

3

Sustainable use of fish resources

DRDPIFR will achieve this by:

- Developing fisheries while maintaining ecological values
- Sharing fish resources between Indigenous, recreational and commercial uses
- Protecting aquatic ecosystems from pests and diseases
- Assisting in aquaculture industry development
- Facilitating the provision of fishing facilities and access opportunities

4

Responsible recovery of minerals and energy resources

DRDPIFR will achieve this by:

- Promoting responsible development of the Territory's mineral and energy resources
- Assisting in the exploration of greenfield areas
- Facilitating project development including access to Indigenous land
- Administering laws to regulate the exploration, mining and production of minerals and energy products
- Promoting continual improvement and best practice environmental management during operations and closure

Management Board

The Management Board provides strategic direction, coordinates the activities of the department and approves internal policies and procedures, in-line with the Corporate Plan.

The board is chaired by the Chief Executive and membership is comprised of the department's Executive Directors and Corporate Directors.

The board meets on the second Wednesday of every month, utilising video conferencing to include members located in the regions. Outcomes from the meetings are conveyed to staff during their weekly unit meetings.

The Chief Executive also produces a monthly newsletter which is emailed to all staff and is available on the Intranet. The newsletter keeps staff updated on departmental issues, regional events, staff movements and policy changes.

Members of the Management Board



Richard Galton
Chief Executive

Richard has worked in the Territory since 1982. He has more than 30 years experience, primarily in the Territory's public sector. Prior to his current appointment as head of DRDPiFR, he was Chief Executive of the NT Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development, the Department of Corporate and Information Services, the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Work Health Authority. He has also been an Executive Director with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment and has held a range of other senior management positions.

Richard has academic degrees in civil engineering and business and is a fellow of the Institute of Engineers Australia and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Rod Gobbey
Executive Director,
Primary Industries

Rod joined the NT Government early in May 2005, having held a number of senior positions with the Tasmanian Government, including Director of Food Quality and Safety and Director of Agriculture. Rod also acted for significant periods as Manager of Animal Health and Manager of the Tasmanian Animal Health Laboratory.

Rod began his career in government in 1975 as a technical officer in the AQIS meat inspection program and has so far spent all of his adult working life in government primary industry roles.



Heather Brayford
Executive Director, Fisheries

Heather joined DRDPiFR in February 2007, after spending the previous 21 years in various positions in the WA Department of Fisheries. These included a range of fisheries management roles encompassing commercial and recreational fisheries, being Manager of the Pearling Program, and Manager of Strategic Planning and Policy.



Fran Kilgariff
Executive Director,
Regional Development

Fran joined the department after nearly a decade as the Mayor of Alice Springs. She began her working life as a radiographer and has attained a degree in Archaeology, taught geography to secondary school students and worked as a Federal Government business manager. She has also served on many boards, including the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre, YMCA, St John Ambulance and The Outback Highway Committee.

As head of the Regional Development team, Fran is looking forward to attracting more private enterprise to the Territory, coordinating interactions between the three tiers of government and advising the NT Government on regional priorities and issues.

**Ian Scrimgeour**

A/Executive Director,
Minerals and Energy

Ian Scrimgeour has 16 years experience working in the Northern Territory in industry and government. Following PhD studies in Antarctica and gold exploration in the Top End he joined the Northern Territory Geological Survey in Alice Springs in 1995. He worked as a regional mapping geologist in the western desert regions of central Australia, and undertook postdoctoral studies on central Australian geology at the University of Leoben in Austria. From 2002, Ian managed the survey's geoscience programs, before being appointed Director of the Northern Territory Geological Survey in December 2006.

**Mark Hough**

Director, Executive Support

Mark has a combined degree in Mathematics and Politics and spent several years working in youth services. Following this, he went to Canberra as a Research Officer and Speechwriter, and during the 1990s worked as a Senior Ministerial Adviser with the Australian Government.

In the late 1990s, he moved to Eritrea in Africa to work as a marketing consultant for the Fred Hollows Foundation. He returned to Australia in 1998 to become an adviser to the Federal Opposition, before moving back to Adelaide where he worked as a government relations and policy consultant.

In 2001, Mark was recruited to work as a Senior Ministerial Adviser to the Northern Territory Government. He joined DRDPPIFR in 2009.

**Bernard Ho**

Director, Finance

Bernard has extensive experience in commercial accounting and financial management, having spent considerable time as Chief Accountant of the Territory Insurance Office.

He has also been a senior accountant with the chartered accountants firm, Coopers and Lybrand, and an assistant financial planning analyst with Mt Newman Mining Pty Ltd.

Bernard holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree and has a Master of Business Administration. He is also a Fellow of the Australian Society of CPAs and the Taxation Institute of Australia.

**Stephen Yates**

Director,
Marketing and Communications

Stephen joined the department after a 30-year media career. He has worked as a journalist, newsreader and news director for regional radio, has been creative director and general manager for an award-winning advertising agency, and has stage-managed some of the largest events held in Australia. These have included the Brisbane Commonwealth Games, the return to Fremantle of the America's Cup, and many notable concerts. Stephen is a communications expert and author of three books and is dedicated to moving the department forward using the most modern technologies available.

**Helen Jones**

Director, Human Resources

Helen has a long career in human resource management in the NT across a range of former agencies including Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, Transport and Works, Attorney General's Department, Darwin Port Authority, Lands Housing and Local Government, NT Treasury, Department of Industry and Business and Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development. She is proud to be leading the Human Resource team in DRDPPIFR.

**Neil MacDonald**

Regional Director, Katherine

Neil has lived in Katherine and worked in the Pastoral Division since 1990, firstly as a researcher in cattle and rangeland management, then as manager of the Pastoral Production program. In 2005, he was appointed as acting Director of the Pastoral Division.

His earlier career in Nigeria, Scotland and Papua New Guinea included commercial agriculture and wildlife management. He has studied at the University of Queensland and the University of Aberdeen.

Risk management

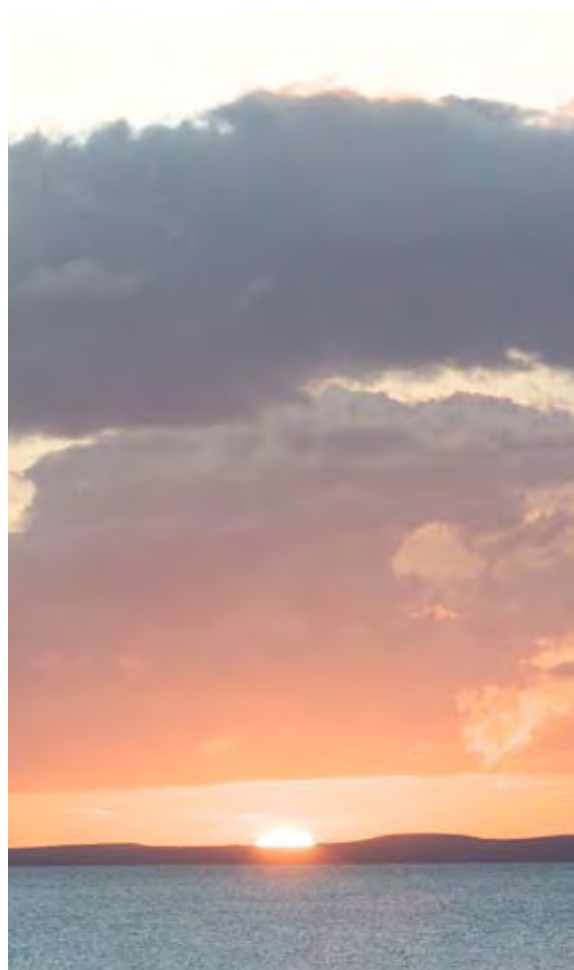
Risk management processes, including internal controls, form part of the strategic management practices operating within DRDPIFR's corporate governance framework.

Once corporate goals have been defined, the risk management analysis begins with the performance of a departmental strategic business risk assessment, carried out by the Management Board. This determines and assesses both the strategic business risks that would prevent the department attaining such goals. Once identified, a risk management plan is then developed to counter or "treat" such risks, incorporating timeframes and allocating responsibilities. As business risks can include a range of threats from events to failures in systems, people and compliance, a broad range of treatment initiatives are required.

The Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC) monitors the implementation of the strategic risk management plan and provides advice to the Chief Executive or Management Board as appropriate.

Operational risk assessments may also be carried out at divisional level to ensure divisional outputs are certain, optimal and appropriate.

The Rolling Review Program performs a key role in the department's risk treatment processes. It involves a planned proactive schedule of reviews which are usually outsourced and provides the Executive with an avenue of feedback on, and assessment of, a strategy or activity of a division, area or program. This ensures continued relevance and determines whether policy directions, objectives, scope, timing or resources need to be reassessed.



The Internal Audit Plan forms another of the department's risk management processes, focusing on the internal control environment. The plan's content is reviewed regularly by RMAC and is approved by the Chief Executive. Internal audit activities focus on the checks and controls regulating departmental internal operations and processes, and examining compliance with legislation, departmental policies and procedures for the effective implementation of previous audit recommendations. Depending on resources required, an audit may be provided internally or outsourced.

RISK MANAGEMENT
Processes include internal controls which form part of the strategic management practices

Policies and processes

DRDPIFR has a number of policies and processes approved through the Chief Executive and/or the Management Board, which support the internal management framework.

Some of the main policies and guidelines are:

- Handling complaints
- Conflict of interest
- Accepting gifts and benefits
- Workplace behaviour

Other policies and processes utilised by the department for OH&S, Human Resources, Information Management and Finance purposes are detailed elsewhere in this report.

Committees

Risk Management and Audit Committee

The Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC) assists the Chief Executive to meet the Accountable Officer's statutory (*Financial Management Act* sections 13 and 15) and accountability (Treasurer's Directions Part 3, Sections 1, 2, and 3) responsibilities, and management of the department's internal control arrangements.

The committee's objective, authority, membership, roles, reporting and administrative responsibilities are set out in its Terms of Reference, which are approved by the Chief Executive and reviewed annually.

RMAC employs contemporary risk management methods and practices contained in the *Australian Standard 4360* to provide the rigor for its risk framework. The Committee's activities include ensuring:

- the department has a current and comprehensive risk management framework in place to manage identified financial and business risks
- the adequacy of the department's internal control arrangements related to its policies, practices and procedures through a process of audits and reviews

- the effectiveness of the internal audit function and appropriate organisational structures, authority and access through annual review of its charter and oversight of its activities
- reviews are carried out and advice provided to the Chief Executive on the recommendations of internal and external audits and, where appropriate, their implementation by management.

Membership

RMAC membership is drawn from senior departmental staff across the groups and regions and includes a representative from the Department of the Chief Minister and an observer from the Northern Territory Auditor-General's Office.

RMAC Processes and Procedures

RMAC meets quarterly and focuses on three key areas:

- ensuring currency of the department's Internal Audit Work Plan
- monitoring progress towards, and implementation of, audit findings and recommendations
- enhancing the department's overall risk management processes at the strategic and operational level.

The department employs strategic business risk assessments to identify threats to its strategic and business objectives. Once issues are identified, the department formulates appropriate risk management or mitigation plans, whose adoption, implementation and effectiveness form the substance of RMAC's monitoring and audit role, and inform the focus and timing of the Internal Audit Work Plan.

Operational risk assessment may also be undertaken across divisions or groups and may also inform the department's audit plan.

RMAC's determination of the nature, extent and level of the required internal audit incorporates an evaluation of available resources, knowledge and technology, which will dictate whether audits are conducted in-house or are outsourced.

The outputs of reviews and audits are subject to an agreed process of evaluation culminating with RMAC's written recommendations to the Accountable Officer and, as relevant, the Management Board.

The department also employs a system of rolling reviews to facilitate a broader evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of its programs and outcomes. The content of the review program is driven by strategic business and operational risk assessments, is administered by the Management Board and Accountable Officer, and the outcomes of reviews are disclosed to Ministers, stakeholders and industry peak bodies, as relevant.

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Revision of the RMAC terms of reference, redefining its oversight of risk and audit matters and its advisory and reporting role in support of the Accountable Officer
- Restructuring and strengthening the independence of the internal audit function, defining and documenting its administrative processes.
- Review of the two-year internal audit work plan, paying regard to observations and issues raised in the NT Auditor General's compliance and end of year reviews, with the endorsement of the Chief Executive
- Revision of RMAC membership to reflect the structure and focus of the new department
- Commencement of in-house internal audits
- Completion of an internal audit of the Berrimah Farm Asbestos Register with implementation of recommendations
- An audit of corporate credit card use in progress at the end of the financial year
- Progress toward developing a framework for managing departmental risk, modelled upon *Australian Standard 4360*
- Development of a departmental external funding agreement database to coordinate the timely production of acquittal audits of the department's externally funded projects.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continued implementation of the internal audit work plan
- Further development of the risk management framework and processes
- Update of Strategic Business Risk Assessment with a view to identifying high-level strategic business risks and relevant treatments or controls
- Completion of the Internal Audit Procedures Manual.

Information Management Committee

The Information Management Committee (IMC) has a key role in governance relating to strategic information management across the department, including advising on investment in information technology.

Membership

IMC is chaired by the Chief Information Officer and includes representatives from:

- Primary Industries
- Minerals and Energy
- Fisheries
- Information Management
- Financial Management
- Regional Development

Key Achievements for 2008–09

- Completion of the Master Data Management Strategy
- Review of the Strategic Information Management Framework and priorities
- Restructure of the Information Management Committee.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue implementing the recommendations and projects identified in the Strategic Information Management Framework

- Implement recommendations arising from the Master Data Management Strategy
- Upgrade the Wide Area Network capacity for Centrepoint and Berrimah Farm.

Occupational Health and Safety Committee

The Occupational Health and Safety Steering Committee develops and ensures the maintenance of occupational health and safety policies and programs within relevant legislation.

It also:

- Oversees the functions of workplace safety committees and makes recommendations on issues referred by the workplace safety committees
- Convenes and oversees sub-committees and working parties formed for the purpose of resolving specific issues of occupational health and safety
- Reviews and analyses statistics from reports relating to accidents, injuries, hazardous incidents and compensation. The committee recommends appropriate action to reduce workplace injuries and the costs associated with them
- Oversees policies relating to introduction, safety training and emergency procedures, ensuring all staff receive regular, relevant, effective training information
- Reviews reports on programmed external workplace occupational health and safety inspections
- Keeps informed about standards generally recommended prevailing in other agencies.

Membership

Membership of the OH&S Steering Committee consists of Senior Executives, Chairs of workplace committees, a staff representative and a regional representative.

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Commenced implementing the requirements of the new legislation *Workplace Health and Safety Act 2007* by:
 - consulting with workers on the establishment of an appropriate workgroup structure, and departmental staff and OH&S sub-committees in relation to their obligations to elect Health and Safety representatives for particular workgroups (still in progress)
- Promoted the uptake of a new database-driven risk register
- Developed new policies or guidelines for:
 - using S7 Chemicals
 - working alone.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to implement the requirements of the new legislation *Workplace Health and Safety Act*
- Review the terms of reference for the OH&S Steering Committee and hold elections where necessary
- Develop performance-measured Action Plans for the agency.



Boards

Northern Territory Mining Board

The Northern Territory Mining Board is established under Part 6 of the *Mining Management Act 2008* (MMA).

The board's functions and powers are detailed in section 50. These include providing advice to the Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources on matters relating to mining activities, and as a review panel for the purposes of Part 8 of the MMA. Part 8 of the MMA provides that a person may apply for review of a decision made under the Act by the Minister or his delegate.

The Mining Board guides and advises the Minister and is independent from government. It provides additional skill and experience, ensures that interest groups have input, and provides an impartial view.

Members of advisory boards are appointed for their personal skills and knowledge and are required to exercise these for the benefit of the statutory body. Members are not appointed to solely represent the views of any particular stakeholder or interest group, even though they may have been nominated by a specific group as specified in legislation.

Membership of the board is defined by sections 51 to 55 of the MMA. In essence, the Board:

- Comprises at least five members appointed by the Minister
- Contains a majority of representatives nominated by industry organisations at the invitation of the Minister. Other members may be directly appointed by the Minister without nomination from industry organisations
- Has members with appropriate industry experience
- Has members who hold office for up to three years. Members are eligible for reappointment
- Has a chairperson appointed by the Minister from board membership, but this person cannot be a public servant. Where the chairperson is absent, the board elects one of its members as chair for that meeting.

The board is required to meet at least once a year, but in practice it meets several times a year.

Membership of the Northern Territory Mining Board

Member	Position/Employer	Nominated by	Expires
Ms Christine Charles (Chairperson)	Chairs a number of national bodies within Australia	Minister	31/12/2009
Mr Brian Hearne	Chief Operating Officer, Xstrata Zinc Minerals Council	Minerals Council	31/12/2009
Ms Gillian Jan	Director Mining Authorisations and Evaluations Division	DRDPIFR	31/12/2009
Ms Jennifer Parks	Exploration Manager, Cameco Australia Pty Ltd	Minerals Council	31/12/2009
Mr Brian Fowler	Manager, Sustainability Arafura Resources	DRDPIFR	31/12/2009
Ms Sharon Wilson	Secretary/Public Officer Extractive Industry Association	Extractive Industry Association	31/12/2009

Executive support is provided by an Executive Officer employed at DRDPIFR

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Provided advice on the amalgamation of mine safety matters with NT WorkSafe and the impact of the move on skills and resources
- Discussed and ensured the continuation of regular mine safety statistics and reporting including safety alerts, critical incidents, analysis of trends and recurring risks
- Provided input into the proposed amendments to the *Mining Act* and *Mining Management Act*
- Discussed Indigenous issues (including access to land, employment and actions of mining companies)
- Provided suggestions for building industry capability and regional development
- Assisted in establishing and operating the Environmental Protection Authority, including having input into the Discussion Paper on the review of the NT's environmental impact assessment procedures
- Provided input into the National Mine Safety Framework agenda
- Provided advice to the Chief Executive on a range of matters.

Veterinary Board of the Northern Territory

The Veterinary Board of the Northern Territory is established under the *Veterinarians Act* with the following prescribed functions:

- Promoting high standards of professional conduct in the provision of veterinary services
- Determining applications for registration from veterinarians and veterinary specialists wishing to practise in the Northern Territory
- Exercising the disciplinary powers conferred by the Act
- Investigating matters relating to the professional conduct of registered veterinarians or veterinary specialist, 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.

Membership

Membership of the board includes veterinarians appointed by the Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources, veterinarians elected by their peers by postal ballot and a non-veterinarian appointed by the Minister, to represent the public interest.

Key achievements for 2008–09

- The board received nine complaints of which two are under investigation, seven have gone or are going to hearing and one resulted in disciplinary action taken
- Two new members, Jennifer Watts and Dick Morton, joined the board
- The board is providing input to the development of a discussion paper for review of the *Veterinarians Act*.

Membership of the NT Veterinary Board

Members	Position
Diana Leeder	President (appointed member)
Danny Atkins	Vice President (elected member)
Jennifer Watts	Member (elected member)
Dick Morton	Member (appointed member)
Kenneth Cohalan	Public Interest Representative (appointed member)

Administrative support is provided by a board registrar/ executive officer employed by DRDPIFR.

Insurance arrangements

Revised Treasurer's Directions were issued on 4 November 2008 requiring an agency to maintain an appropriate risk management framework pursuant to Section R2.1 - Insurance Arrangements. As DRDPIFR is covered by the government's self insurance arrangements, it is required to bear its own risks and meet costs as they emerge. While self insurance is a cost-effective arrangement for managing insurable risks, an agency may also engage in commercial insurance arrangements where it is deemed beneficial to fully or partially transfer risks.

The revised Treasurer's Directions require the following information to be disclosed in the agency's Annual Report for the first time:

- Mitigation strategies and processes employed to reduce the risk for each insurable risk category
- Total number, value and average cost of self insurance claims for each insurable risk category for the current and previous year
- Total commercial insurance premium expenditure for the current and previous year
- Total number, value and average cost of commercial insurance claims for the current and previous year.

As this is the first year of reporting, only current year information is provided.

DRDPIFR has established a working group to develop and disseminate an agency-wide risk management framework and guidelines so that all insurance and associated risk information is assessed and captured consistently across the department.

The insurable risk categories are workers compensation, property and assets, public liability and indemnity.

Workers compensation

Workers compensation covers workers' medical expenses, lost income, compensation for incapacitation and compensation for dependents in the case of death. DRDPIFR is bound by the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act* and is required to have appropriate OH&S strategies and processes to identify and minimise risks to workers.

Mitigation strategies and processes

- High level OH&S Steering Committee comprised of senior executives meets regularly and the minutes are published on the Intranet
- Also have active workplace OH&S Committees
- Employee Assistance Program provides employees with up to five visits per issue to see a psychologist
- Performance management system, known as the Achievement Review Process, provides an opportunity for employees to meet with their managers to discuss the expectations of their job and receive feedback
- Middle management training provides managers with skills to enable the effective management of employees
- Policies and procedures on topics such as working alone, using dangerous goods, safety at sea, first aid, use of firearms, office ergonomics and office safety have been developed specifically to reduce risk to workers
- All work places have nominated first aid officers, fire wardens and diversity contact officers. Posters with nominated officer details are displayed in work places, with similar information on the department's Intranet
- Cyclone and emergency response procedures are in place and reviewed annually

- Early dispute resolution is offered to employees
- An asbestos register is maintained for all department sites and annual inspections are conducted to identify unsafe or deteriorating sites where safe removal and/or encapsulation is carried out, if necessary, through the works programming process
- Risk registers are in place and actively managed
- Travel policies are in place for international employee travel, and provide advice for employees travelling to areas for which official travel warnings have been issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Purchase of commercial travel insurance to cover employees travelling overseas
- National accreditation in place for the Water Microbiology and Veterinary laboratories. All other laboratories are currently in the process of working towards accreditation
- Annual cleaning program is in place for concrete pathways to avoid staff slipping.

Self insurance claims

Number of claims = 11

Total cost of claims = \$109 775

Average cost of claims = \$9980

Commercial insurance costs

Personal accident insurance cover for volunteers not covered by other means

Premium expenditure for 2008–09 = \$1 887

Travel insurance cover for employees travelling overseas

Premium expenditure for 2008–09 = \$2 249

Total expenditure for 2008–09 = \$4 136

Commercial insurance claims

Total cost of claims = Nil

Property and assets

DRDPIFR assets primarily consist of land, buildings, vehicles and plant and equipment. These assets require ongoing management by the department to prevent damage, loss or theft.

Mitigation strategies and processes

- Policy on portable and attractive assets to inform and ensure accountability and custodianship
- Compliance with Treasurer's Directions fostered through internal audit reviews
- Accountability protocols in place to control the allocation and recording of security swipe cards and keys for access to buildings
- Comprehensive vehicle management policy and procedures for governing all aspects of the vehicle fleet
- Cyclone procedures updated annually and reviewed after each cyclone event to ensure best practice
- Internal security systems in the Centrepoint building and Berrimah Research Farm buildings lock individual floors or buildings after hours or as necessary
- Policies on corporate credit cards, credit control and debt management, and entertainment
- Regular inspections and/or stock-take of property and assets.

Self insurance claims

Number of claims = 3

Total cost of claims = \$8937

Average cost of claims = \$2979

Commercial insurance costs

Nil

Commercial insurance claims

Nil

Public liability

Public liability relates to the liability owed to a third party who suffers loss or damage by reason of the department's activities.

Mitigation strategies and processes

- Scheduled preventive maintenance programs for issues such as pest control, air quality testing, tree removal, water filter replacements, and pressure cleaning of walkways. The annual tree inspection program is conducted by a qualified arborist or Farm Manager and problem trees or branches are removed
- Policy on maintenance contractors requiring compliance with sign-in/sign-out procedures, OH&S standards and observance of applicable warning signage
- Risk assessments conducted for property and equipment use
- Compliance with relevant legislation, e.g. *Information Act*, *Traffic Act*, promoted
- Commercial insurance purchased to cover liability risk through the use of volunteers
- Procurement processes to ensure that all requests for quotes and tenders are advertised with minimum public liability requirements. This is generally set at \$10M for tenders and \$0.5M for quotes. Risk assessment is undertaken for each project to determine if a higher level of liability cover or additional insurance (e.g. marine, aviation) is required.

Self insurance claims

Nil

Commercial insurance costs

Total premium expenditure for broad form insurance for 2008–09 = \$976

Commercial insurance claims

Nil

Indemnity

An indemnity is an agreement which protects against the consequences of a breach of duty or negligence, provided acts have been done in good faith. Issuing an indemnity rather than purchasing commercial insurance is in line with the government's policy of self insurance.

Mitigation strategies and processes

- Internal guidelines and checklists have been developed to assist staff entering into funding agreements and contract arrangements with indemnity clauses
- Where possible, the clauses are removed from the contracts where all parties agree
- The agency legal officer checks all contracts that contain indemnity clauses prior to signing
- A comprehensive risk assessment is conducted on each indemnity clause and checked by senior executives
- Application of OH&S processes as applicable
- Compliance with various applicable legislation, e.g. *Information Act*, is promoted
- The indemnity process as the Treasurer's Direction on externally funded projects is adopted.

Self insurance claims

Nil

Commercial insurance costs

Nil

Commercial insurance claims

Nil

Environmental management

In 2005, a DRDPPIFR working group was established to achieve and maintain best practice energy management across the department's operations and to meet the specified energy efficiency targets set out in the NT Government Energy Smart Buildings Policy. This working group remains active and has been instrumental in implementing energy saving initiatives.

Energy reductions

Reductions in energy consumption have been achieved by a combination of the implementation of initiatives identified through building audits and promotions, reminders and better education for staff to increase awareness to turn off lights and equipment at the end of each day.

Other initiatives include changing air-conditioning start times, installing timers and sensors to air-conditioning, lights, urns and water heaters, and shutting down obsolete equipment.

Since the 2004–05 base year the department's energy consumption reduced by 1.4% in 2005–06, 5.5% in 2006–07 and 14.2% in 2007–08. Figures are not yet available for 2008–09 but continued savings can be expected.

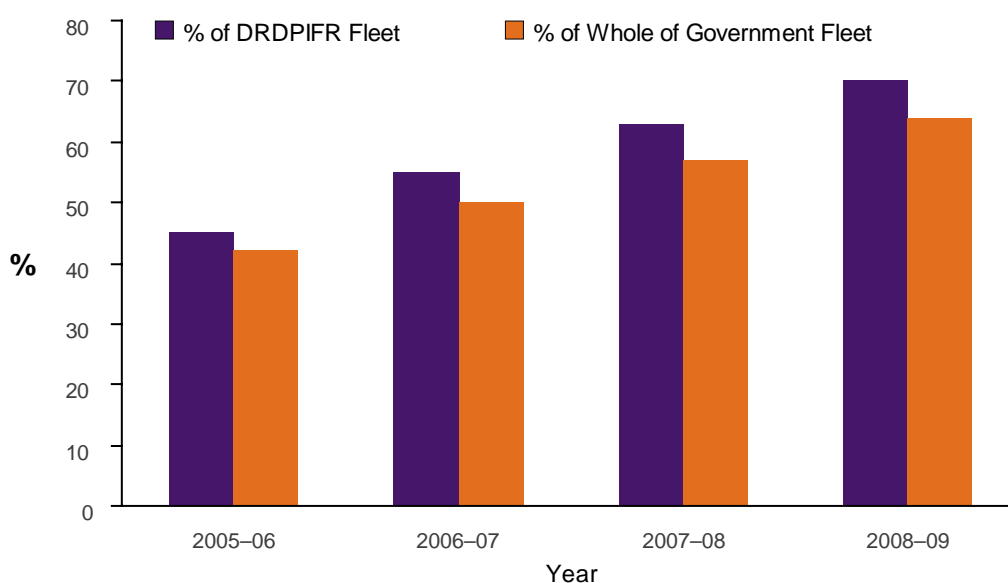
Greenhouse gas savings

DRDPPIFR has had considerable success in reducing vehicle fleet costs and fuel consumption due to changes in fleet management. The agency's achievements in this regard have been recognised by NT Fleet, which has held it up as the model agency in the government's *Greening the Fleet* strategy, introduced on 1 July 2009. The objective of this strategy is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the government passenger fleet by 20% over the next five years.

Since 2005, DRDPPIFR and its predecessor agency have focused on increasing four-cylinder vehicles in its fleet through a more robust system of scrutinising justification for vehicle replacements.

The 4-cylinder fleet has increased from 45% in 2005–06 to 70% in 2008–09, compared to 64% across all whole of government.

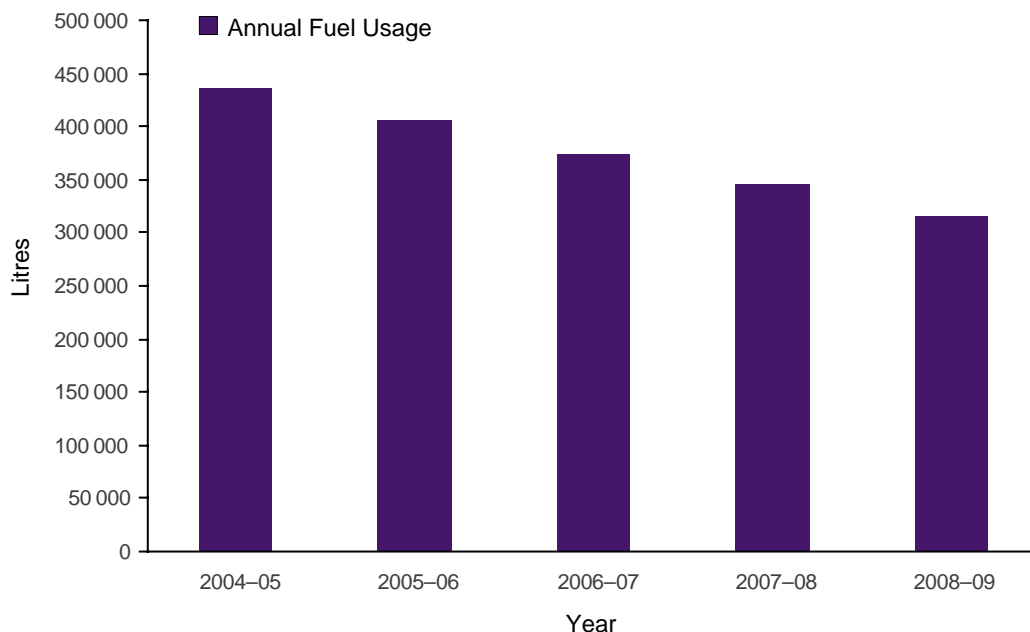
Figure 7: % of NT Fleet four-cylinder vehicles



As a flow-on from the increase in four-cylinder vehicles, the department's annual fuel consumption has been reduced. Fuel consumption dropped from 436 356 litres in 2004–05 to 316 363 litres in 2008–09. This is a saving of 27.5% in fuel consumed and represents an approximate reduction of 313 tonnes of CO₂ gas.

The significance of the fuel use reduction in 2008–09 should also be seen in the context of 12 more Regional Development vehicles being added to the department's fleet early in the financial year due to the restructuring following the August 2008 election.

Figure 8: Annual fuel consumption



Statutory responsibilities and legislation

Statutory responsibilities

Under the Administrative Arrangements Order, DRDPIFR is responsible for the following principal areas of government.

- Primary Production (including pastoral, agricultural and horticultural Industries)
- Interstate Agricultural Quarantine Primary Industries Biosecurity
- Fisheries Management and Research
- Aquaculture Development
- Mining and Geothermal Energy Development
- Mining Titles Administration
- Northern Territory Geological Survey
- Mining Occupational Health and Safety
- Environmental Management of Mining Operations
- Petroleum Industry Development
- Petroleum Titles Administration
- Petroleum Occupational Health and Safety
- Environmental Management of Petroleum Operations
- Administration of Petroleum Industry Operations (Onshore and Offshore)
- Energy Policy, Planning and Development
- Regional Economic Development
- Indigenous Economic Development

Acts administered by the department

The department is responsible for administering 24 Acts and 24 pieces of subordinate legislation.

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 2004

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Northern Territory) Act

Barramundi Fishery Management Plan

Biological Control Act

Brands Act

Brands Regulations

Doctors Gully Aquatic Life Reserve Management Plan

East Point Aquatic Life Reserve Management Plan

Energy Pipelines Act

Energy Pipelines Regulations

Exotic Diseases (Animals) Compensation Act

Exotic Diseases (Animals) Compensation Regulations

Exotic Diseases (Animals) (Screw Worm Fly Infestation) Compensation Regulations

Fisheries Act

Fisheries Regulations

McArthur River Project Agreement Ratification Act

Meat Industries Act

Meat Industries Regulations

Merlin Project Agreement Ratification Act

Minerals (Acquisition) Act

Acts administered by the department

Mining Act

Mining Regulations

Mining Management Act

Mining Management Regulations

Mining (Gove Peninsula NABALCO Agreement) Act

Mud Crab Fishery Management Plan

National Gas (Northern Territory) Act 2008

Pearl Oyster Culture Industry Management Plan

Petroleum Act

Petroleum Regulations

Petroleum (Occupational Health and Safety) Regulations

Petroleum (Prospecting and Mining) Regulations

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Regulations

Petroleum (Submerged Lands) (Application of Commonwealth Laws) Regulations

Plant Diseases Control Act

Spanish Mackerel Fishery Management Plan

Stock Diseases Act

Stock Diseases Regulations

Stock Routes and Travelling Stock Act

Stock Routes and Travelling Stock Regulations

Stock (Control of Hormonal Growth Promotants) Act

Stock (Control of Hormonal Growth Promotants) Regulations

Tanami Exploration Agreement Ratification Act 2004

Validation (Mining Tenements) Act

Veterinarians Act

Veterinarians Regulations

Legislative changes in 2008–09

Geothermal Energy Act 2009

The geothermal legislation was passed in May 2009 and ushers in a regulatory regime that allows for the commercial and sustainable exploration and extraction of geothermal energy resources (popularly known as “hot rocks”).

In the past, the exploration and development of geothermal resources has not been regulated in the Northern Territory and, with no formal process in place and lacking certainty, start up activities and investment was unable to occur. Geothermal energy is a clean and renewable energy source that has low greenhouse gas emissions and is created naturally from deep heat within the earth.

The new legislation is based on the regulatory model established by the Northern Territory’s *Petroleum Act*, *Mining Act* and *Mining Management Act* and similar interstate legislation, such as the Victorian *Geothermal Act*.

Draft Regulations required to support the Act have now been finalised and it is anticipated that the legislation will come into operation sometime during October or November 2009.

Plant Health Act 2008

The new *Plant Health Act* has been passed and will replace the existing *Plant Disease Control Act* once it comes into operation. The new legislation has not commenced and is awaiting the finalisation of the Regulations.

New legislation is necessary to clear up several deficiencies evident in the existing legislation and to provide plant-based industries and the environment with improvements that are compatible with modern practices and protocols.

The legislation aims to achieve this by: defining the responsibilities of owners of plants and plant-related materials with regard to the control of pests, providing powers for plant health inspectors, by development of management plans, and through certification, accreditation and plant health assurance schemes.

Legislative changes in 2008–09

Livestock Act 2009

The new *Livestock Act* has been passed and represents an amalgamation of a series of existing livestock legislation covering cattle, buffalo, camels, horses, pigs and poultry.

The new legislation represents an overall reduction in regulatory restrictions. The changes introduce necessary modern regulatory powers to protect public health and underpin sustainable livestock industries, in a growing and changing Northern Territory environment.

These revamped and streamlined measures are intended to secure the integrity of livestock and livestock products, and provide modern effective powers to respond to specific livestock disease in a timely and effective manner should they occur.

The new legislation is awaiting finalisation of the regulations.



Statute Law Revision Act 2009

This legislation is prepared on a regular basis and is the responsibility of the Department of Justice, with input from various agencies and departments, including DRDPIFR.

Statute Law Revision Bills (SLR) are used as a means to introduce minor drafting revisions and corrections and generally tidy up legislative provisions across all portfolios. Minor revisions and corrections to DRDPIFR legislation included in the recent SLR, cover minor changes to the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act*, *Energy Pipelines Act*, *Fisheries Act*, *Geothermal Energy Act*, *Livestock Act*, *Mining Management Act*, *Petroleum and Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act*.

Changes have also been made to subordinate legislation and these include the *Fisheries Regulations* and *Petroleum (Occupational Health and Safety) Regulations*.

Commencement of new legislation

The *National Gas (Northern Territory) Act 2008* came into operation on 1 July 2008 — the nationally agreed commencement date for similar legislation in all other jurisdictions that are party to the model uniform legislation. The new legislation replaced the *Gas Pipelines Access (Northern Territory) Act 1998*.

Reviews

DRDPIFR has a three-year program of reviews and audits covering statutory compliance, risk management, audit efficiency and legislative review. This program assists the department to focus its efforts on meeting statutory obligations and continually improving its systems and processes.

All reviews either commenced or completed in 2008–09 are listed in Appendix 3.

Information Act

DRDPIFR has developed an internal policy on information access, describing how the department makes information available to interested parties. It also has a fact sheet on Freedom of Information and Privacy, which provides additional detail on the *Information Act* and its requirements.

Compliance with Part 9 of the *Information Act*

The e-based records management compliance survey conducted by NT Archives Service showed the department had achieved an overall compliance of 91% against the whole-of-government agency average of 61%. DRDPIFR's particular areas of strength were in identifying and capturing records, which achieved 94.4% compared with the agency average of 70.6%. Planning and implementing records achieved 95.5% compared with the agency average of 86.3%, and classifying and titling records achieved 93.3% compared with the agency average of 74%.

Compliance with Section 11 of the *Information Act*

Information held by DRDPIFR is identified in Appendix 4. This information and details on how interested parties can lodge an application can be found on our website at www.nt.gov.au/drdpifr.



Our people



Our people

DRDPIFR has a passionate professional workforce of scientists, engineers, researchers, technicians and supporting administration staff from many cultural backgrounds and age groups.

The department is committed to strategically managing its people in line with the objectives of the DRDPIFR Corporate Plan 2009–2012 and Our People Plan 2009. This details the projects, challenges, capabilities and ongoing strategies that support the Corporate Plan. Following an analysis of responses from the annual employee survey, the 2009 plan refines several strategic projects and better defines the department's human resource challenges, leadership capability needs and values of:

- Recognising and celebrating success
- Being respectful and culturally sensitive
- Being responsible and professional
- Achieving results through innovation, initiative and team work.



The department has maintained programs to increase awareness of, and alignment with, government priorities, to meet whole-of-government human resource management objectives, to address specific employee needs and to maintain legislative compliance. The HR team provides the following strategic client focused support services:

- Organisational change initiatives through delivery of the People Plan
- Specialist human resources advisory service to management and staff
- Facilitation of the performance management cycle
- Project and case management of human resources, industrial relations, workers compensation matters and investigations
- Facilitation of early intervention workforce and industrial relations strategies
- Improved governance standards
- Management of Service Level Agreements and service delivery from other agencies
- Early careers coordination relating to apprenticeships, scholarships, graduate program and Indigenous cadet support programs.

Recognising and celebrating success
Being respectful and culturally sensitive
Being responsible and professional
Achieving results through innovation, initiative and team work.

Plans, strategies, training and recognition

2009 People Plan

The department's strategic human resources plan, *Our People Plan 2009*, supports the achievement of objectives detailed in the DRDPIFR Corporate Plan 2009–2012. This department's strategic people management activities for the last five years have been driven by plans that are revised annually to take into account the continually changing environment and challenges it faces. The last revision was undertaken in late 2008 after wide ranging discussions on priority areas, examining employment data and a detailed analysis of the results from the employee survey. The outcome is a plan that defines DRDPIFR's human resource priorities and challenges for the year. (People Plan can be found on page 65).

2009–2012 Indigenous Employment Strategy

This strategy established DRDPIFR's Indigenous employment focus for 2009–2012 are attraction, retention and workplace environment, and introduces a reporting protocol to measure progress. This strategy is an outcome of the People Plan and supports the achievements of the objectives of DRDPIFR Corporate Plan 2009–2012.

It takes in consideration the objectives of DRDPIFR Indigenous Engagement and Participation Plan 2009–2012, which are "To foster respect and recognition of Indigenous culture in our workplace" and "Increased Indigenous participation in DRDPIFR workforce".

(Snapshot of the Indigenous Employment Strategy 2009–2012 and Indigenous Engagement and Participation Plan 2009–2012 can be found on page 67).



Organisational performance and governance workshops

These workshops held in Darwin and Alice Springs were designed and delivered to develop the skills and knowledge of DRDPIFR middle managers in the areas of: governance, performance management and accountability frameworks in the NTPS, business and operational planning and resource planning to achieve outcomes, and personal accountability and responsibility.

Indigenous scholarship

This scholarship was introduced in late 2008. It is an initiative of the Indigenous Employment Strategy to support Indigenous people in undertaking study that will enable employment in DRDPIFR's professional, technical and senior administrative positions. The scholarship provides financial support to undertake the study and career support to enable employment in the department at the completion.

Senior staff development program

DRDPIFR recognises that there are now world skill shortages from which the Territory is not immune. The department therefore created this program to ensure it has a long-term supply of senior managers with the necessary broad range of skills and knowledge to enable it to continue providing high quality services to its diverse client base.

This program was initiated in 2008, by the then Chief Executive, with the purpose of identifying potential future senior leaders and providing them with broad management development opportunities and support for their professional and personal development through a program supervised by the Senior Management Development Committee (SMDC). A personal development plan is developed for each participant and may include a wide range of development opportunities such as secondments, undertaking projects within the department or externally where the project is related to the department's objectives, performing in temporary vacant positions within the department and/or job swapping.

STAR Awards and milestone ceremony

The STAR Awards are departmental initiatives that aim to encourage and acknowledge outstanding performance by individual staff members or teams in their pursuit of the department's objectives. Assessed by a panel of their peers, awards are made to the winning nominees annually at a ceremony to which the Minister(s) is/are invited to make the presentations. Service milestones are also awarded at this presentation which acknowledge individuals for their service with the Northern Territory Government.



Challenges

As detailed in the People Plan, the challenges facing the department to ensure it maintains a skilled, dynamic and agile workforce to meet its current and future demands are summarised as follows:

- Recruiting the best in all regions
- An ageing workforce
- Workforce turnover
- Maintaining our professional expertise
- Managing ongoing change
- Service delivery in a regional and culturally diverse environment

Priorities for 2009–2010

The People Plan priority areas for 2009 are:

1. Indigenous employment

To support the achievement of the objective of “thriving regional communities” from the Corporate Plan 2009–2012. The department continues to place priority in increasing the number of Indigenous employees.

2. Workforce planning

To ensure we have the people and skills to enable achievement of the objectives of our Corporate Plan it is essential we undertake workforce planning. This plan factors in the unique challenges we face and identify and address our future needs.

3. Developing our managers

To enable the achievement of the objectives of the Corporate Plan 2009–2012 we need to ensure our managers continue to have contemporary management skills. A range of skills development workshops and short courses have been developed to address identified needs.

4. Knowledge management

One of the challenges DRDPIFR faces is the age profile of its people and turnover statistics. Improved knowledge management skills across the agency will assist in meeting these challenges. Workshops to develop these skills have been designed and will be delivered to middle managers during 2009–2010.

Northern Territory Government

2009 People Plan

Our strength from the inside out

This Plan outlines our people related projects being addressed in 2009. The Plan's projects and ongoing strategies are shared responsibilities.

OUR PRIORITIES

- Indigenous employment
- Workforce planning
- Developing our managers
- Knowledge management

CHALLENGES

- Recruiting the best in all regions
- An ageing workforce
- Workforce turnover
- Maintaining our professional expertise
- Managing ongoing change
- Service delivery in a regional and culturally diverse environment

ONGOING ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGIES

- Indigenous employment programs
- Aligning people and resources with our goals
- Management development and succession
- Flexible and innovative work practices
- Employee assistance program including management coaching

Recognise and celebrate success

Respectful and culturally sensitive

Responsible and professional

Results through innovation, initiative and team work

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PRIMARY INDUSTRY, FISHERIES AND RESOURCES

Indigenous employment

As mentioned, Indigenous employment remains a key priority for the agency and accordingly the Indigenous Employment Strategy was reviewed last year. This strategy links to the government's *Closing the Gap* initiative and Indigenous employment priorities for the NTPS.

Indigenous apprentice program

DRDPIFR has an Indigenous apprentice program, with strong underlying principles including providing apprentices with support to enable them to be successful and aligning apprentice disciplines with our business. The program features a culturally-appropriate mentoring program which focuses on retention.

The program's aim is to grow our own professional, technical and administrative employees who identify as Indigenous. This program continues to be successful by increasing the number of Indigenous employees and enabling ongoing employment.

During 2008–2009 it was recognised that with the success of the Indigenous entry level programs, the department needed to focus on increasing the number of Indigenous employees across mainstream positions. In 2008 an Indigenous scholarship was created and advertised to attract Indigenous people to undertake study that would enable employment in positions in DRDPIFR, particularly within the applied science field.

Indigenous apprentice mentoring program

The department continues to support the Indigenous mentoring program in a culturally respectful environment. This program is a feature of the apprentice program and provides support and increases retention of the Indigenous apprentices. The mentoring program was first introduced in 2007 and due to its success is now a constant element of the apprentice program. Its success has been due to its cultural appropriateness and focus on retention rather than career development. The program has a focus on training the mentors in cross-management skills (rather than providing knowledge) and encourages the mentors to consider the mentee from a whole-of-life perspective.



Indigenous Employment Strategy 2009–2012

Our Objective

Increase the number of identifying Indigenous employees in DRDPIFR to more than ten percent by 2012

ATTRACTION	RETENTION	WORK PLACE ENVIRONMENT
<p>Attract Indigenous people to middle and senior levels</p> <p>Maintain and improve entry level programs in disciplines that align with career paths</p> <p>Increase awareness of DRDPIFR as a good place to work for Indigenous people</p>	<p>Improve career progression</p> <p>Provide ongoing employment to entry level graduates</p> <p>Assist employees to meet cultural and family responsibilities through use of flexible work practices</p> <p>Maintain and expand mentoring programs</p>	<p>Ensure Induction includes cross cultural awareness and information</p> <p>Ensure all employees have participated in appropriate cross cultural training</p> <p>Establish Indigenous employment champions who actively promote Indigenous employment</p> <p>Support participation in events that celebrate Indigenous culture</p>

DRDPIFR INDIGENOUS EMPLOYEE STRATEGY 2009 TO 2012

2009–2012 Indigenous Engagement and Participation Plan

Purpose

Increasing Indigenous participation in the NT economy is a key focus area for the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR).

In the Australian jurisdiction with the highest Indigenous population per capita, it is vital that DRDPIFR continues to work to encourage greater participation and development of economic opportunities for Indigenous people across all regions of the Territory and in the mining and energy, fisheries, pastoral and plant-based industry sectors. This includes growing our number of Indigenous employees, within DRDPIFR.

This document has been developed as an overarching business plan for the Management Board to use to guide and track the department's effort to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage. The Plan summarises existing and proposed DRDPIFR initiatives and we have named our Indigenous Engagement and Participation Plan (IEPP).

Our Business

To work with our partners to stimulate and sustain economic growth for the whole community.

Our approach to developing our Plan

Considerable consultation was carried out in developing this document to ensure that Indigenous and non-Indigenous views and ideas were covered. Staff members across DRDPIFR, along with key Indigenous stakeholders and staff from education institutions including Charles Darwin University (CDU) and Batchelor Institute and Indigenous Tertiary Education were consulted to develop this high level document which aims to capture significant initiatives of the department.

The IEPP has four key objectives:

- **To Build Collaborative Working Relationships**
- **To Foster Respect and Recognition of Indigenous Culture in our Workplace**
- **Increased Indigenous Participation in the DRDPIFR Workforce**
- **Improved Indigenous Economic Development and Social Outcomes**

Associated strategies, actions, measures/targets and positions responsible for implementation of specific actions are identified.

DRDPIFR INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2009 TO 2012

Equity and diversity

Equity and diversity continues to be a feature of human resource initiatives to enable the achievement of the objectives of the department’s Corporate Plan.

As mentioned in the previous section, increasing the number of Indigenous employees has been a focus of these initiatives and will continue.

In 2008, the department maintained and increased the profile of its Diversity Contact Officer network by increasing the number of staff trained. The objective of the network is to promote diversity and work-life balance in the workplace and to have a mechanism within the department to reduce the risk of bullying and harassment.

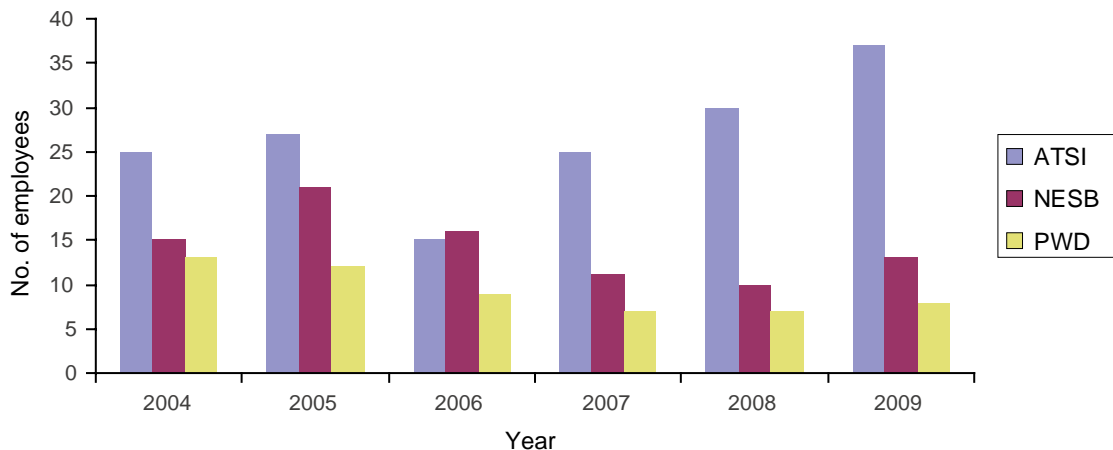
Other areas that will be a focus for the coming year include addressing the challenge of an ageing workforce, considering the options for initiatives that will enable the retention of these employees and looking at initiatives to employ people with disabilities in line with the NTPS *Willing and Able* strategy.

Equal employment opportunity (EEO) data

Employees are encouraged to enter their EEO details on the MyHR database, an online human resource system that allows employees to access their own salary, leave and other personal information via the intranet. The department held MyHR *census* days in November, specifically encouraging employees to update their details.

While self-identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI), or from a Non-English Speaking Background (NESB), or being a Person with a Disability (PWD), remains voluntary, the data in the table below cannot be guaranteed as accurately reflecting the diversity in the agency. The statistics do however indicate that 318 employees have recorded their personal details in MyHR and efforts will continue to encourage greater participation.

Figure 9: EEO groups by year

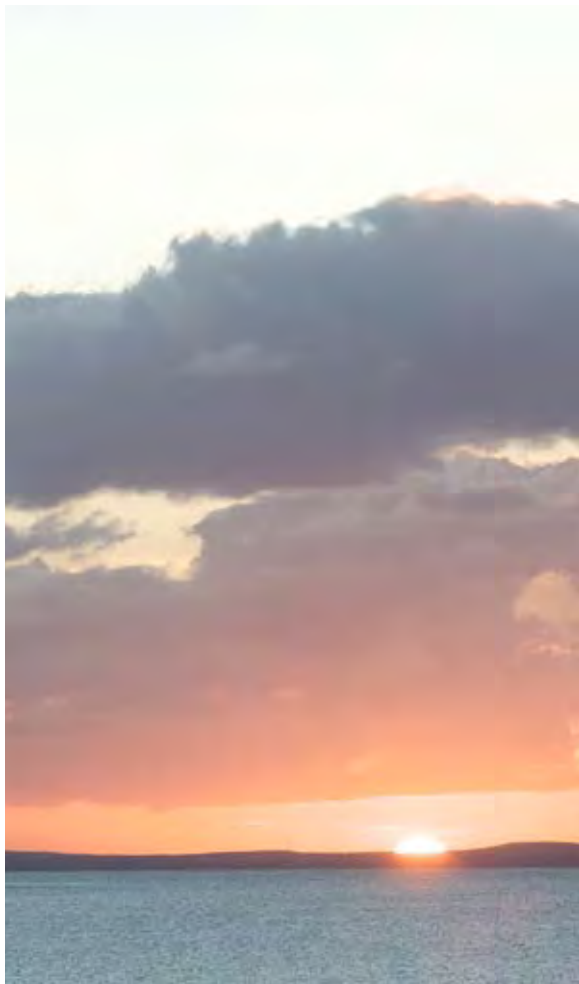


ATSI – Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander, NESB – Non English Speaking Background, PWD – Person with Disability

Grievances and appeals

The department maintained its early intervention strategy to address issues of workplace conflict and appeals, advocating mediation and the respectful interaction of parties. Where formal processes are required to be employed, matters are attended to in a timely fashion with a strong focus on natural justice and achieving positive outcomes.

To support this approach the department continues with the Conflict Coaching program. It is a structured process that helps people on a one-on-one basis to work through issues or concerns they may have in the workplace. Conflict coaching helps people to identify their own interests and those of others, to work on skills to resolve conflict in constructive and conciliatory ways, to practice alternative ways to replace habitual and counterproductive behaviours and to enable effective and satisfying problem-solving.



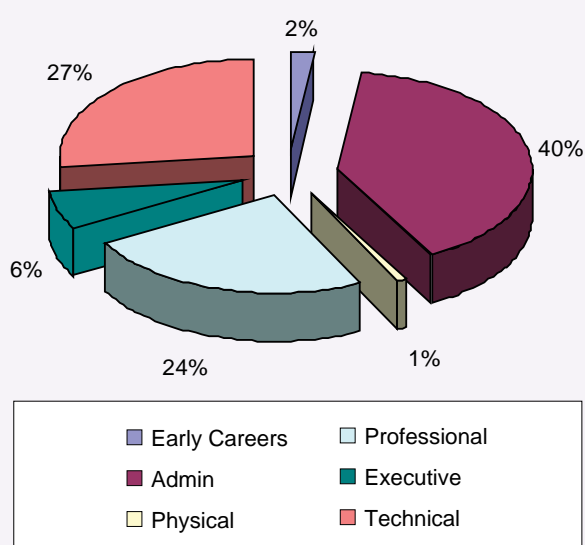
Staffing profile

The total number of staff in the department as at 30 June 2009 was 490. This is an increase on the previous year. This increase can be attributed to the amalgamation of the regional development function of the former Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development with the Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines, and the employment of casual recreational fisheries survey staff.

Table 3: Staffing establishment by output group full time equivalent (FTE)

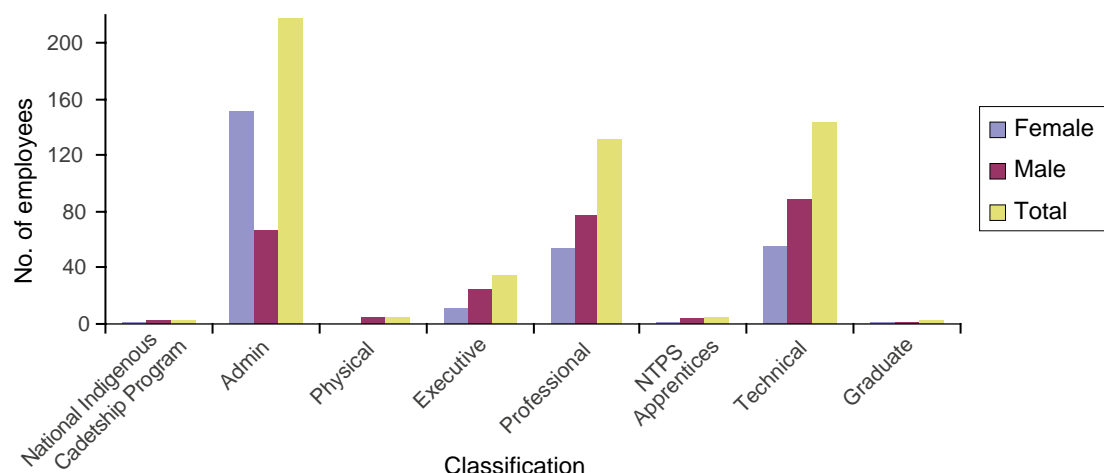
Output group 1: Development	
Minerals and Energy	54
Primary Industry	209
Fisheries	14
Output group 2: Management	
Minerals and Energy	76
Fisheries	42
Output group 3: Regional Development	
Regional Development	28
Overhead staffing/corporate support	67
Total	490

**Figure 10: Staffing by classification
30 June 2009**



Note: Early careers includes apprentices, graduates and cadets from the National Indigenous Cadetship Program

Figure 11: Employee classification by gender as at 30 June 2009



Employee learning

Total expenditure on formal training activities in 2008–09 was:

HECS	\$ 11 330.20
Training and development	\$ 273 053.33
Conferences	\$ 127 679.45

These figures show a slight decrease in the level of study assistance provided to staff undertaking tertiary studies and in training and development activities. This is reflective of the changes imposed on the department during the reporting period, however there has been an increase in conference-related expenses.

Five employees graduated from the Public Sector Management Program in the reporting period. A further five employees are participating in the current program.

Figure 12: Training expenditure comparison



Performance management

DRDPIFR's compliance with employment instructions

The department promotes and implements human resources action in accordance with the requirements and intentions of the Employment Instructions. Selected highlights include:

No.1 Advertising, selection, appointment, transfer and promotion

Our recruitment policy has been maintained, requiring that all selection panels are lead by a chairperson appropriately trained and accredited. Currently 91 employees have been trained and are accredited to lead selection panels. An ongoing training program is in place to maintain a constant supply of skilled chairpersons.

No.2 Probation

New employees are advised of the probation processes. The workplace induction process is used to ensure probation is understood and that timeframes are set in advance for appropriate feedback and to ensure mandatory reports are completed as required.

No.7 Discipline

The department continues to address breaches of discipline formally as appropriate. To support efforts to maintain the overall compliance of the organisation, employees are regularly reminded of their obligations and responsibilities detailed in the Code of Conduct and good governance practices have been established and implemented.

No.8 Management of grievances

As discussed above, employees, supervisors and managers are encouraged to employ early intervention strategies to address and resolve workplace grievances to minimise the negative impacts of such processes on the individuals involved and the workforce as a whole. Mediation is strongly encouraged.

A review and update of the grievance policy was conducted in 2009.

No.12 Occupational health and safety programs

The Occupational Health and Safety Steering Committee has continued efforts to raise the level of compliance and generally improve awareness and best practice across all agency functions and workplaces. A gap analysis was conducted in June to provide a snapshot of the department's overall OH&S status. The department will continue to work on implementing the recommendations from the gap analysis.

No.13 Code of conduct

In regard to Employment Instruction 13, the Code of Conduct, and other Instructions relating to performance and conduct, the department continues to maintain and develop its accountable and professional culture. The Values are a cornerstone element of the performance management process with employees asked to consider their contribution to the observance and promotion of the Values.

No.14 Part-time employment

The department has 59 employees on part time arrangements. Consistent with the Instruction, this department actively encourages and supports flexible working arrangements in many forms, including home-based work.

Employee Assistance Program

DRDPIFR maintained its Employee Assistance Program with two providers offering face-to-face services to employees across all regional centres. The focus of usage continues to be management coaching and traditional employee counselling services with both services well used. The department will maintain this program in future years to assist employees to meet personal and professional challenges.

Recognition and rewards

Star Awards

An employee awards ceremony was held in February 2009. STAR is an acronym representing Service, Teamwork, Achievement and Results.

The aim of the Awards scheme is to encourage and acknowledge outstanding performance by individual staff members or teams in their pursuit of the department's objectives. The scheme comprises a main award and two secondary awards.

The main award winner receives \$4000 in the case of an individual or \$10 000 in the case of a team. The secondary awards consist of \$2500 for an individual or \$5000 for a team. The awards money may be used towards personal professional development, the purchase of equipment for the group or wellness programs.

One of the secondary awards is named the Chief Executive's - *Living our Values* Award which is directly linked to the departmental Values in recognising how employees are *living our values* in their everyday employment. The winner of the *living our values* award was Ms Kay Ascoli. Ms Ascoli's maintenance of the highest professional standard and excellent customer service is evidenced in whatever she does. Kay displays an active commitment to the Government of the day and promotes pride in the department. She is a role model to all aspiring employees, demonstrating our Values when dealing with people at all levels,

having the ability to act in a genuine, ethical and responsible manner, and inspiring others to act similarly, which is testament to her commitment to DRDPIFR's goals.

The winner of the 2008 STAR Award was Mr Brian Radunz, who was nominated under several different categories. Brian's individual performance and achievements as Chief Veterinary Officer are exemplified in his leadership and in motivating his team to excel. His involvement during the Equine Influenza outbreak; his proactive development of staff ensuring their ability to react to exotic disease outbreaks; his innovative leadership, staff management and mentoring; his commitment to animal biosecurity in the NT and his strong representation of the department and the Northern Territory ensured they maintain their place nationally in animal health fields.



Brian Radunz with Richard Galton, CE of DRDPIFR



The runner up to the STAR Awards was Ms Katrina Oliver.

Ms Oliver was nominated under the *Service excellence for the Department's clients* category. This award is in recognition of Katrina's exemplary customer focus, her commitment to the department and her excellent technical liaison and ICT training skills used to full effect in the preparation for and conduct of exercise *Wild Boar*. In addition, awarding Katrina recognises the steep learning curve she undertook to upgrade her skills to allow her to operate professionally in her role in a short time frame.



Katrina Oliver with Richard Galton, CE of DRDPIFR

Other staff achievements recognised: (non exhaustive list)

In 2008 **Sue Harley, Gary Martin, Michael Johansen, Libby Doney and Tim McManus** were successful in achieving a graduate certificate under the Public Sector Management program.



From L-R: Michael Johansen, Gary Martin, Sue Harley, Libbey Doney, Chief Minister Paul Henderson and Tim McManus

Sarah Streeter, the Regional Manager of Pastoral Production in Tennant Creek, is project leader for a major new research program which aims to improve the growth rate of NT cattle by investigating the fundamental reasons why some cattle grow much faster than others. This trial has received \$0.5m sponsorship from Meat and Livestock Australia. Sarah has recently been accepted for the Women in Agriculture national program.



Sarah Streeter

Ellena Hannah, Grazing Land Management officer in Katherine, has been accepted into the Australian Rural Leadership program. Ellena is unusually young to have been accepted into this advanced two year program, which identifies her as a future rural leader.



Ellena Hannah

Rachel Meldrum was named young Territorian of year in 2008. Rachel originally joined the department as a graduate under the Graduate Traineeship program where she successfully undertook all elements and several placements during the two-year traineeship. Following the traineeship Rachel was invited to sit for a PhD.

Rachel is currently based in the Plant Pathology section of the Primary Industry Group which is hosting her PhD research on the epidemiology of the causative agent of Panama disease. The research is funded by the Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity and is intended to benefit both the Territory and the Australian banana industry.



Rachel Meldrum

Recognise and
celebrate success

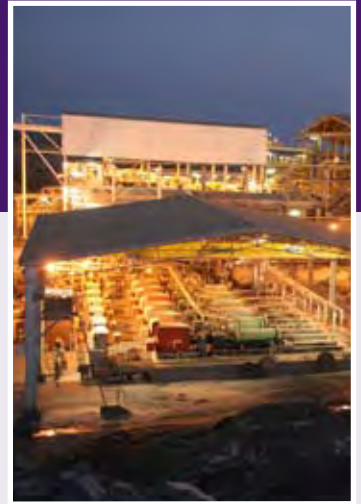
Respectful and
culturally sensitive



Responsible
and professional

Results through innovation,
initiative and team work

Performance reports



Output group one: resource industry development

Minerals and Energy

The Minerals and Energy group provides strategic services to support the acceleration of exploration and sustainable development of Northern Territory mineral and onshore petroleum resources, and facilitation of efficient and economic use of energy.

Table 4: Output group one Minerals and Energy performance measures

Performance Measures		2007–08 Actual	2008–09 Estimate	2008–09 Actual	2009–10 Estimate
Northern Territory Geological Survey					
Quantity	New geospatial data sets and publications requested by key client groups	488	400	412	320
	Geoscientific data products developed	130	150	104	100
	Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) products (under 5mb) and geoscientific databases online	100%	100%	96%	100%
Quality	Target rating for Mineral Potential Index in Fraser Institute Annual Survey	21	10	19	15
	Target rating for geological database in Fraser Institute Annual Survey	10	10	10	12
	Client satisfaction	NM	88%	100% ¹	88%
Timeliness	Information and product request responses within agreed timeframes	95%	90%	90%	90%
	Quarterly advice of data product releases to key clients	100%	100%	100%	100%
Renewable Energy					
Quantity	Rebate applications approved	113	70	41	60
Quality	Client satisfaction	95%	80%	82%	80%
Timeliness	Applications and rebate payments processed within agreed timeframes	85.6%	95%	95%	95%
Mining Development					
Quantity	Project leads generated or progressed	30	25	53	20
	Promotion and investment attraction activities completed	15	10	11	10
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	100% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Information and advice provided within agreed timeframes	95%	90%	90%	90%

NM = Not measured

¹ An independent survey was conducted by Deloitte in June 2009 to measure DRDPIFR client satisfaction. Survey results indicate that, for the Minerals and Energy group overall, 100% of clients were satisfied. See page 101 for additional information.

1. Northern Territory Geological Survey

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Completed the first round of Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations, including five drilling programs and four gravity programs, under the *Bringing Forward Discovery* initiative
- Released the first edition of the Metallogenic Map of the Northern Territory
- Promoted the Territory as an exploration destination at national and international forums including the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) mining investment show in Toronto, the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) Uranium conference in Darwin and Mining 2009 in Brisbane
- Released findings from an NTGS mapping program in the Arunta Region, resulting in increased nickel and copper exploration in the Harts Range area
- Continued release of new mapping and geoscience data from the Georgina Basin, Arunta Region and western Arnhem Land
- Completed a 370 km long deep crustal seismic survey over the southern Georgina Basin and eastern Arunta Region, in collaboration with Geoscience Australia
- Completed the digital capture of all open file minerals exploration company reports
- Completed an updated volume of the Gold Deposits of the NT.
- Covered a further 116 000 km² of the Barkly Region with regional gravity stations to assist undercover exploration.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Complete the second round of Geophysical and Drilling Collaborations under the *Bringing Forward Discovery* initiative, with \$800 000 to be spent on assisting greenfields exploration
- Complete the gravity coverage over the Barkly region and new gravity acquisition over the Warumpi Province
- Release four new geological maps of the Georgina Basin and accompanying explanatory notes
- Complete the flagship volume, *Geology and Mineral Deposits of the Northern Territory*
- Commence hyperspectral logging of drill core at the Farrell Crescent core facility and incorporate the interpreted data into a National Virtual Core Library
- Continue release of new mapping and geoscience data from the Murphy Inlier, Arunta Region and Pine Creek Orogen
- Hold the AGES 2010 conference in Alice Springs in March
- Finalise and implement recommendations under the Minerals and Energy Review.



2. Renewable Energy

2a. Renewable energy

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Ceased the old Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP) funding and made the transition to RRPGP Extension funding
- Approved rebates for a total of 69 renewable energy projects under the Australian Government funded RRPGP Extension, resulting in committed funding of about \$3.57 million. Of these projects, 21 were for Indigenous outstations, 28 for pastoral properties and eight for tourism projects. The approved projects will collectively save over 362 000 litres of diesel fuel and 1 046 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year (Table 5). Of the 67 projects, 52 were for solar power systems and 17 for solar water pumping applications
- Supported projects that provided wider benefits to the renewable energy industry under the old RRPGP funding.
 - Completed an \$83 000 project for the promotion of renewable energy to pastoralists through the NT Cattlemen's Association
 - Partially completed a \$100 455 project aimed at studying renewable energy options for 24 large NT pastoral stations through the NT Cattlemen's Association. All site inspections have been completed and the stations will be presented with a range of suitable designs for hybrid solar power systems to suit their power needs
 - Administered a \$2.97 million project to establish a solar technology demonstration and training facility in the Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) precinct in Alice Springs. Most of the technologies have been installed successfully. Tenders have been called for technologies to replace the solar dishes, which are now unable to be installed by the supplier.



- Completed a total of 86 projects (54 solar power generation and 32 water pumping) under both the old RRPGP and RRPGP Extension and provided rebates totalling about \$4.95 million (Table 6)
- Conducted 17 site inspections of solar power installations under the RRPGP program in the Alice Springs, Barkly and Darwin-Katherine Regions, so as to assess compliance with the RRPGP guidelines.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to work to resolve contractual difficulties with the Alekareng, Ti Tree and Kalkarindji projects
- Finalise all RRPGP projects (i.e. Remote Area Power Supply Systems and Renewable Energy Water Pumping Sub-program).

Table 5: Rebates approved 2008–09 (RRPGP Extension)

Approved rebates	Renewable capacity of projects approved (kW)	Number of rebates	Amount of rebates approved (\$)	Expected savings per annum	
				Diesel fuel (L)	Greenhouse (tonne CO ₂)
Target group:					
Bushlight projects	34.94	5	529 438	32 319	93
Government operations	0	0	0	0	0
Households	21.086	11	288 401	29 180	84
Industrial operations	0	0	0	0	0
Large Indigenous	3.36	1	55 000	6 000	17
Pastoral properties	166.734	28	1 107 871	119 840	346
Small Indigenous	74.664	16	934 273	122 653	354
Tourism operations	56.035	8	657 874	52 641	152
Totals	356.819	69	3 572 857	362 633	1046

Table 6: Rebates processed for payment 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009 (RRPGP Extension and old RRPGP)

Rebates paid	Renewable capacity of projects paid (kW)	Number of rebates	Amount of rebates processed (\$)	Expected savings per annum	
				Diesel fuel (L)	Greenhouse (tonne CO ₂)
Target group:					
Bushlight projects	111.24	10	1 664 931	91 517	264
Government operations	0.93	1	11 400	1 731	5
Households	13.008	8	216 316	18 374	53
Industrial operations	15	1	223 730	15 050	44
Large Indigenous	0	0	0	0	0
Pastoral properties	108.962	33	953 463	115 973	335
Small Indigenous	103.37	28	1 450 620	144 548	417
Tourism operations	37.78	5	431 113	38 741	112
Totals	390.29	86	4 951 573	425 934	1230

2b. Alice Springs Solar City

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Administered the NT Government funding contribution of \$3.439 million towards the Alice Springs Solar City Project
- Drafted a request for the proposal for iconic projects for the Araluen Cultural Centre and Ilparpa solar farm
- Attended the ceremony to acknowledge the completion of Crowne Plaza's 205kw photovoltaic (PV) system.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue support for the successful implementation of the Alice Springs Solar City Project.

2c. Energy policy

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Contributed to the development and implementation of Ministerial Council of Energy-endorsed projects through NT Treasury
- Worked with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Power and Water Corporation and other agencies to facilitate the economic and efficient use of energy
- Provided input through the Chief Minister's Department's Office of Climate Change to contribute to the national expanded Renewable Energy Target and Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme
- Provided NT input into projects progressed by the National Oil Supplies Emergency Committee
- Contributed to the successful management of the Alice Springs Solar City project through representation on the Alice Springs Solar City Consortium executive.



Priorities for 2009–10

- Develop draft NT energy policy objectives and elements consistent with the NT Climate Change Strategy and seek the Minister's endorsement
- Contribute to the development of the draft NT Energy Policy and recommendations, consistent with the NT Climate Change Strategy for policy implementation
- Review and update the NT Fuel Emergency Plan
- Participate in the Council of Australian Government Climate Change and Water Working Group, the Ministerial Council on Energy, the Energy Efficiency Working Group and the NT Climate Change Strategy working group
- Coordinate Northern Territory input to the development of the Commonwealth's Energy White Paper.

3. Mining development

3a. Ore-struck campaign

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Developed a successful promotional campaign for the Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations
- Undertook promotional activities at four Australian and two international events
- Regularly updated the Ore-struck investment kit and website including commodity factsheets, Territory-wide maps and updates on upcoming mining developments
- Sent quarterly Investment Alerts to over 600 industry clients and the Ore-struck website received over 4000 hits a month.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Attend promotions and events that continue to target Australia (Perth, Brisbane and Darwin), Canada and Japan
- Continue to promote the Ore-struck Bringing Forward Discovery campaign and its components, NTGS products and services, and the Geophysics and Drilling Collaboration program and assist explorers to access investment from China and Japan
- Continue to regularly update the Ore-struck sales kit, website and presentations.

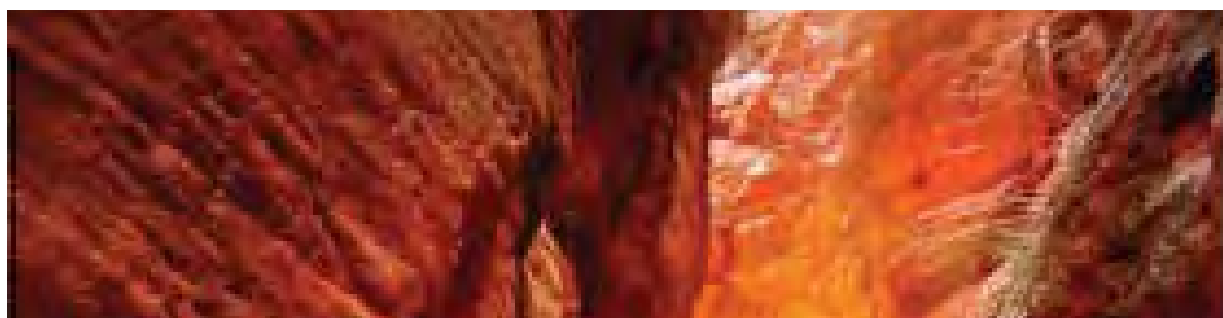
3b. China Minerals Investment Attraction Strategy

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Organised two Ministerial industry delegations to travel to China in November and May, undertaking Northern Territory minerals investment seminars in Beijing and Shanghai, targeting company meetings and matching of Territory and Chinese companies
- Facilitated 24 visits by Chinese companies to the Territory to investigate investment opportunities
- Promoted 53 exploration projects to Chinese investors
- Facilitated the signing of six joint venture deals or Memoranda of Understanding between Chinese and Australian companies for exploration projects in the NT.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Promote the Northern Territory as a competitive destination for mineral investment and continue with a Ministerial visit to China in October 2009 and in June 2010 to coincide with the Shanghai World Expo
- Match companies with exploration projects in the Territory with potential Chinese Investors
- Continue to educate Chinese investors on how to do business in the Northern Territory at seminars and events such as AGES.



3c. Japan Investment attraction activities

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Held the NT Mineral Investment Seminar at the Australian Embassy in Tokyo, with over 80 attendees and many associated meetings between NT exploration companies and Japanese corporations
- Facilitated two major Japanese investments in exploration joint ventures in the Territory, worth over \$20 million.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Promote the Northern Territory as a competitive destination for mineral investment and continue to participate in the Australian Investment Seminar in Japan in February 2010
- Attend the NT Uranium Opportunities Program, to be held in conjunction with the Australian Uranium Conference, with the objective of matching Japanese investors with NT uranium exploration projects.

3d. Project facilitation

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Facilitated one mining and processing operation to authorisation and production stage
- Facilitated four mining development proposals to environmental assessment and/or mining authorisation submission stage.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to assist and advise all resource development projects in the Northern Territory that seek help with the preparation of documents for submission for environmental, mining and other government approvals.



Fisheries

The Fisheries group offers a high level of industry support, including case management of large-scale aquaculture proposals, development of an aquaculture policy framework, extension of technical knowledge, specific scientific research projects in support of fishing industry growth and sustainability, and the monitoring and control of aquatic pest and disease issues.

Table 7: Output group one Fisheries performance measures

Performance Measures		2007–08	2008–09	2008–09	2009–10
		Actual	Estimate	Actual	Estimate
Aquaculture Development					
Quantity	Current aquaculture development projects	24	24	22	18
	Presentations made and scientific and technical articles published	8	10	12	8
	Aquaculture licences issued	22	20	22	13
Quality	Client satisfaction	85%	80%	76% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Milestones completed within agreed timeframes	85%	90%	90%	90%
Indigenous Development					
Quantity	Indigenous fisheries projects		3	3	3
	Marine ranger groups		8	8	8
Quality	Client satisfaction		80%	76% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Milestones completed within agreed timeframes		90%	90%	90%
Aquatic Biosecurity					
Quantity	Presentations made and scientific and technical articles published		20	10	10
	Aquatic biosecurity projects		4	4	4
Quality	Client satisfaction		80%	76% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Milestones completed within agreed timeframes		90%	90%	90%
Industry Support					
Quantity	Commercial fisheries management projects		1	1	1
Quality	Client satisfaction		80%	76% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Milestones completed within agreed timeframes		90%	90%	90%

¹ An independent survey was conducted by Deloitte in June 2009 to measure DRDPIFR client satisfaction. Survey results indicate that, for the Fisheries group overall, 76% of clients were satisfied. See page 101 for additional information.

Note: The Indigenous Development, Aquatic Biosecurity and Industry Support measures are new in 2008–09 and therefore do not have prior comparative figures.

1. Aquaculture

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Continued feasibility trials of giant clam production
- Facilitated small-scale land based grow-out trials for sea cucumber
- Submitted the final report to the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation on a three-year collaborative mud crab larval rearing project
- Produced more than 970 000 barramundi fingerlings for sale to local farms.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Expand marine ranger involvement in aquaculture development activities
- Investigate the feasibility of edible oyster culture in Indigenous communities
- Undertake the first trials of sea cucumber ranching and provide continued support for land-based grow-out trials of sea cucumber.



2. Indigenous development

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Granted funding to eight marine ranger programs
- Engaged marine rangers in two capacity-building workshops focusing on fisheries monitoring and compliance
- Facilitated marine ranger collaboration on two fisheries research programs examining juvenile snapper and mud crab locality, distribution and abundance
- Developed and implemented standardised reporting processes to enhance marine ranger contribution to fisheries monitoring and compliance
- Granted five licences to Aboriginal coastal communities authorising the harvest and sale of fish within their communities.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue development of marine ranger involvement in fisheries management, monitoring and compliance
- Develop standard operating procedures and policies for marine rangers with a focus on occupational health and safety
- Conduct a review of Aboriginal consultative processes to provide for greater engagement and understanding in fisheries management and economic development opportunities
- Develop Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance to provide for further training opportunities for marine rangers.

3. Aquatic biosecurity

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Designed a marine pest survey of Darwin Harbour to national standards
- Successfully detected and treated marine pest species on two incoming vessels
- Collaborated with marine rangers on aquatic biosecurity monitoring
- Participated in an emergency response exercise.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Commence large-scale survey of Darwin Harbour for marine pests according to national standards
- Continue vessel inspection and monitoring protocols
- Continue progress on the implementation of the National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions.

4. Industry support

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Held a workshop with barramundi aquaculture industry on farm feed management
- Considered future legislative requirements for aquaculture development in the Northern Territory, in liaison with industry.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Effective and efficient industry support and extension services
- Continued support for research of aquatic animal diseases
- Facilitate licensing of aquaculture activities in the NT.



Primary Industry

The Primary Industry group delivers a range of strategic services that facilitate profitable and sustainable primary industries in the Northern Territory and maintain access to markets for animals, plants, and animal and plant products.

Strategic outcomes are achieved through focused research and development programs, specific programs that support Indigenous pastoral and horticultural development, effective extension services and maintaining targeted programs to monitor, detect and respond to emergency and endemic animal and plant pests and diseases.

Table 8: Output group one Primary Industries performance measures

Performance Measures		2007–08 Actual	2008–09 Estimate	2008–09 Actual	2009–10 Estimate
Biosecurity and Market Access					
Quantity	Continuing animal disease and residue projects	7	6	6	6
	Continuing plant pest monitoring programs	NM	3	3	3
Quality	Compliance with national animal health system performance standards	90%	90%	90%	90%
	Compliance with contractual arrangements	NM	95%	95%	95%
	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	92% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Project milestones met	90%	90%	95%	95%
	Meeting contractual obligations	NM	100%	100%	100%
Sustainable Primary Industry Development					
Quantity	Research, development and extension projects in progress	32	35	30	30
	Technical publications and information packages available to clients	838	910	895	925
	New and improved agricultural products produced through research, development and extension projects	6	4	3	4
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	92% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Research and development project milestones completed on time	70%	90%	90%	90%
	Technical publications and information packages, produced or updated within specified timeframes	90%	85%	85%	90%
	New and improved product development timelines met	90%	90%	90%	90%

NM = Not measured

¹ An independent survey was conducted by Deloitte in June 2009 to measure DRDPIFR client satisfaction. Survey results indicate that, for the Primary Industry group overall, 92% of clients were satisfied. See page 101 for additional information.

1. Biosecurity and Market Access

1a. Laboratories

Plant Pathology

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Developed a real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for grapevine leaf rust and a measurement of the meteorological factors influencing the ability of rust spores to travel from South East Asia to Australia (project funded through Grape and Wine Research Development Corporation), and published the final report
- Provided diagnostic services and participated in surveillance of a number of incursions, including mango malformation disorder
- Conducted trials for the control of anthracnose in mango that will contribute to the development of a registration package for some new fungicides.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Further develop specific PCR tests for the cause of the exotic mango malformation disease in the Territory, after its recent discovery in outer Darwin
- Work towards improved strategies for managing Panama disease in banana
- Work towards the adoption by industry of new and improved methods to manage Fusarium wilt in snake bean
- Work towards better disease management strategies for the Australian passionfruit industry.

The department provides a range of diagnostic and monitoring services.

Veterinary Laboratory

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Progressed the introduction of a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS)
- Obtained National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) assessment and accreditation for the laboratory
- Isolated blue tongue BTV2 from sentinel cattle in the Territory – the first report of this serotype in Australia.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Implement agreed review findings for the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory
- Complete introduction of the LIMS.

Agricultural Chemistry

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Handled about 170 cattle dip samples, testing for acaricides (tick poison)
- Handled over 800 pasture and plant nutrient samples
- Tested 160 sample of post harvest dip solution for fruit fly treatment pesticides
- Tested 60 soil and water samples for residues of agricultural chemicals
- Tested 90 samples for pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables
- Tested about 100 sap samples for plant nutrients for commercial growers.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to provide a high quality analytical service for clients
- Move toward higher levels of quality assurance accreditation
- Work closely with others in the plant industry division on both research and extension programs.

Entomology

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Maintained and built on the Northern Territory's only economic entomology collection
- Conducted research that led to a safe control method for giant termite in mango trees
- Registered all specimens on the Australian Plant Pest Database.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Investigate the factors affecting the quality of mango and rambutan as they pass through the supply chain from growth to consumption
- Continue to conduct surveillance for a number of potential emergency plant pests
- Conduct extension activities to improve the capacity of Northern Territory growers in Integrated Pest Management
- Investigate management methods for a number of economically important termites in the Northern Territory.



1b. Biosecurity and Product Integrity

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Implemented the National Livestock Identification Scheme
- Expanded the chemical residue testing program
- Implemented the new management plan for the control of vertebrate pests using manufactured 1080 baits
- Developed a coordinated approach to biosecurity across relevant NT Government agencies
- Commenced delivery of generic biosecurity emergency response training for NT Government agencies
- Livestock and Plant Health Acts passed through the Legislative Assembly
- Commenced a NT bee surveillance program to establish NT bee industry pest and disease status
- Commenced implementation of Biosecurity Surveillance Incident Response and Tracing (BioSIRT) for plant pest and disease surveillance recording.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Introduce the *Plant Health Act* and *Livestock Act*
- Complete the framework for a Territory Biosecurity Strategy
- Maintain an increased chemical residue testing regime and follow-up program
- Facilitate the introduction of 1080 wet bait manufacturing by the private sector
- Begin the roll out of BioSIRT for animal surveillance
- Deliver a communication strategy for the new Land Transport Standards.

2. Sustainable Primary Industry Development

2a. Pastoral Production

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Managed a range of research trials and demonstrations across all regions of the NT to assist the pastoral industry to improve its productivity and profitability and to minimise the environmental impact of their grazing operations
- Provided research, development and extension services to the pastoral and mixed farming enterprises
- Continued the 21st Century Pastoralism Project in collaboration with the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre (DK CRC) which uses new technology to provide remote management to central Australian cattle stations
- Continued to provide technical support for cattle industry development projects in South East Asia and an expansion of the NT live export trade into Vietnam
- Continued the Indigenous Pastoral Project to facilitate economic activity on Indigenous land and obtain employment for Indigenous people in the pastoral sector
- Completed the Pigeonhole Project which demonstrated the potential expansion of the NT cattle industry
- Published a best practice guide for cattle and land management in the Katherine region
- Offered an advanced course to the pastoral industry in grazing land management, nutrition and genetics and more basic courses to stock camps
- Developed a new course on cattle handling and welfare for the trucking industry which is now being adopted across the whole of Northern Australia.



Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to research and develop best management practice for sustainable rangeland utilisation
- Continue to improve the cattle management methods used in industry and the transport
- Continue with research and development projects for sustainable mixed farming production for the Katherine/Daly region
- Continue buffalo industry research and development projects to increase buffalo production
- Commence research and demonstration projects on soil carbon, and a project to predict the effect of climate change on the Territory pastoral industry
- Continue cattle breeding research and demonstrations to provide the pastoral industry with a broader range of market options
- Further develop the Livestock Transporters Course to make it suitable for stevedores and have it accredited.

2b. Plant Industries

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Assisted the mango industry to improve its supply chain and crop forecasting capacity through research and extension
- Provided extension services to a number of melon growers for the continuing development of this crop in the Territory
- Conducted ongoing germplasm improvement and management research to benefit the peanut, maize, cut flower, mango and plantation forestry industries
- Published a paper on the impact of plant industries on water resources in the NT.



Priorities for 2009–10

- Develop a comprehensive and prioritised statement of research and development priorities for plant industries that have a high probability of removing major barriers to plant industry development
- Improve individual, community and regional capacity to make informed decisions about environmentally sustainable plant industry development
- Develop a strategy to increase extension and communication services to NT growers and other stakeholders
- Improve information channels for the collection and distribution of statistics for the industry
- Investigate new ways to preserve soil health in broad-acre cropping and forestry systems
- Enhance the ability of the local mango industry to increase exports and maintain consumer confidence in the national market, through the control of post-harvest diseases (project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in collaboration with Indonesia)
- Expand the Territory passionfruit industry by identifying and controlling specific plant pests and diseases, introducing new passionfruit germplasm and developing best practice demonstration blocks (project funded through ACIAR).

2c. Policy and services

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Progressed development of a new Veterinary Laboratory Information System through the tender process
- Developed a Primary Industries Research and Development Policy
- Developed a Primary Industries Strategic Matrix which identified current and potential markets for NT primary industries
- Delivered NT Drought Assistance Arrangements to eligible producers in Central Australia
- Delivered Exceptional Circumstances assistance to eligible producers in Central Australia
- Delivered Pastoral Water Enhancement Scheme subsidy for water infrastructure to pastoral properties
- Managed the full uptake and finalisation of the FarmBis 3 training program by land managers and primary producers
- Organised the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) 2009 NT Rural Women's Award
- Provided microbiological and chemical water testing in Darwin and Alice Springs, so as to provide safe drinking water for the Territory
- Produced a whole-of-government guidebook for potential investors in agricultural enterprise in the NT.



Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to deliver NT Drought Assistance Arrangements to eligible producers in Central Australia
- Continue to deliver the Pastoral Water Enhancement Scheme subsidy for water infrastructure to pastoral properties
- Finalise implementation of the new Veterinary Laboratory Information Management System
- Continue involvement in development and implementation of national primary industries policy reform processes
- Continue to provide microbiological and chemical water testing in Darwin and Alice Springs, for the provision of safe drinking water for the Territory
- Organise the RIRDC 2010 NT Rural Women's Award.

Output group two: resource industry management Minerals and Energy

The Minerals and Energy group covers a range of responsibilities including delivering primary strategic services that regulate mining and petroleum tenure, and overseeing operational activities.

The role covers assessment and evaluation to minimise environmental liability, inspection and audits to ensure best practice in environmental management, and radiation safety on mining and petroleum tenure.

Table 9: Output group two Minerals and Energy performance measures

Performance Measures		2007–08 Actual	2008–09 Estimate	2008–09 Actual	2009–10 Estimate
Authorisations					
Quantity	Planning documents assessed	298	250	236	250
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	100% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Plans assessed within established timeframes	96%	90%	90%	90%
Compliance					
Quantity	Site reported incidents	58	150	94	140
	Site Category 1 non-conformances identified	5	3	3	2
Quality	Client satisfaction	80%	80%	100% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Site reported incidents finalised within agreed timeframes	100%	90%	90%	90%
	Site Category 1 non-conformances finalised within specified timeframes	100%	100%	100%	100%
Mining Evaluation					
Quantity	Projects dealing with long-term mining issues	14	15	14	15
	Mining site monitoring programs actioned	61	55	60	50
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	100% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Project milestones completed within agreed timeframes	80%	90%	90%	90%
	Sites monitored according to the agreed schedule	100%	90%	90%	90%
Mineral Titles					
Quantity	Mineral exploration licences granted	1233	1450	1091	1100
	Applications for mineral exploration licences	796	800	785	750
Quality	Client satisfaction	80%	90%	100% ¹	90%
Timeliness	Mineral exploration licence applications determined within specified timeframes	80%	80%	80%	80%
Petroleum Titles					
Quantity	Petroleum exploration permits granted	20	25	19	23
	Applications for petroleum exploration permits	35	25	32	30
Quality	Client satisfaction	80%	90%	100% ¹	90%
Timeliness	Petroleum exploration permit applications determined within specified timeframes	90%	90%	90%	90%

NM = Not measured

¹ An independent survey was conducted by Deloitte in June 2009 to measure DRDPIFR client satisfaction. Survey results indicate that, for the Minerals and Energy group overall, 100% of clients were satisfied. See page 101 for additional information.

1. Authorisations

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Ensured the ongoing functionality of the Security Assessment Board. The division was instrumental in implementing a policy requiring mining operators to submit rehabilitation security for 100% of known environmental liability, in the form of cash or a bank guarantee. As of the end of June 2009, the department held \$358 million under the *Mining Management Act* (MMA) and \$2.2 million under the *Petroleum Act*
- Undertook a comprehensive review of costings for calculating rehabilitation securities
- Facilitated an industry workshop on the requirements of the *Mining Management Act*
- Assessed in excess of 230 mine planning documents
- Referred eight projects for further assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA). Issued 52 new mining authorisations of which 29 were to new operators. Issued new authorisations including 39 for exploration, three for mining, nine for extractive and quarrying activities, and one for other mining-related activity
- Managed and maintained an auditable system for new authorisation and approval actions for exploration and mining activities.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue to take into account the expectations and requirements of stakeholder groups and work to facilitate and encourage industry to implement best practice
- Continue to manage the environmental aspects associated with operational activities to minimise post-operational legacy and maximise the economic return to the community
- Assess new mining, extractive and exploration proposals within the Territory for the purpose of granting or refusing an Authorisation under section 36 of the NT MMA
- Assess new and ongoing mining and extractive proposals for referral to other regulatory agencies
- Review proposals being assessed under the EAA
- Maintain a framework for assessing the required levels of mining rehabilitation securities
- Improve the framework and reporting structure for mining production.



2. Compliance

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Completed assessment of 201 mining management plans for exploration, mining and extractive operations across the Northern Territory, including calculation of security bonds for 100% of the rehabilitation liability. This is an increase of 21% on the previous year as part of an increasing focus on compliance
- Completed 37 field trips, covering 80 sites authorised under the *Mining Management Act*, with a total of 146 field inspections and 10 close-out inspections. The increase in field trips (compared with 17 in 2007–08) reflects an intention to improve on-ground performance of operators throughout the Territory
- Established a mining officer position in Alice Springs to improve supervision of operations in Central Australia
- Oversaw regulation of uranium mining in the Alligator Rivers Region in cooperation with the Supervising Scientist Division of the Department of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts. This included preparation of reports for, and participation in, the Alligator Rivers Regional Advisory Committee and the Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue a strong focus on increasing the number of operations with up-dated mining management plans and security bonds. This program delivers an increasing level of confidence that industry is aware of and compliant with legislative requirements
- Continue to deliver a program of targeted field visits in key regions of the NT, with the aim of ensuring operators have a clear understanding of regulatory requirements and a practical approach to best practice management. This ranges from extractive operators around major centres to major operations in regional and remote areas

- Improve supervision of operations in Central Australia by adding of a full-year Alice Springs-based mining officer
- Deliver improved timeframes for consideration of approvals by improving processes and increased staffing
- Assist the appointed Independent Monitor to monitor the environmental performance of the McArthur River Mine.

3. Mining evaluation

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Provided technical guidance to Environmental Earth Sciences, Victoria, the body contracted to independently monitor the environmental performance of the McArthur River Mine for five years
- Undertook a number of studies at the Mount Todd Mine site in order to develop a better understanding for a rehabilitation strategy and requirements for ongoing environmental monitoring activities. Work included biological monitoring of macro invertebrates and fish; installation of gauge stations to monitor water quality and quantification and identification of contaminated and rehabilitation materials
- Assessed more than 70 technical and mine planning documents and completed monitoring and evaluation of mine site data to assess performance and identify areas for improvement
- Undertook an annual risk assessment to identify mine sites for ongoing independent environmental monitoring and implemented the program
- Implemented the requirement for water management plans from major mine sites and the subsequent assessment of these plans for acceptance
- Developed advisory notes to assist industry with reporting requirements, e.g. advisory note on Water Management Plans and Weed Management

Priorities for 2009–10

- Ensure the valid and timely granting of mineral and petroleum titles in accordance with government policy and legislative requirements
- Monitor compliance of mining tenements
- Develop and implement strategies to improve the number of exploration licences granted over Aboriginal freehold land
- Continue to develop and foster positive and cooperative relationships with all stakeholders, including land councils
- Finalise and implement the revised *Mining Act*, which will provide a more efficient process for the granting of exploration and mineral titles in the Territory
- Finalise the implementation of recommendations from the review of Titles Division to ensure efficient and effective management of titles
- Continue to promote the Territory in high level forums by providing accurate advice and information to industry and other stakeholders
- Increase exploration on Aboriginal freehold and Native Title land through cooperative relations with land councils and stakeholders, and increased awareness of processes for exploration, and by continuously improving policy and processes.

5. Petroleum titles

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Granted 11 new offshore and onshore Petroleum Exploration Permits and one Retention Lease during the year
- Granted nine of the 13 new exploration applications received, a record achievement
- Completed and granted consent to operate the Bonaparte gas pipeline, Owen Springs lateral to the Palm Valley pipeline and Wickham Point interconnect pipeline
- Granted the necessary approvals for construction of the Blacktip Gas Project and Bonaparte pipelines.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Assist the INPEX Browse pipeline project towards the issuing of onshore and offshore pipeline licences
- Complete and grant consent to operate of the Blacktip gas export pipelines
- Release acreage for petroleum exploration within three nautical miles of the Northern Territory coast
- Continue to promote the Territory in high level forums by providing accurate advice and information to industry and other stakeholders.



Fisheries

The Fisheries group manages the Northern Territory’s aquatic resources by providing information and assistance to the community, government and fishing industry sectors to support sustainable development. Services include developing and implementing policy, conducting research, granting and maintaining licences, and developing and implementing fishery management arrangements.

Table 11: Output Group two Fisheries performance measures

Performance Measures		2007–08	2008–09	2008–09	2009–10
		Actual	Estimate	Actual	Estimate
Research Services					
Quantity	Current research projects	17	17	17	17
	Presentations made and scientific and technical articles published	57	25	25	35
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	76% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Milestones completed within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	90%	90%
Aquatic Resource Management					
Quantity	Recreational fisheries management projects	4	8	8	8
	Commercial fisheries management projects	5	3	3	3
	Fisheries accredited	8	8	8	8
	Other aquatic resource management projects	0	4	4	1
Quality	Client satisfaction	NM	80%	76% ¹	80%
Timeliness	Milestones completed within agreed timeframes	90%	90%	90%	90%

NM = Not measured

¹ An independent survey was conducted by Deloitte in June 2009 to measure DRDPIFR client satisfaction. Survey results indicate that, for the Fisheries group overall, 76% of clients were satisfied. See page 101 for additional information.



1. Research services

1a. Management

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Accredited the Spanish mackerel, offshore net and line, trepang and Timor Reef fisheries under the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- Commenced buy-back of barramundi fishing licences
- Conducted an Ecological Risk Assessment for the mud crab fishery to assist in determining future management needs
- Introduced labelling requirements for licensed fish retailers to assist consumers in making informed seafood choices
- Progressed toward an Individual Transferable Quota management framework for the Timor Reef Fishery.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue buy-back of barramundi licences
- Develop sound legislation to underpin the management, development and protection of Territory's aquatic resources
- Consider options for the future management and development of the guided fishing industry
- Finalise the Individual Transferable Quota management framework for the Timor Reef fishery
- Develop a long-term flexible management framework for the mud crab fishery
- Continue development of marine ranger involvement in fisheries management, monitoring and compliance
- Consider the future management framework of the Spanish mackerel fishery, including management of the commercial fishery sector by Individual Transferable Quota
- Further ecological sustainable development of offshore snapper resources.



1b. Research

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Finalised the report on *Utilisation of GIS Spatial Statistical Methods to Assist in the Development of Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Strategies Using the Northern Territory Demersal and Timor Reef Fisheries as Case Studies*
- Finalised the report provided to Charles Darwin University and the Government of East Timor on The Timor-Leste Coastal/ Marine Habitat Mapping for Tourism and Fisheries Development Project
- Collaborated with marine rangers on two fisheries research programs examining juvenile snapper and mud crab locality, distribution and abundance.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Continue strategic research into Territory aquatic resources.

2. Aquatic resource management

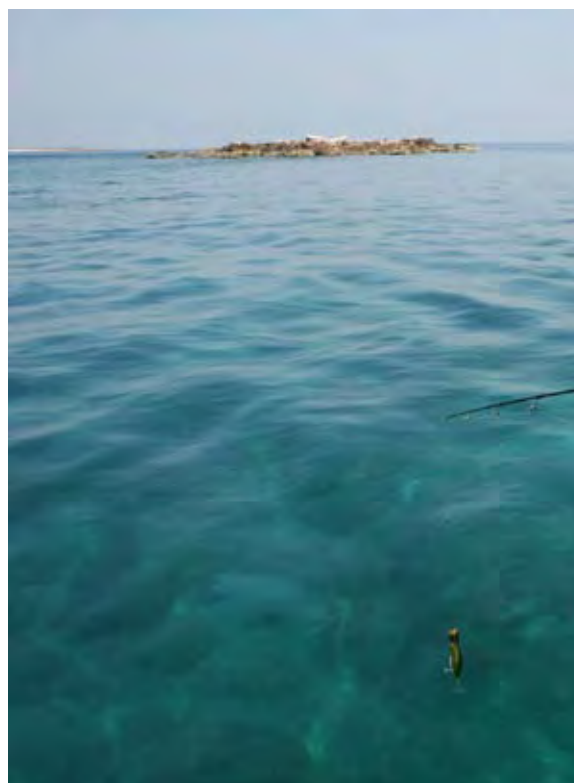
2a. Recreational Fishing

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Commenced a large-scale recreational fishing survey
- Established a community-based recreational fishing development working group
- Drafted a discussion paper on the future management and development of the NT guided fishing industry
- Agreed to the funding and works scheduling program for recreational fishing infrastructure
- Provided toilets at Corroboree Billabong
- Continued expansion of the artificial reef network.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Finalise the large-scale recreational fishing survey across the Territory
- Develop a strategic development plan to ensure the sustainable management and development of recreational fishing into the future
- Continue delivery of recreational fishing infrastructure projects according to the agreed funding and works scheduling program.



2b. Licensing and logbooks

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Completed a review of logbook and monitoring information across all commercial fisheries
- Provided information and licensing services for granting and renewal of licences, registration and permits
- Collected, entered and validated catch and effort logbook information for the commercial fishing, fishing tour operators, aquaculture and pearling sectors
- Continued maintenance of database for retrieval of logbook information for report generation and assessment.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Undertake licence and permit renewals and vessel registrations
- Commence review and update of licensing policies and procedures.

Output group one and two: performance reporting

Client satisfaction

In mid 2009, DRDPPIFR engaged consultants Deloitte to measure the department’s client satisfaction with the services it delivers in the Primary Industries, Fisheries and Minerals and Energy business groups.

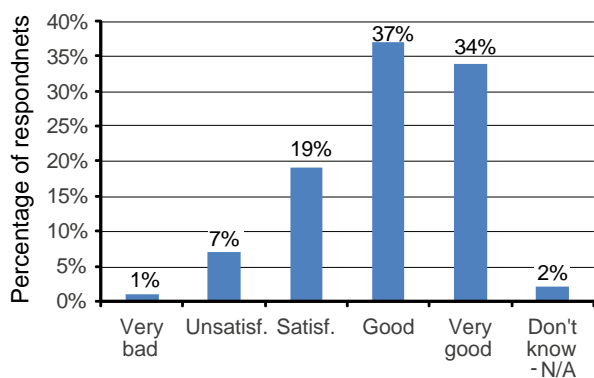
Client satisfaction for the Regional Development business group was not required to be measured as part of this project, as this had already been done prior to the amalgamation of the departments. Similarly, figures were not required for the Renewable Energy division, as annual surveys are already undertaken to meet Australian Government reporting requirements.

An online client satisfaction survey was developed and distributed to stakeholders. It included questions about respondents’ overall opinion of the quality of services provided by DRDPPIFR, as well as whether the quality had changed in a positive or negative way and to what degree.

The survey also questioned respondents’ client experience by asking them to assess their level of satisfaction in relation to the following statements:

- The information provided to me was accurate and relevant to my requirements.
- Staff respond to my request(s) quickly/in a reasonable timeframe.
- Staff were approachable and willing to answer my questions.
- Staff were knowledgeable about the services provided by the department.
- Information provided by different staff/ sources was consistent and reliable.
- Staff displayed an understanding of my needs.

Figure 13: Overall customer satisfaction level all respondents



Overall, 90% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the DRDPPIFR client service experience, with 71% stating that the services were good or very good.



Positive comments provided by respondents in relation to the overall client experience in the last 12 months are that:

- staff are always courteous and willing to assist in any way they can; the respondent could not ask for better service
- the respondent has never been disappointed with the service from DRDPIFR.

Dissatisfied respondents mainly commented that DRDPIFR:

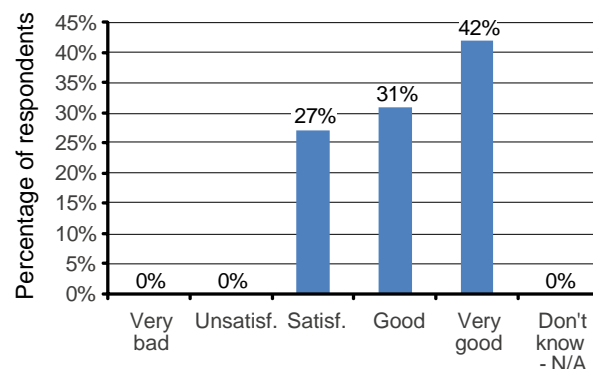
- is not promptly following changes in the industry
- does not have a commercial approach to client service
- staff at times seem 'lost' due to a lack of direction and experience.

An analysis of overall satisfaction by groups indicated that:

- 100% of Minerals and Energy clients indicated that their experience was satisfactory or better.
- 92% of Primary Industries clients indicated that their experience was satisfactory or better.
- 76% of Fisheries clients indicated that their experience was satisfactory or better.

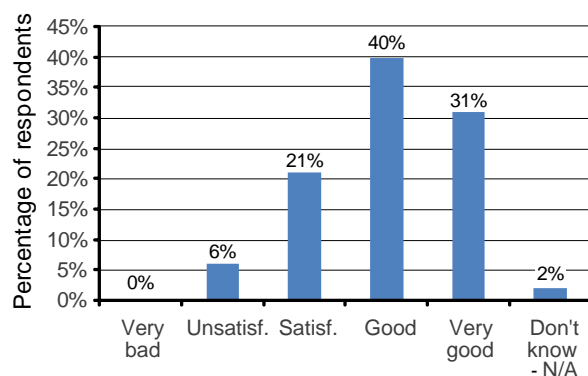
Due to the nature of the survey, these figures could not be broken down further to provide individual client satisfaction measures for the groups' performance reporting.

Figure 14: Overall customer satisfaction level Minerals and Energy



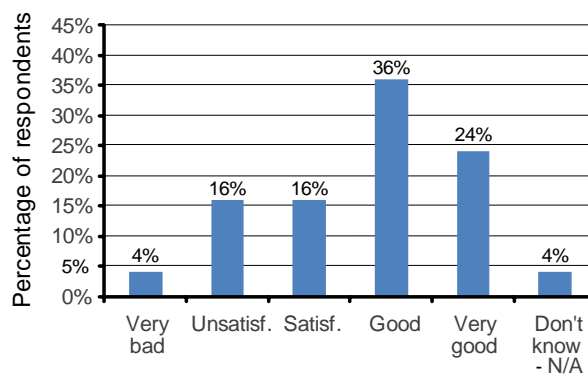
100% of Minerals and Energy clients indicated that their experience was satisfactory or better.

Figure 15: Overall customer satisfaction level Primary Industry



92% of Primary Industries clients indicated that their experience was satisfactory or better.

Figure 16: Overall customer satisfaction level Fisheries



76% of Fisheries clients indicated that their experience was satisfactory or better.

Output group three: regional development

Regional development

The Regional Development group works in partnership with business, industry and communities to support activities that stimulate sustainable economic growth and job creation in all regions of the Northern Territory. This is achieved by:

- Working with Economic Development Committees to identify key economic development priorities, advocating these priorities to government and developing and managing resultant development initiatives
- Supporting the move towards economic independence for Indigenous Territorians through collaborative, outcomes-focused business development and job creation activities that promote an enterprise culture in Indigenous communities
- Coordinating dialogue within and between the community and government on economic development opportunities and challenges, to create sustainable growth in local economies and infrastructure development across the Northern Territory
- Monitoring and reporting on government priorities such as the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy and Growth Plans.

Table 12: Output group three Regional Development performance measures

Performance Measures		2007–08	2008–09	2008–09	2009–10
		Actual	Estimate	Actual	Estimate
Regional Development					
Quantity	Capacity to support entities that stimulate economic growth and job creation in regions				\$4.33M
	Regional organisations and Indigenous businesses provided with financial assistance				45
	Financial assistance to regional organisations and Indigenous businesses				\$1.83M
Quality	Client satisfaction ¹				>5
Timeliness	Timeframes met as agreed ²				>5

¹Client satisfaction against objectives in the corporate plan – measured on a rolling triennial basis, ranging from a rating of 1 = extremely dissatisfied through to 6 = extremely satisfied.

²Measures range from a rating of 1 = extremely dissatisfied through to 6 = extremely satisfied.

Note: Regional Development was previously part of the former Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development before it merged with the former Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines to form the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR) in late August 2008. Because a meaningful comparison of data cannot be achieved due to differences in the way the data was recorded previously and now, the earlier data for Regional Development has not been included.

1. Regional economic development

Key achievements for 2008–09

- Provided \$377 632 in grants to 17 regional organisations to stimulate regional economic development
- Facilitated nine Economic Development Committees throughout the Territory
- Launched the Katherine Economic Profile and Tennant Creek economic summary flyer, *At a Glance*
- Established the Tennant Creek Foundation as an umbrella organisation for the Battery Hill Mining Centre and Nyinkka Nyuyu Art and Culture Centre, and provided \$150 000 in funding
- Provided \$228 000 in support for the Aboriginal Resource Development Service
- Provided support for the Growing Katherine Business “Sirolli” pilot to stimulate enterprise development in Katherine
- Provided project officer and Director support for the McArthur River Mine Community Benefits Trust.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Support the Regional Development Australia NT Committee
- Continue facilitating the Economic Development Committees and projects to stimulate economic development in regions
- Complete the Tennant Creek Economic Profile
- Continue to develop the Tennant Creek Foundation
- Provide support for the Tanami Regional Partnership
- Investigate regional development opportunities presented by the Ord Stage 2 development.
- Support economic development through *Territory Growth Towns*.

2. Indigenous economic development

Key achievements for 2008–09

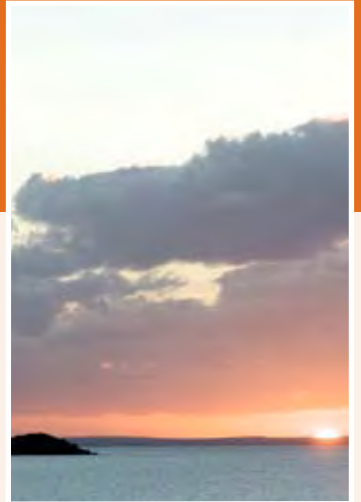
- Completed the draft Indigenous Economic Development Strategy
- Provided \$841 520 in Indigenous business development grants to 54 Territory Indigenous businesses
- Completed the Indigenous Employment Strategy in the music sector.

Priorities for 2009–10

- Launch and implement the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy
- Continue to support the growth of Indigenous small and medium businesses in the Territory
- Complete negotiations for further \$500 000 in funding from the Aboriginal Benefits Account to support the Indigenous Business Development Program
- Hold the 4th Indigenous Economic Development (IED) Forum in Alice Springs in October 2009
- Promote the tax incentives initiative to stimulate private sector investment on Indigenous land.



Financial reports



Financial statement overview

For the year ended 30 June 2009

Administrative Arrangements Order – 18 August 2008

The Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR) was created as part of an Administrative Arrangements Order restructuring on 18 August 2008 with retrospective effect for accounting purposes from 1 July 2008. The new Agency amalgamates all of the functions of the former Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (DPIFM) with only the Regional Development function from the former Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development (DBERD).

Arising from the Administrative Arrangements Order, \$5.4 million in output appropriation, \$0.36 million in assets and \$0.2 million in liabilities from the former DBERD together with \$0.46 million in equity injection were combined with the former DPIFM resources to form the new agency. As it is not practicable to reconstruct individual balances for Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet items for the Regional Development portfolio of the former DBERD, no comparatives have been provided pursuant to Clause 42 of the Accounting Standards AASB 101.

Operating Statement

The operating statement details the Agency's financial performance on income and expenditure for the financial year. DRDPIFR reported an operating deficit of just over \$8.1 million in 2008–09 compared to the budgeted deficit of \$7.1 million and is reflected in the Statement of Changes in Equity. The deficit arose from an excess of expenditure over income.

The timing on the receipt of income and payment of expenditure for the Commonwealth funded Renewable Remote Power Generation Program is beyond the Agency's control. This has caused significant variations between actual and budget for both income and expenditure, contributing to over \$3.4 million to the deficit. Under accrual accounting, the Agency is also required to bring to account accrued liabilities of a non-cash nature relating to employee provisions of approximately \$1 million for recreation leave, leave loading, airfares, EBA on unused entitlements and associated on-costs. These accrued employee entitlements and depreciation are non-cash in nature and therefore unfunded from the annual appropriations, further contributing to the overall deficit.

Income

The Agency received total income of \$79.6 million in 2008–09, of which \$60.2 million was sourced through Parliamentary appropriation, classified as Output Revenue from the NT Government. The balance is generated through the sale of goods and services, funding from the Commonwealth and other private research and development corporations or organisations. No services provided by the Agency qualified for Community Service Obligations (CSO) funding during the year. More detail on income can be found at Note 6.

Included in the Agency's total income was \$3.6 million of notional income for services received free of charge from the Department of Business and Employment (DBE) but is fully negated by an offsetting expense classified as Other Administrative expenses. This relates to services provided by DBE to the Agency for centralised corporate services including the processing of accounts, payroll and property management services so as to project the true cost of DRDPIFR delivering its programs and services.

Expenditure

DRDPIFR incurred expenditure of \$87.7 million in 2008–09. Employees' costs and purchases of goods and services accounted for 72%. Payments of grants and repairs and maintenance are the other major expenses incurred by the Agency, with non cash transactions relating to depreciation and notional DBE charges, making up the balance.

Grant payments are detailed at Note 24 and Appendices 5 and 6 with a breakdown of expenditure relating to goods and services found in Note 7.

Balance Sheet

The balance sheet details the Agency's financial position on assets, liabilities and equity at a point in time.

At 30 June 2009, DRDPIFR's assets totalled \$89.7 million of which 71% relates to its holding on property plant and equipment. The remaining assets comprised of cash deposits and receivables.

At the end of the 2008–09 year the Agency held cash and deposits of \$23.7 million. Over \$7 million of this is committed to ongoing projects and will be carried forward into 2009–10 with just over \$6 million of cash being held in the Accountable Officers Trust Account comprising mostly securities held for mining companies and Aboriginal Land Rents. Approximately \$9 million relates to dealing fees for offshore petroleum titles and will be transferred into the NT Government's Central Holding Authority sometime in 2009–10.

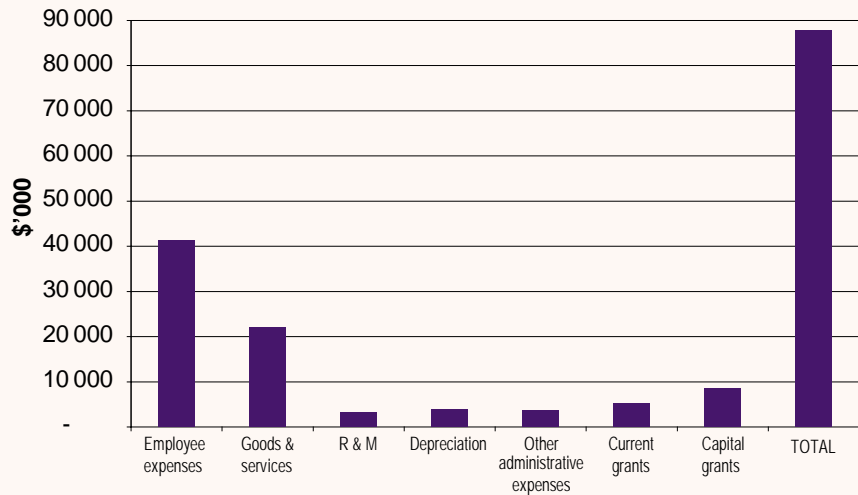
Further details of assets can be found at Notes 8 and 21.

Statement of Cash Flows

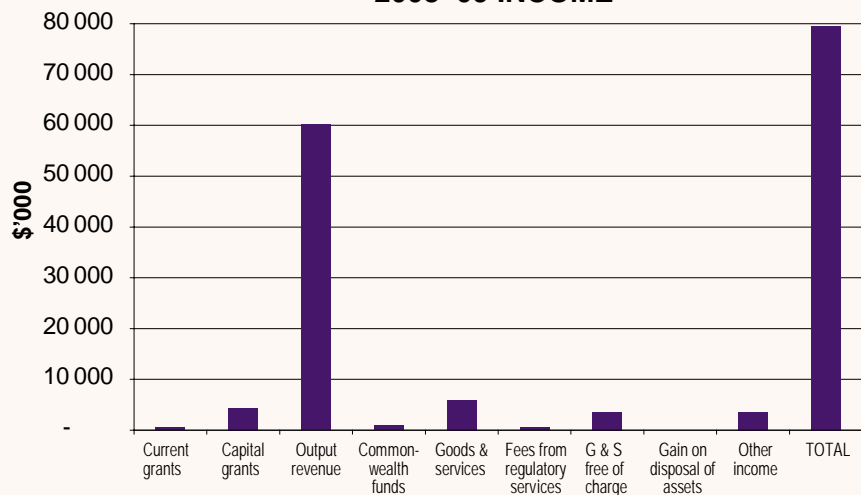
The statement of cash flows provides information on the movement of cash in and out of DRDPIFR during the year. The cash balance of \$23.7 million at year end was higher than anticipated caused by the quarantining of cash for projects committed in 2008–09 which will be finalised in 2009–10.

The following information provides a graphical representation of Expenditure, Income, Assets and Liabilities by category.

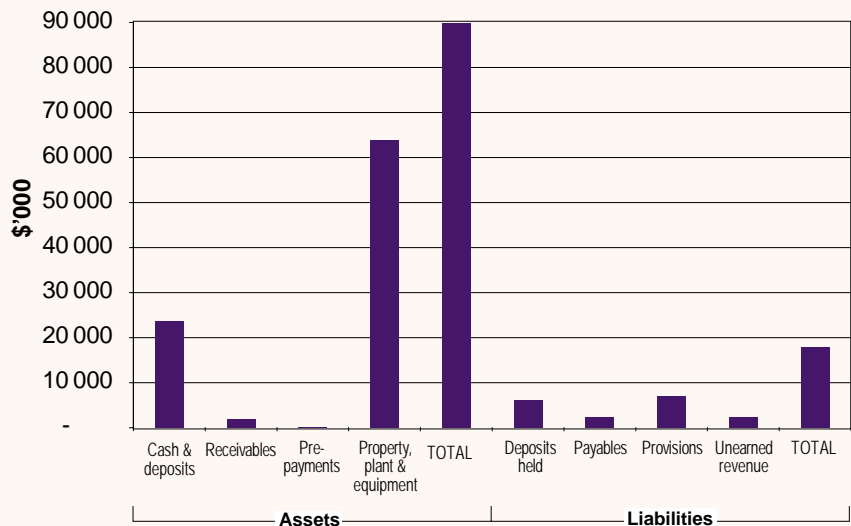
2008-09 EXPENSES



2008-09 INCOME



2008-09 ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

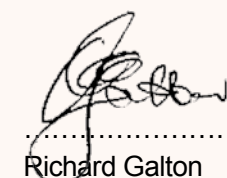


Certification of the financial statements

We certify that the attached financial statements for the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources have been prepared from proper accounts and records in accordance with the prescribed format, the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions.

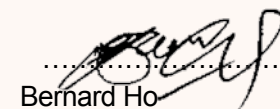
We further state that the information set out in the Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2009 and the financial 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.



Richard Galton
Chief Executive

28/08/2009



Bernard Ho
Chief Finance Officer

28/08/2009

Financial statements

Operating statement

For the year ended 30 June 2009

	NOTE	2009 \$'000
INCOME		
<i>Grants and Subsidies Revenue</i>		
Current		526
Capital		4 370
<i>Appropriation</i>		
Output		60 216
Commonwealth		886
Sales of Goods and Services	6	5 894
Inter-agency notional service revenue	4	3 568
Gain on Disposal of Assets	5	14
Fees from Regulatory Services	6	506
Other Income	6	3 577
TOTAL INCOME	3	79 557
EXPENSES		
Employee Expenses		41 296
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>		
Purchases of Goods and Services	7	21 956
Repairs and Maintenance		3 255
Depreciation and Amortisation	10	3 784
Inter-agency notional service charge	4	3 568
Other Administrative expenses		130
<i>Grants and Subsidies Expenses</i>		
Current	24	5 148
Capital	24	8 566
TOTAL EXPENSES	3	87 703
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(8 146)

The operating statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements which can be found on page 114.

Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2009

	NOTE	2009 \$'000
ASSETS		
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Cash and Deposits	8	23 667
Receivables	9	1 921
Prepayments		199
Total Current Assets		25 787
<i>Non-Current Assets</i>		
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	63 921
Biological Assets	11, 2(o)	22
Total Non-Current Assets		63 943
TOTAL ASSETS		89 730
LIABILITIES		
<i>Current Liabilities</i>		
Payables	12	2 502
Provisions	13	4 530
Other Liabilities	14	8 335
Total Current Liabilities		15 367
<i>Non-Current Liabilities</i>		
Provisions	13	2 440
Total Non-Current Liabilities		2 440
TOTAL LIABILITIES		17 807
NET ASSETS		71 923
EQUITY		
	15	
Capital		78 773
Reserves		2 274
Accumulated Funds		(9 124)
TOTAL EQUITY		71 923

The balance sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements which can be found on page 114.

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2009

	NOTE	2009 \$'000
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 1 JULY		78 010
<i>Capital</i>		
	15	
Balance at 1 July		76 714
Equity Injections		2 059
Equity Withdrawals		0
Balance at 30 June		78 773
<i>Reserves</i>		
	15	
Balance at 1 July		2 274
Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Reserve		0
Balance at 30 June		2 274
<i>Accumulated Funds</i>		
	15	
Balance at 1 July		(978)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		(8 146)
Balance at 30 June		(9 124)
BALANCE OF EQUITY AT 30 JUNE		71 923

The statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements which can be found on page 114.

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 30 June 2009

	NOTE	2009 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating Receipts		
<i>Grants and Subsidies Received</i>		
Current		682
Capital		9 484
Appropriation		
Output		60 216
Commonwealth		886
Receipts From Sales of Goods and Services		13 034
Interest Received		5
Total Operating Receipts		84 307
Operating Payments		
Payments to Employees		39 811
Payments for Goods and Services		28 613
<i>Grants and Subsidies Paid</i>		
Current		5 148
Capital		8 566
Total Operating Payments		82 138
Net Cash From/(Used In) Operating Activities	16	2 169
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Investing Receipts		
Proceeds from Asset Sales	5	15
Total Investing Receipts		15
Investing Payments		
Purchases of Assets	10	814
Total Investing Payments		814
Net Cash From/(Used In) Investing Activities		799
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Financing Receipts		
Deposits Received		1 300
<i>Equity Injections</i>		
Capital Appropriation	15	792
Other Equity Injections		462
Total Financing Receipts		2 554
Net Cash From/(Used In) Financing Activities		2 554
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		3 924
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year		19 743
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	8	23 667

The cash flow statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements which can be found on page 114.

Notes to the financial statements

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1. Objectives and Funding

The Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources is responsible for developing, implementing and managing government's priorities for regional development and the Territory's resource-based industries.

The department's budget capacity is predominantly funded by Parliamentary appropriations of \$60.2 million, with the balance being sourced from the agency's own revenue base. In 2008–09, \$9.5 million was derived from external corporations and Commonwealth and State agencies for project funding while, \$6.3 million was raised through the sale of goods and services, fees and charges and other miscellaneous income.

Agency Output Groups/Outputs:

Resource Industry Development

- Minerals and Energy
- Primary Industry
- Fisheries

Resource Industry Management

- Minerals and Energy
- Fisheries

Regional Development

- Regional Development

2. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

a) Basis of Accounting

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 of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of Agency financial statements is to include:

- (i) a Certification of the Financial Statements;
- (ii) an 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.

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 agency 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 Agency 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 Standards and Interpretations and their impacts are:

AASB 1004 Contributions (revised)

The revisions have the effect of relocating the requirements on contributions from AASs 27, 29 and 31, substantively unamended (with some exceptions), into AASB 1004. The Standard will not have an impact on the Financial Statements.

AASB 1050 Administered Items

The main requirements of the Standard are for a government department to disclose administered income, expenses, assets and liabilities (applying the principles of AASB 1052), along with details of certain non-department controlled transfers. The Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources is unable to conform to all the requirements of the Standard for 2008–09 because administered items are not disclosed by output group.

AASB 2007-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Review of AAS 27, AAS 29 and AAS 31

The Standard relocates certain relevant requirements from AASs 27, 29 and 31, substantively unamended, into existing topic based standards. This standard also makes consequential amendments, arising from the short term review of AASs 27, 29 and 31, to AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101 and AASB 114. The Standard will not have an impact on the Financial Statements.

b) Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

At the date of authorisation of the financial statements, a number of Standards and Interpretations were in issue but not yet effective. Having assessed their relevance and potential impact, the Agency has determined that none of them will have any application to the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources.

c) Agency and Territory items

The financial statements of the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which it has control (Agency items). Certain items, while managed by the Agency, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than the Agency (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 Agencies 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 Agencies as well as certain Territory liabilities that are not practical or effective to assign to individual Agencies 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 Agency's financial statements. However, as the Agency is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of Government, these items have been separately disclosed in Note 23 - Schedule of Territory Items.

d) Comparatives

The Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPPIFR) was created as part of an administrative arrangements order restructuring on 18 August 2008 with retrospective effect for accounting purposes from 1 July 2008. The new Agency amalgamates all of the functions of the former Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines (DPIFM) with only the Regional Development function from the former Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development (DBERD).

As it is not practicable to reconstruct individual balances for Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet items from the former DBERD relating to Regional Development, no comparatives have been provided pursuant to Clause 42 of the Accounting Standards AASB 101.

e) 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.

f) Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies adopted in 2008–09 as a result of management decisions.

g) Accounting judgements and estimates

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgements 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 of making the judgements 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.

Judgements and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements. Notes that include significant judgements and estimates are:

- Employee Benefits – Note 2(s) and Non-Current Liabilities- Note 13 in respect of employee benefits are measured as the present value of estimated future cash outflows based on the appropriate Government bond rate, estimates of future salary and wage levels and employee periods of service.
- Doubtful Debts – Note 2(m) and Receivables – Note 9.
- Depreciation and Amortisation – Note 2(k), Property, Plant and Equipment - Note 10 and Biological Assets – Note 11.

h) 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.

i) Income recognition

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, exclusive of the amount of goods and services tax (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 Agency 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 agency for the outputs they provide and is calculated as the net cost of Agency outputs after taking into account funding from Agency income. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

Commonwealth appropriation is new to 2008–09, and follows from the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations. It has resulted in Special Purpose Payments and National Partnership payments being made by the Commonwealth Treasury to state treasuries, in a manner similar to arrangements for GST payments. These payments are received by Treasury on behalf of the Central Holding Authority and then on passed to the relevant agencies as Commonwealth Appropriation.

Revenue in respect of Appropriations is recognised in the period in which the Agency 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 Agency 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 Agency; 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.

Goods and services received free of charge

Goods and services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when a fair value can be reliably determined and the resource would have been purchased if it had not been donated. Use of the resource is recognised as an expense.

Disposal of assets

A gain or loss on disposal of assets is included as a gain or loss on the date control of the asset passes to the buyer, usually when an unconditional contract of sale is signed. The gain or loss on disposal is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the net proceeds on disposal. Refer also to Note 5.

Contributions of assets

Contributions of assets and contributions to assist in the acquisition of assets, being non-reciprocal transfers, are recognised, unless otherwise determined by Government, as gains when the Agency obtains control of the asset or contribution. Contributions are recognised at the fair value received or receivable.

j) Repairs and maintenance expense

Funding is received for repairs and maintenance works associated with Agency assets as part of Output Revenue. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on Agency assets are expensed as incurred.

k) 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:

	2009
Buildings	50 Years
Infrastructure assets	16-25 Years
Plant and equipment	10 Years
Biological assets	N/A

Biological assets relate to brood stock for fingerling production. Depreciation is not applied to this class of asset. Retirement of brood stock does not depend on age but on breeding suitability and potential. This can vary from fish to fish.

Assets are depreciated or amortised from the date of acquisition or from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

l) Cash and deposits

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 21.

m) Receivables

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 Agency estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analysis of the age of the receivables which are overdue as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule under credit risk in Note 17 - Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 90 days.

n) Property, plant and equipment

Acquisitions

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$5000 are capitalised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$5000 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 Agency 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 Planning and Infrastructure is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of Government basis. Therefore appropriation for the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources capital works is provided directly to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure 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 Agency.

o) Biological assets

Biological assets are living plants or animals that are either harvested as agricultural produce or are utilised to generate agricultural produce.

Biological assets are measured at fair value less estimated point-of-sale costs. Where fair value cannot be reliably estimated on initial recognition, the assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment loss.

p) 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
- Infrastructure assets
- Biological assets.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arms length transaction.

Plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation, which is deemed to equate to fair value.

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 Agency assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis. If an indicator of impairment exists, the Agency 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 Operating Statement unless the asset is carried at a re-valued amount. Where the asset is measured at a re-valued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the Asset Revaluation Reserve for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

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 Operating Statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a re-valued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the Asset Revaluation Reserve. Note 15 provides additional information in relation to the Asset Revaluation Reserve.

q) Leased assets

Leases under which the Agency assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset are classified as finance leases. Other leases are classified as operating leases.

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.

r) Payables

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 Agency. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

s) 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 and 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
- other types of employee benefits.

As part of the Financial Management Framework, the Central Holding Authority assumes the long service leave liabilities of Government Agencies, including the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in Agency financial statements.

t) Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- NT 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 Agency 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 Agency financial statements.

u) Contributions by and distributions to government

The Agency may receive contributions from Government where the Government is acting as owner of the Agency. Conversely, the Agency 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 Agency as adjustments to equity.

The Statement of Changes in Equity and Note 15 provide additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, Government.

v) Commitments

Disclosures in relation to capital and other commitments, including lease commitments are shown at Note 18 and are consistent with the requirements contained in AASB 101, AASB 116 and AASB 117.

Commitments are those contracted as at 30 June where the amount of the future commitment can be reliably measured.

3. Operating Statement by Output Group

	NOTE	Resource Industry Development	Resource Industry Management	Regional Development	TOTAL 2009 \$'000
INCOME					
Taxation Revenue					
<i>Grants and Subsidies Revenue</i>					
Current		468	45	13	526
Capital		4 370	0	0	4 370
<i>Appropriation</i>					
Output		42 659	12 096	5 461	60 216
Commonwealth		886			886
Sales of Goods and Services	6	3 868	1 994	24	5 886
Fees from Regulatory Services	6	99	407		506
Goods and Services Received Free of Charge	4	2 390	964	214	3 568
Gain on Disposal of Assets	5	14	8		22
Other Income	6	3 146	435	-4	3 577
TOTAL INCOME		57 900	15 949	5 708	79 557
EXPENSES					
Employee Expenses		28 197	10 285	2 814	41 296
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>					
Purchases of Goods and Services	7	15 704	4 986	1 266	21 956
Repairs and Maintenance		3 125	130	0	3 255
Depreciation and Amortisation	10	3 157	626	1	3 784
Other Administrative Expenses ⁽¹⁾		2 521	963	214	3 698
<i>Grants and Subsidies Expenses</i>					
Current	24	2 871	397	1 880	5 148
Capital	24	8 566	0	0	8 566
Community Service Obligations					
TOTAL EXPENSES		64 141	17 387	6 175	87 703
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	15	(6 241)	(1 438)	(467)	(8 146)

This operating statement by output group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements which can be found on page 114.

¹ includes DBE service charges

4. Goods and Services received free of charge

Inter-agency notional service revenue/charge (Department of Business & Employment)

2009
\$'000

3 568

3 568

5. Gain on Disposal of Assets

Proceeds from sale of Plant and Equipment

Less: Carrying value of assets disposed

Gain on the disposal of non-current assets

15

(1)

14

6. Sale of Goods and Services and other income

The net surplus has been arrived at after crediting the following income:

Sale of Goods and Services

Sale of livestock and produce (Research Farms)

Water Analysis Testing

Livestock and Export Diagnostic Testing

Sale of Fingerlings

Offshore Petroleum Rents

Application and Advertising Fees – Titles Management- Mines

National Livestock Identification Scheme

AGES Conference

Other goods and service charges less than \$50k

919

1 309

99

700

1 370

524

109

52

812

5 894

Fees from Regulatory Services

Fishing Licence Fees

Veterinary Licence Fees

490

16

506

Other Income

Private research and development organisations

Other

3 573

4

3 577

7. Purchases of Goods and Services

The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after charging the following expenses:

Goods and Services Expenses:

Consultants ⁽¹⁾

Advertising ⁽²⁾

Marketing and Promotion ⁽³⁾

Document Production

Legal Expenses ⁽⁴⁾

Recruitment ⁽⁵⁾

Training and Study

Official Duty Fares

Travelling Allowance

Other Operating Expenses

2 071

238

139

240

6

300

412

796

487

17 267

21 956

(1) Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants.

(2) Does not include recruitment advertising or marketing and promotion advertising.

(3) Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.

(4) Includes legal fees, claim and settlement costs.

(5) Includes recruitment related advertising costs.

8. Cash and Deposits

Cash on Hand
Cash at Bank

2009
\$'000
24
23 643
23 667

9. Receivables

Current

Accounts Receivable
Less: Allowance for Impairment Losses
GST Receivables
Accrued Revenue

1 248
(49)
358
364

Total Receivables

1 921

10. Property, Plant and Equipment

Land

At Fair Value

14 744

Buildings

At Fair Value
Less: Accumulated Depreciation

113 903
(73 059)
40 844

Infrastructure

At Fair Value
Less: Accumulated Depreciation

5 345
(555)
4 791

Plant and Equipment

At Cost
Less: Accumulated Depreciation

7 414
(4 186)
3 228

Computer Software

At Cost
Less: Amortisation

392
(391)
1

Computer Hardware

At Cost
Less: Accumulated Depreciation

270
(254)
16

Transport Equipment

At Cost
Less: Accumulated Depreciation

2 513
(2 216)
297

Total Property, Plant and Equipment

63 921

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2009. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

10. Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

2009 Property, Plant and Equipment Reconciliations

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2008–09 is set out below:

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Infrastructure \$'000	Plant and Equipment \$'000	Computer Software \$'000	Computer Hardware \$'000	Transport Equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
Carrying Amount as at 1 July 2008**	14 744	43 141	5 084	2 886	3	35	344	66 237
Additions		36		710			68	814
Disposals		(2959)		(1)			(1)	(1)
Depreciation and Amortisation			(317)	(374)		(20)	(112)	(3 784)
Additions/(Disposals) from Administrative Restructuring		626						
Additions/(Disposals) from Asset Transfers			24	7			(2)	656
Revaluation Increments/(Decrements)								
Impairment Losses								
Impairment Losses Reversed								
Other Movements								
Carrying Amount as at 30 June 2009	14 744	40 844	4 791	3 228	1	16	297	63 921

** Following the Administrative Arrangements Order restructuring on the 18 August 2008, the closing balances of the previous financial year relating to assets from the former Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines have been brought into the new entity of DRDP/IFR as its opening balances. There were no assets from the Regional Development function of the former Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development to be brought into the new Agency.

11. Biological Assets

2009
\$'000

Carrying amount

At Cost – 1 July

22

Carrying Value

22

Biological Assets relate to brood stock for fingerling production. Retirement of brood stock does not depend on age but on breeding suitability and potential. This can vary from fish to fish.

Impairment of Biological Assets

Agency biological assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2009. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

12. Payables

Accounts Payable

1 368

Accrued Expenses

1 042

Fringe Benefits Tax

92

Total Payables

2 502

13. Provisions

Current

Employee Benefits

Recreation Leave

3 408

Leave Loading

517

Airfares

192

Oncosts

413

4 530

Non-Current

Employee Benefits

Recreation Leave

2 234

Other Employee Benefits

206

2 440

Total Provisions

6 970

The Agency employed 490 employees as at 30 June 2009.

14. Other Liabilities

Current

Accountable Officers Trust Account (Note 21)

6 074

Unearned Revenue

2 261

8 335

15. Equity

2009
\$'000

Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources. The Government's ownership interest in DRDPIFR is held in the Central Holding Authority as described in Note 2(c).

Capital

Balance as at 1 July	76 714
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Equity Injections

Capital Appropriation	1 254
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Equity Transfers In	805
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Balance as at 30 June	78 773
------------------------------	---------------

Reserves

Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve 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 Reserve.

Balance as at 1 July	2 274
-----------------------------	--------------

Balance as at 30 June	2 274
------------------------------	--------------

Accumulated Funds

Balance as at 1 July	(978)
-----------------------------	--------------

Surplus /(Deficit) for the Period	(8 146)
-----------------------------------	---------

Balance as at 30 June	(9 124)
------------------------------	----------------

Balance as at 1 July

Following the Administrative Arrangements Order restructuring on the 18 August 2008, the closing balances of the previous financial year relating to equity — Capital, Reserves and Accumulated Funds from the former Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines have been brought into the new entity of DRDPIFR as its opening balances. Similar balances relating to the Regional Development function from the previous Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development were not available to be brought into the newly created DRDPIFR.

16. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

2009
\$'000

Reconciliation of Cash

The total of Agency Cash and Deposits of \$23.667million 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)	(8 146)
<i>Non-Cash Items:</i>	
Depreciation and Amortisation	3 783
Asset Write-Downs	149
(Gain)/Loss on Disposal of Assets	(14)
<i>Changes in Assets and Liabilities:</i>	
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	5 712
Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments	(104)
(Decrease)/Increase in Payables	139
(Decrease)/Increase in Provision for Employee Benefits	966
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Provisions	160
(Decrease)/Increase in Other Liabilities	(476)
Net Cash From Operating Activities	2 169

17. 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 instruments held by the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources include cash and deposits, receivables and payables. The Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources has limited exposure to financial risks as discussed below.

(a) Categorisation of Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below.

	2009 \$'000
Financial Assets	
Cash and deposits	23 667
Receivables	1 921

(b) Credit Risk

The Agency has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to Government, the Agency 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 Agency'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.

	2009 \$'000
Aging of Receivables	
Not Overdue	869
Overdue for 30 to 60 Days	234
Overdue for more than 60 Days	145
Total Receivables	1 248
Aging of Impaired Receivables	
Impaired Receivables for 30 to 60 Days	
Impaired Receivables for more than 60 Days	49
Total Impaired Receivables	49
Reconciliation of the Allowance for Impairment Losses	
Allowance for Impairment Losses at the Beginning of the Reporting Period	87
Amounts written off during the year	19
Amounts recovered during the year	
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss	19
Allowance for Impairment Losses at the End of the Reporting Period	49

(c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Agency will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Agency'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 undiscounted cash flows payable by the Agency by remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities. It should be noted that as these are undiscounted, totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the Balance Sheet.

17. Financial Instruments (continued)

2009 Maturity analysis for financial liabilities

	Fixed Interest Rate				Non Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average
	Variable Interest	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years			
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000			
Deposits Held					6 074	6 074	
Payables					2 502	2 502	
Total Financial Liabilities					8 576	8 576	

(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 of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources is not exposed to interest rate risk as Agency financial assets and financial liabilities are non-interest bearing.

ii) Price Risk

The Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources is not exposed to price risk as it does not hold units in unit trusts.

iii) Currency Risk

The Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources 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

The carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements approximates their respective net fair values. Where differences exist, these are not material.

	2009	
	Total carrying amount	Net Fair Value
	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets		
Cash and Deposits	23 667	23 667
Receivables	1 921	1 921
Total Financial Assets	25 588	25 588
Financial Liabilities		
Deposits Held	6 074	6 074
Payables	2 381	2 381
Total Financial Liabilities	8 455	8 455

18. Commitments

2009
\$'000

(i) Capital Expenditure Commitments

Capital expenditure commitments primarily relate to plant and equipment. Capital expenditure commitments contracted for at balance date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

Within one year	72
Later than one year and not later than five years	
Later than five years	72

(ii) Other Expenditure Commitments

Other non-cancellable expenditure commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

Within one year	4 406
Later than one year and not later than five years	
Later than five years	4 406

(iii) Operating Lease Commitments

The Agency leases property from third parties and vehicles from NT Fleet (NTG Agency) under non-cancellable operating leases expiring at varying dates. Leases generally provide the Agency with a right of renewal at which time all lease terms are renegotiated. The Agency 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	1 330
Later than one year and not later than five years	863
Later than five years	13
	2 206

19. Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

No contingent liabilities or contingent assets existed at balance date.

20. 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.

21. 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 2008	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance 30 June 2009
Aboriginal Land Rents	545	1 228	1 366	407
Compensation Liabilities	818	25	210	633
Cash Securities	3 028	1 795	291	4 532
Employee Award Scheme	31	9	15	25
Remote Workforce Development	12	3	2	13
Miscellaneous	33	114	0	147
BTEC	180	0	0	180
NT Seafood Council	127	220	210	137
	4 774	3 394	2 094	6 074

22. Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers

Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Under the <i>Financial Management Act</i>	Agency		Territory Items	
	2009 \$'000	No. of Trans.	2009 \$'000	No. of Trans.
Represented by:				
<i>Amounts written off, waived and postponed by Delegates</i>				
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an Agency written off				
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	1	4		
Public property written off	149	9		
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property				
Total written off, waived and postponed by Delegates	150	13		
<i>Amounts written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer</i>				
Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or an Agency written off	37	3	130	2
Losses or deficiencies of money written off				
Public property written off				
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property				
Total written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer	37	3	130	2
Write-offs, Postponements and Waivers Authorised	0	0	0	0
Under Other Legislation	0	0	0	0

23. Schedule of Territory Items

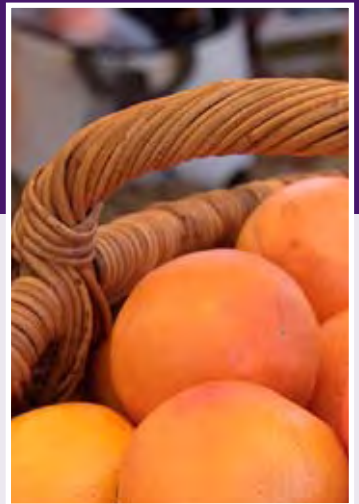
The following Territory items are managed by the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources on behalf of the Government and are recorded in the Central Holding Authority (refer Note 2(b)).

	2009
	\$'000
TERRITORY INCOME AND EXPENSES	
<i>Income</i>	
Fees from Regulatory Services	2 554
Royalties and Rents	909
Other Income	476
Total Income	3 939
<i>Expenses</i>	
Central Holding Authority Income Transferred	3 939
Total Expenses	3 939
Territory Income less Expenses	0
TERRITORY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	
<i>Assets</i>	
Other Receivables	9 692
Total Assets	9 692
<i>Liabilities</i>	
Unearned CHA Income	9 692
Total Liabilities	9 692
Net Assets	0

24. Grants and Subsidies

Current Grants	
Grants	5 148
Total Current Grants	5 148
Capital Grants	
Capital	3 829
Rebates	4 736
Total Capital Grants	8 566
Total Grants	13 714

Appendices



Appendix 1

Contact details

General inquiries

Tel: (08) 8999 5511

Fax: (08) 8999 2010

AH: 0438 159 244

Email: info.drdpifr@nt.gov.au

Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801

Location: Berrimah Farm,
29 Makagon Road, Berrimah NT

Office Hours: 8:00am to 4:21pm,
Monday to Friday (CST)

www.nt.gov.au/drdpifr

Regional Development

Darwin

Tel: (08) 8999 5087

Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801

Location: Centrepnt Building, Cnr Knuckey St
and Smith Street Mall, Darwin NT

www.nt.gov.au/d/regional

Alice Springs

Tel: (08) 8951 8465

Post: PO Box 9800, Alice Springs NT 0851

Location: Peter Sitzler Building,
North Stuart Highway, Alice Springs NT

Tennant Creek

Tel: (08) 8962 4472

Post: PO Box 159, Tennant Creek NT 0861

Location: Shop 2 Barkly House,
99 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek NT

Katherine

Tel: (08) 8973 8102

Post: PO Box 867, Katherine NT 0871

Location: Randazzo Building, Katherine Terrace,
Katherine NT

Nhulunbuy

Tel: (08) 8987 0531

Post: PO Box 346, Nhulunbuy NT 0881

Location: Arnhem Village, Arnhem Road,
Nhulunbuy NT

Minerals and Energy

Darwin

Tel: (08) 8999 6443

Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801

Location: Centrepnt Building, Cnr Knuckey St
and Smith Street Mall, Darwin NT

www.nt.gov.au/d/Minerals_Energy

Alice Springs

Tel: (08) 8951 8177

Post: PO Box 8760, Alice Springs NT 0871

Location: Arid Zone Research Institute,
South Stuart Highway, Alice Springs NT

Fisheries

Tel: (08) 8999 2144

Fax: (08) 8999 2065

Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801

Location: Berrimah Research Farm,
29 Makagon Road, Berrimah NT

www.nt.gov.au/d/Fisheries/

Primary Industry

Tel: (08) 8999 2007

Fax: (08) 8999 2010

Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801

Location: Berrimah Research Farm,
29 Makagon Road, Berrimah NT

www.nt.gov.au/d/Primary_Industry

Regional Offices

Alice Springs

Tel: (08) 8951 8111

Fax: (08) 8951 8112

Post: PO Box 8760, Alice Springs NT 0871

Location: Arid Zone Research Institute,
South Stuart Highway, Alice Springs NT

Location: Peter Sitzler Building,
North Stuart Highway, Alice Springs NT

Katherine

Tel: (08) 8973 9739

Fax: (08) 8973 9777

Post: PO Box 1346, Katherine NT 0851

Location: Katherine Research Station, 4km east
of Katherine, Stuart Highway, Katherine NT

Tennant Creek

Tel: (08) 8962 4488

Fax: (08) 8962 4480

Post: PO Box 159, Tennant Creek NT 0861

Location: Barkly House,
99 Paterson Street, Tennant Creek NT

Research and Demonstration Farms

Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI)

Tel: (08) 8951 8111

Fax: (08) 8951 8112

Post: PO Box 8760, Alice Springs NT 0871

Location: South Stuart Highway,
Alice Springs NT

Beatrice Hill Farm

Tel: (08) 8988 1612

Fax: (08) 8988 8008

Location: 110 Middle Point Road,
Middle Point NT

Berrimah Research Farm

Tel: (08) 8999 2011

Fax: (08) 8999 2043

Post: GPO Box 3000, Darwin NT 0801

Location: 29 Makagon Road, Berrimah NT

Coastal Plains Horticulture Research Farm

Tel: (08) 8988 8085

Fax: (08) 8988 8014

Location: Near Adelaide River and Fogg Dam
Conservation Area, Middle Point NT

Douglas Daly Research Farm

Tel: (08) 8978 2442

Fax: (08) 8978 2473

Post: PMB 105, Winnellie NT 0821

Location: Jungwa Road, Douglas Daly NT

Katherine Research Station (KRS)

Tel: (08) 8973 9739

Fax: (08) 8973 9777

Post: GPO Box 1346, Katherine NT 0851

Location: Katherine Research Station, 4km east
of Katherine, Stuart Highway, Katherine NT

Old Man Plains Research Station

Location: Owen Springs, via Alice Springs NT

Ti Tree Research Farm

Tel: (08) 8956 9739

Fax: (08) 8956 9825

Post: PMB 106, via Alice Springs NT 0871

Location: Ti Tree Farm, Woodforde Road NT

Victoria River Research Station

Tel: (08) 8975 0762

Fax: (08) 8975 0875

Post: PMB 48, Katherine NT 0852

Location: 3847 Buchanan Highway,
via Katherine NT

Emergency Contacts

Minerals and Energy

Environmental Mining Incidents

Tel: (08) 8999 6470

AH: 0401 119 450

Safety and Health Mining Incidents

— NT Worksafe

AH: 1800 019 115

www.worksafe.nt.gov.au

Petroleum Incidents

Tel: (08) 8999 5460

AH: 0401 119 456

Fuel Emergency

Tel: (08) 8999 6637

National Offshore Petroleum

Safety Authority (NOPSA)

Tel: (08) 6461 7090

www.nopsa.gov.au

Fisheries

Aquatic Pest Management

Tel: (08) 8999 2126

AH: 0413 381 094

Pollution Hotline

(Berrimah Police Station)

1800 064 567 (24hrs)

Fishwatch

(Reporting Fisheries Offences)

1800 891 136 (24hrs)

Primary Industry

Exotic Animal Disease

1800 675 888 (free call)

Exotic Plant Pest Hotline

1800 084 881 (free call)

Chief Veterinary Officer

0401 115 836

Stock Inspection, Vet Services and Brands

Darwin

0427 003 600 (After hours — Vet)

0439 270 039 (After hours — Stock Inspector)

Alice Springs

0401 118 181 (After hours — Vet)

0401 118 125 (After hours — Stock Inspector)

Katherine

0437 527 372 (After hours — Vet)

0418 895 084 (After hours — Stock Inspector)

Tennant Creek

0401 113 445 (After hours — Stock Inspector)

Appendix 2

Glossary

A	<i>APPEA</i>	Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association
	<i>ACIAR</i>	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
	<i>AFANT</i>	Amateur Fishermen's Association of the Northern Territory
	<i>AGES</i>	Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar
	<i>AIMS</i>	Australian Institute of Marine Science
	<i>ALRA</i>	Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act
	<i>AMEC</i>	Association of Mining and Exploration Companies
	<i>ANDI</i>	Animal Disease Information (internal)
	<i>AQIS</i>	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
	<i>ARP</i>	Achievement Review Process (internal)
	<i>ATSI</i>	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
	<i>AZRI</i>	Arid Zone Research Institute, Alice Springs
B	<i>BIITE</i>	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
	<i>BOM</i>	Board of Management
	<i>BTEC</i>	Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign
	<i>BTRB</i>	Building the Territory's Resource Base
	<i>BRF</i>	Berrimah Research Farm
C	<i>CDU</i>	Charles Darwin University
	<i>CLC</i>	Central Land Council
	<i>CRC</i>	Cooperative Research Centre
D	<i>DAC</i>	Darwin Aquaculture Centre
E	<i>EC</i>	Exceptional Circumstances, relating to drought assistance
	<i>ECD</i>	Economic Development Committee
	<i>EEO</i>	Equal Employment Opportunity
	<i>EAP</i>	Employee Assistance Program (internal)
	<i>EDRM</i>	Electronic Document and Records Management (internal)
F	<i>FoI</i>	Freedom of Information
	<i>FRDC</i>	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (Commonwealth)
	<i>FTE</i>	Fulltime Equivalent
G	<i>GIS</i>	Geographic Information System, a computer application used to store, view, and analyse geographical information, especially maps
H	<i>HECS</i>	Higher Education Contribution Scheme
	<i>HR</i>	Human Resources (internal)
I	<i>IBDP</i>	Indigenous Business Development Program
	<i>IED</i>	Indigenous Economic Development
	<i>ICT</i>	Information and Communication Technology
	<i>ILC</i>	Indigenous Land Corporation
	<i>IMC</i>	Information Management Committee (internal)
	<i>IPP</i>	Indigenous Pastoral Program

Glossary cont.

J	<i>JDPA</i>	Joint Development Petroleum Area
K	<i>KRS</i>	Katherine Research Station
L	<i>LNG</i>	Liquid Natural Gas
M	<i>MLA</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly (NT)
	<i>MMP</i>	Mining Management Plan
	<i>MoU</i>	Memorandum of Understanding
	<i>MyHR</i>	Intranet human resource link (internal)
N	<i>NESB</i>	Non English Speaking Background
	<i>NHT</i>	Natural Heritage Trust
	<i>NICP</i>	National Indigenous Cadetship Program
	<i>NLC</i>	Northern Land Council
	<i>NLIS</i>	National Livestock Identification Scheme
	<i>NTAgA</i>	Northern Territory Agricultural Association
	<i>NTCA</i>	Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
	<i>NTDAA</i>	Northern Territory Drought Assistance Arrangements
	<i>NTGS</i>	Northern Territory Geological Survey, a division within the Minerals and Energy group
	<i>NTHA</i>	Northern Territory Horticultural Association
O	<i>OCPE</i>	Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (NT)
	<i>OH&S</i>	Occupational Health and Safety
P	<i>PDAC</i>	Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada
	<i>PER</i>	Public Environmental Report
	<i>PIMI</i>	Primary Industry Market Indicator
	<i>PWD</i>	Person With a Disability
	<i>PWES</i>	Pastoral Water Enhancement Scheme
R	<i>RDO</i>	Regional Development Officer
	<i>REDF</i>	Regional Economic Development Fund
	<i>RePS</i>	Receipts electronic Processing System (internal)
	<i>RIRDC</i>	Rural Industries and Research Development Corporation
	<i>RMAC</i>	Risk Management and Audit Committee (internal)
	<i>RRPGP</i>	Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (Commonwealth)
S	<i>STAR</i>	Service, Teamwork, Achievement and Results. DRDPIFR staff awards
T	<i>TRIM</i>	Tower Records Management System (internal record-keeping system)

Appendix 3

Performance, efficiency and compliance reviews

Review of Primary Industries Group

Objective: To review and evaluate Primary Industries with respect to its role, objectives, strategies, services, supporting functional/organisational arrangements and systems, and resources.

Status: Review completed and recommendations implemented.

Corporate Services Review

Objective: To review DRDPiFR corporate services functions for appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency, and to determine the strategies and resources required to meet the future requirements of the department.

Status: Review completed and implementation of recommendations underway.

Industry Development Support Program Review

Objective: To identify the purpose of the Industry Development Support Program and determine if the program has achieved its outcomes.

Status: Review completed and recommendations implemented.

Review and Evaluation of Minerals and Energy

Objective: To review and evaluate Minerals and Energy with respect to the appropriateness of its identified role, objectives, strategies, services, supporting functional/organisational arrangements and systems, and resources.

Status: Review completed and implementation of recommendations underway.

Client Satisfaction Evaluation

Objective: To measure DRDPiFR's client satisfaction with the services the department delivers in the Primary Industries, Fisheries and Minerals and Energy business areas, so as to provide actual performance measure figures for the a annual report. Regional Development client satisfaction was measured prior to amalgamation of the departments and was therefore not included in this review.

Status: Review completed and implementation of recommendations underway.

Intranet Review

Objective: To review the DRDPiFR intranet site.

Status: Review completed and recommendations implemented.

Legislative Reviews

Veterinarians Act Review

Objective: To assess the suitability of the *Veterinarians Act 1984* against the regulatory needs of current veterinary practice in the Territory. This assessment will form a recommendation to the Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries regarding the ongoing regulatory needs for veterinary practice for the Territory.

Status: Discussion paper to be released in the near future.

Fisheries Act Review

Objective: To review the current *Fisheries Act* to:

- develop a holistic framework for managing aquatic resources in the NT
- enshrine the principles of ecologically sustainable development with respect to fisheries resources
- promote areas of Indigenous development.

Status: On hold pending Blue Mud Bay negotiations.

Appendix 4

Statement of information held by the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources, July 2009

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) May be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b) (iii) Distributed free of charge?
Agribusiness development	Records relating to advancing major agribusiness development projects and identifying new agribusiness opportunities in the Northern Territory. Includes new strategic directions in agribusiness development projects, investments, trading infrastructure, water storages, animal feeds and fertiliser resources.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.
Agri-food safety	Records relating to working with peak food industry at the national level and Northern Territory level to ensure the safety of the food chain.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.
Animal biosecurity	Records relating to protecting animals against disease and other biological threats in the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Information may be provided under Commonwealth and NT legislation dealing with biosecurity issues	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.
Chemical services regulation	Records relating to providing legislative control over agricultural and veterinary chemical products, fertilisers and stock feeds by administering the <i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act</i> .	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.
Community relations	Records relating to establishing rapport with the community and raising and maintaining the organisation's broad public profile.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) May be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b)(iii) Distributed free of charge?
Compensation	Records relating to providing compensation to personnel and visitors injured while proceeding to or from work, during working hours or on the organisation's premises.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Diagnostic services	Records relating to providing a range of diagnostic services through laboratory facilities to clients relating to animal and plant health, seed and water testing for quality assurance and biosecurity purposes.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Some tests are undertaken on a fee-paying basis.	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms. Some tests conducted free of charge (for Plant Pathology and Entomology).
Economic development	Records relating to economic development by creating a conducive economic environment and employment opportunities. Includes attracting and facilitating major projects for and on behalf of the NT Government and researching, coordinating, implementing, marketing, promoting and developing policy to bring them to fruition. Also includes the fostering of agreements, partnerships and joint ventures with the private sector, Local, State, Commonwealth and overseas governments.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Energy management	Records relating to managing renewable energy programs and energy policy. Includes developing, coordinating and implementing Northern Territory Energy Policy; administering the Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP) and the Photovoltaic Program (PVRP); promoting wider use of renewable energy.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No (Access to records is however provided for an independent audit of the RRPGP each year).	No	Yes – Information and advice is made available in various forms.
Equipment & stores	Acquiring, supplying, maintaining, repairing and disposing of equipment and stores stocked and used by the organisation.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) May be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b) (iii) Distributed free of charge?
Establishment	Establishing and changing the organisational structure through establishing and reviewing jobs.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – organisation charts may be available through the internet.
Exploration operations	Records relating to searching or evaluating deposits of minerals or extractive minerals within the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Extractive operations	The activities associated with monitoring individual extractive operators for compliance under the <i>NT Mining Management Act</i> within the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Financial management	Managing the organisation's financial resources.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – Annual accounts published in accordance with <i>Public Sector Employment and Management Act</i> and <i>Financial Management Act</i>	No	Yes – Annual accounts available in annual report and budget papers.
Fisheries management and development	Records relating to providing regulation, conservation and management of fisheries and fishery resources so as to maintain their sustainable utilisation. Includes developing commercial, recreational, Indigenous fishing and aquaculture industries; providing research; information and advice to business, industry and the community; granting and maintaining licences; developing and implementing management plans; monitoring and control of aquatic pests.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Yes – Some (Maps & Posters)	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Fleet management	Records relating to acquiring, managing, maintaining, repairing and disposing of vehicles.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Gene technology	Records relating to developing and maintaining systems, policies and legislation in the Northern Territory, and at the national level, in regard to technology to alter the genetic material of living cells or organisms.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information may be published in various forms.

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) May be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b) (ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b) (iii) Distributed free of charge?
Geology	The function to identify, collect, interpret, synthesise and disseminate geoscientific data to attract and render more effective mineral and onshore petroleum exploration, and also to provide geoscientific advice on resource policy formulation.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Some information, including statutory reports and data submitted by companies, can be inspected or distributed under the <i>Mining Act</i> , the <i>Petroleum Act</i> , the <i>NT Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act</i> or the <i>Commonwealth Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act</i> .	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms. At present all reports, maps and data produced by NTGS, and the statutory reports and data submitted by companies are available free of charge.
Government relations	Records relating to administering the formal relationship between the organisation and other areas of government.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Plant industries	Records relating to the development and promotion of sustainable plant industries such as crops, forestry and horticulture in the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Yes – Some (Posters)	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Industrial relations	Records relating to establishing formal relations with the organisation's employees and their representatives to achieve a harmonious workplace.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Indigenous economic development	Records relating to the function of developing Indigenous economic activities.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) May be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b) (iii) Distributed free of charge?
Information management	Managing the organisation's information resources.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Legal services	Provision of legal services to the organisation.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Livestock exports development	Records relating to enhancing offshore trade and development opportunities for the Northern Territory livestock sector.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information is published in various forms.
Meat industries regulations	Records relating to providing a regulatory role to control the slaughter of animals and processing of meat for human consumption in order to ensure the wholesomeness of meat and meat products and to foster export and domestic markets for all sectors of the Northern Territory meat industry. Also includes records relating to licensing of abattoirs and processing premises, provision of training and approval of quality control systems.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – Some information may be available under the <i>Meat Industries Act</i> .	No.	Yes – Some information is published in various forms.
Mineral titles	The function is to manage exploration and minerals tenure applications, and granted tenure, with minimal delay such that the maximum amount of land and sea possible is being actively explored or mined, as governed under the <i>NT Mining Act</i> .	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – Mineral titles are available for inspection under the <i>NT Mining Act</i> .	Yes – Searches of titles are available for inspection under <i>NT Mining Act</i> Regulations.	Yes – Mineral titles are available for inspection under the <i>Mining Act</i> .
Mines operations	The activities associated with monitoring individual mine operators for compliance under the <i>NT Mining Management Act</i> within the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Mining management	The functions and activities associated with managing mining in a broader, industry focused sense, within the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information is published in various forms.
Occupational health & safety	Implementing and co-ordinating occupational health and safety and associated legislation throughout the organisation.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) May be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b)(iii) Distributed free of charge?
Personnel	Records relating to managing all employees in the organisation. Employees include Ministerial, permanent, temporary and part-time employees, people working under scholarships, traineeships, apprenticeships and similar relationships.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – access to personal records may be provided in accordance with the <i>Public Sector Employment and Management Act</i> .	No	No
Petroleum and minerals development	The function is to identify, evaluate, promote and facilitate opportunities to develop the Northern Territory's petroleum and mineral resource.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Petroleum operations	The activities associated with monitoring individual petroleum related operations for compliance under the <i>NT Petroleum Act</i> , <i>NT Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act</i> , <i>Commonwealth Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act</i> and <i>Energy Pipelines Act</i> within Northern Territory administered areas.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Petroleum resources	The function is to facilitate increased and sustainable economic growth for the Territory through exploration and production of petroleum resources.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Petroleum titles	The function is to manage petroleum exploration and production applications, and granted licences and permits, with minimal delay such that the maximum amount of land and sea possible is being actively explored or producing.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – Petroleum titles are available for inspection.	Yes – Searches of Petroleum titles are available and copies available at a fee set by legislation.	Yes – Petroleum titles are available for inspection only.

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) May be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b) (iii) Distributed free of charge?
Plant biosecurity	Records relating to protecting plants against disease and other biological threats through strong interstate and post barrier regulatory actions in the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No – In the process of writing <i>Plant Health Bill</i> superseding (<i>Disease Control Act</i>).	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Plant industries	Records relating to facilitating plant-based industry development in the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Property management	Records relating to managing land and working, storage or living space within premises, and of acquiring, constructing, fitting-out, managing, maintaining, protecting and disposing of property.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Publishing	Documents of various formats issued for sale or for general distribution internally or to the public.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Yes – Some	Yes – Some
Research farm management	Records relating to providing research and demonstration farm facilities for government, industry and the community for the implementation of best farming production systems and best management practices that underpin successful profitable and sustainable primary industry.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Yes – Some (Technical Information)	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Staff development	Records about encouraging staff to develop their skills and abilities (through activities, programs and events) to maximise their potential and increase their productivity.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Strategic management	Records relating to applying broad systematic management planning for the organisation.	No	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Sustainable business development	Records relating to delivering and managing the development of a prosperous primary industry business group through the sustainable management of natural resources and land.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.

Topic of information	Description of function	Includes personal information?	How stored	Section 11 (1)(b)(i) May be inspected under other Act?	Section 11 (1) (b)(ii) May be purchased?	Section 11 (1)(b)(iii) Distributed free of charge?
Sustainable land management	Records relating to promoting opportunities to diversify and develop primary industry within a framework of integrated programs for sustainable land management.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Sustainable pastoral development	Records relating to increasing the long-term productivity of the pastoral industry in a sustainable manner by providing relevant information to producers and conducting research into improving rangeland management and animal production; husbandry techniques; pastures; nutrition; animal welfare; animal behaviour and genetic improvement of cattle in the Northern Territory.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	Yes – Some (Technical Bulletins)	Yes – Extensive information is published in various forms.
Technology & telecommunications	Developing or acquiring, testing and implementing applications and databases to support the business needs of an organisation to capture, store, retrieve, transfer, communicate and disseminate information through automated systems.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	No
Uranium mining	The functions associated with the regulation and monitoring of uranium mining and processing operations within the Northern Territory, under both the <i>NT Mining Management Act (NT)</i> and Commonwealth Legislation.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	Yes – some information is published under Commonwealth and NT legislation.	No	Yes – Some information is published in various forms.
Veterinary regulation	The functions of registering veterinarians and veterinary specialists and regulating the provision of veterinary services in the Northern Territory. Includes determining applications for registration, promoting high standards of professional conduct, providing advice, issuing guidelines, exercising disciplinary powers, investigating complaints and prosecuting offences.	Yes	Electronic and Hardcopy	No	No	Yes – Some information is published in various forms.

Appendix 5

Grants and sponsorships 2008–09

Industry development grants

	\$ Expenditure
Amateur Fishing Association of the NT	170 000.00
NT Agriculture Association	100 000.00
NT Buffalo Industry Council	20 000.00
NT Horticulture Association	180 000.00
NT Livestock Exporters Association	63 000.00
Welding Technology Institute of Australia	35 000.00
NT Seafood Council	180 000.00
NT Guided Fishing Industry Association Inc	40 000.00
TOTAL	788 000.00
(Note: Reconciling adjustment item included in 2008–09 due to coding and timing difference.)	38 764.00

Regional and Indigenous development grants

	\$ Expenditure
Centrefarm Aboriginal Horticulture Ltd	50 000.00
Aboriginal Resource and Development Service	227 562.00
Tennant Creek Foundation	150 000.00
Enterprise Facilitation	65 000.00
SUB TOTAL	492 562.00

Indigenous Economic Development Program

	\$ Expenditure
Aboriginal Australia Art and Culture Centre	109 090.92
Darwin Regional CDEP Inc	109 090.91
SUB TOTAL	218 181.83

Indigenous Business Development Program

	\$ Expenditure
Amuwarnangka Cultural Tours	4 031.82
Anne Kngwarreye Aboriginal Artist and Designer	2 153.64
Aunty Pam's Café	29 999.99
Ayal Aboriginal Tours Kakadu	4 996.40
Batchelor Institute Student Representative Council	21 894.98
Berry Springs Caravan Park	29 999.99
Bevan Tjampitjimpa	14 727.42
Black Tank Apmwerre	7 882.59
Blue Bush Free Range Eggs	642.20
Born and Bred Yard Maintenance	14 908.18

Bradshaw and Timber Creek Contracting and Resource P/L	30 000.00
Bultjimarra Enterprise	7 231.64
CBUSH Mowing Service	16 006.36
CDE Capital Pty Ltd	24 000.00
Central Land Council	9 463.60
Centrefarm Aboriginal Horticulture Ltd	30 000.00
Crownart	1 418.41
Damien Djerrkura	6 000.00
Dee Dee's Treasures	4 267.04
Djerrkura Enterprises Pty Ltd	13 145.76
Gapaguchi	6 570.00
Gary Lang NT Dance Company	4 894.05
Gumatj Air Land and Sea Company Pty Ltd	18 000.00
Imanpa Community Council Incorporated	19 941.00
J Lew Fatt Kitchens	30 000.00
Jacky Anzac	30 000.00
Kakadu Culture Camp Pty Ltd	29 786.00
Kakadu Secrets	3 018.18
Kopp Constructions	20 990.47
Kurrparru Tours	10 444.97
Marinja Aboriginal Corporation	381.82
May Rosas Art Diganbal Designs Australia	14 045.45
Monstar Security	2 294.67
Murdudjuri Pty Ltd	3 965.66
Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation	25 318.26
Northern Territory Indigenous Tours	13 018.18
Pfennigs Automotive Repairs	19 435.50
Rainbow Valley Cultural Tours	2 602.73
Red Centre Panel and Paint	29 700.00
Ronald Lamilami	27 295.45
Solid Options Pty Ltd	17 531.00
Switched On Electrical	28 999.99
Sydney J Maloney Pty Ltd	20 090.75
Ten Totems	2 080.00
Thamarrurr Housing and Construction Pty Ltd	30 000.00
Thorny Arts	5 000.00
Tommy Crow	29 998.96
Triodia Consultancy	5 195.82
Uripmerre Tours	6 390.42
W & S Stokes Contracting Pty Ltd	10 277.75
Wagiman Bush Soap	4 482.62
Wanbi Aboriginal Corporation	23 500.00
Wurrgeng Cultural Walk	13 500.00
Yothu Yindi Foundation	60 000.00
SUB TOTAL	841 519.72

Regional Economic Development

	\$ Expenditure
Alice Springs Town Council	15 000.00
Battery Hill Mining Centre Inc	100 040.41
BIMA Wear Association	8 000.00
Burrthi Aboriginal Corporation	6 000.00
Central Land Council	30 000.00
Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory	40 000.00
Desert Knowledge CRC	20 000.00
Desert Knowledge Symposium 2008	10 418.18
Gumatj Association Inc	14 400.00
Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation	28 482.40
Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation	24 610.00
Northern Land Council	15 000.00
Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Inc	5 000.00
Power and Water Corporation	18 181.82
The Bodhi Bus	15 000.00
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Assoc. Inc	7 500.00
Yothu Yindi Foundation	20 000.00
SUB TOTAL	377 632.81
TOTAL	1 929 896.36

Indigenous marine ranger grants

	\$ Expenditure
Anindilyakwa Sea Rangers Program	60 000.00
Mardbalk Marine Ranger Program	60 000.00
Thamarrurr Sea Ranger Program	60 000.00
Tiwi Sea Ranger Program	100 500.00
Gumurr Marthakal Ranger Program	60 000.00
TOTAL	340 500.00

Resources Grants

	\$ Expenditure
Geophysics and Drilling Collaboration Program	397 757.08
Solar Cities Contribution	718 000.00
ARC Contribution	10 000.00
TOTAL	1 125 757.08

Drought grants

	\$ Expenditure
Ailbern Pty Ltd and J & P Kilgariff	20 000.00
Neutral Junction Proprietors	20 000.00
EL & SL Fogarty Family Trust	40 000.00
TOTAL	80 000.00

Miscellaneous grants

Exceptional Circumstances Drought NT

The Territory Government paid \$61 958.30 to eight pastoral producers as its contribution towards the Exceptional Circumstances Interest Rate Subsidy Scheme. An additional \$557 624.65 was paid to the same eight properties through the Australian Government, as its contribution towards the scheme.

\$ Expenditure

61 958.30

TOTAL

61 958.30

Sponsorship

Royal Agricultural Show Society

2 800.00

Australia Chinese Business Council

909.09

NT Cattlemen's Association

6 000.00

Institute of Public Administration Australia NT

1 000.00

NT Resources Council

2 000.00

NT Horticultural Association

2 727.27

Top End Fishing Festival

1 818.18

AMIA

4 000.00

Siemens Science Experience

954.55

Victoria Daly Shire Council

909.09

Ms Norma Higgins (ABARE conference)

1 000.00

NT Seafood Council (B Kownneck Women in Ag)

1 000.00

Casuarina Senior College

250.00

TOTAL

25 368.18

Scholarships

J Nowland – Earth Science/Geology

6 000.00

M Crowe – Earth Science/Geology

6 000.00

J Abbott-Wightman – Earth Science/Geology

9 000.00

R Meldrum – Plant Biosecurity

36 999.74

TOTAL

57 999.74

Capital grants

Renewable Remote Power Generation Program (RRPGP)

\$ Expenditure

6 928 488.00

A total of \$6.928 million in rebates and industry support for renewable energy projects was paid during 2008–09.

RRPGP Contribution for Solar Cities

1 637 196.00

TOTAL

8 565 684.00

Appendix 6

Pastoral Water Enhancement Scheme

	\$ Expenditure
Andobri Stock	10 000
Anningie Station	10 000
Avago Station	10 000
B A Lester	10 000
Cow Creek Station	10 000
Glen Arden Pastoral Company	10 000
Go West Cattle Enterprise	10 000
Kelly & Lucy Daley Family Trust	10 000
Kilgour Cattle Partners	10 000
L & S Nominees	10 000
Leeman Pty Ltd	10 000
Mt Ringwood Station	10 000
Middle Creek Station	10 000
Neutral Junction Proprietors	10 000
North Australian Pastoral Company	10 000
PR & JR Morphet	10 000
Riveren Nominees Pty Ltd	20 000
Ruby Downs Pastoral Co	10 000
RW & PG Murphy	10 000
Townsend Trading Trust	10 000
Warby & Warby	10 000
Total Expenditure	220 000