

DEPARTMENT OF  
**PRIMARY INDUSTRY  
AND RESOURCES**

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017/2018



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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# 2017-2018

## Annual Report

Our work – our people

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

**Dear Minister**

In accordance with the provisions of the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, I am pleased to present you with the annual report on the performance and achievements of the Department of Primary Industry and Resources for the year ended 30 June 2018.

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

- a) proper records of all transactions affecting the agency are kept and that employees under its control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, the Financial Management Regulations and 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.

In addition, the Chief Executive of the Department of Corporate and Information Services (DCIS) advised me on 4 July 2018 that, in relation to items a) and e), and to the best of her knowledge and belief, proper records are kept of transactions undertaken by DCIS on behalf of the department, and the employees under her control observe the provisions of the *Financial Management Act*, the Financial Management Regulations and Treasurer's Directions. The DCIS Chief Executive also advised that the Auditor General had conducted compliance audits during the year to provide audit assurance that DCIS had maintained appropriate controls and record keeping practices at a high level during 2017-2018.

**Yours sincerely**



**ALISTER TRIER**  
Chief Executive  
28 September 2018



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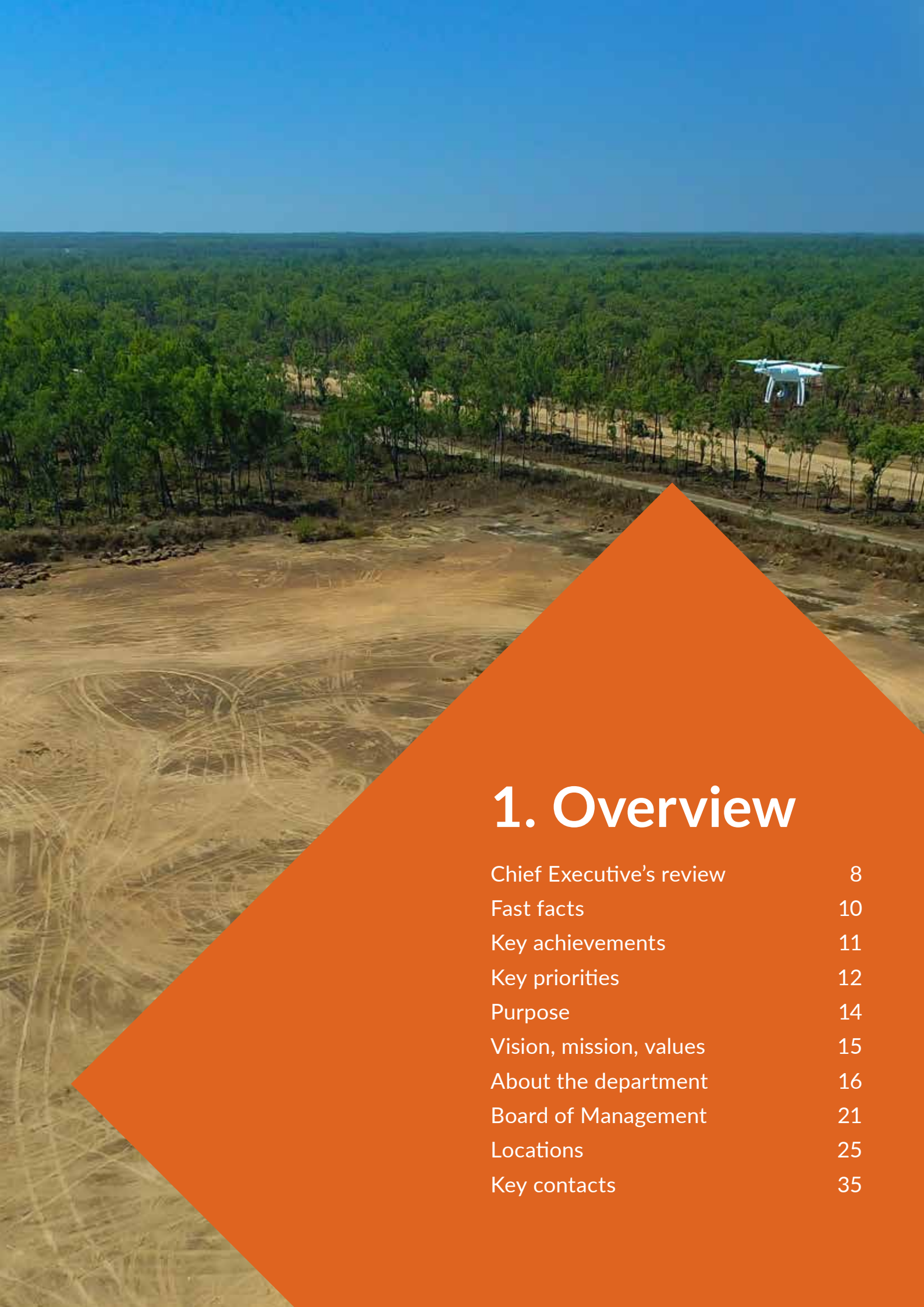


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## GLOSSARY

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



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# Chief Executive's review

The Northern Territory's primary industries and resources drive economic growth

**I am pleased to present the 2017-2018 Department of Primary Industry and Resources Annual Report.**

The department is delivering on driving economic growth through investment facilitation in the sustainable development of the Northern Territory's (NT) lands, coastal areas, agriculture, minerals and energy resources, through industry regulation and by encouraging our people to use their skills and innovation to achieve best practice in the safest way.

To support our mandate, during 2017-2018 we consulted with industry, stakeholders and staff to develop our new Strategic Plan 2018-2022, outlining our vision and five major goals, along with strategic actions and outcomes to guide our work. The strategic plan provides us with the opportunity to refine our processes, collaborate and strengthen our relationships, embrace new technology and focus on evolution, innovation and efficiency to facilitate the sustainable growth of our primary industries and resources. It illustrates our commitment and focus on stakeholder engagement, diversity, regulation and technology, and in recognising our people are key to achieving our goals.

This year has also seen a major focus on enhancing our iconic reputation as a great place for recreational fishing and on contemporary biosecurity regulation to ensure market confidence. The Territory has the natural advantage of a clean, safe image and proximity to important markets, and we need to make the most of that.



The department also has an integral regulation role across food safety, animal welfare, agricultural and veterinary chemicals, administration of minerals and energy tenure, regulation of mineral and energy projects and in the capture and assessment of the geology of the NT.

Importantly, the department plays a significant role in working with our industry sectors in developing markets and attracting investment. Our focus has primarily been Asia and North America, with solid and strategic relationships to showcase trade and investment opportunities across primary industry, fisheries and resources sectors in the Northern Territory.

We have focussed our efforts over the past year on implementing priority commitments of government and key department initiatives including:

- the appointment of six marine rangers as the Territory's first fisheries inspectors with Fisheries Inspector Class 1 powers after completing their Certificate II in Fisheries Compliance



- continued support of Tennant Creek as a service and supply hub was reinforced by Emmerson's Edna Beryl Gold Mine opening in September 2017, with a life expectancy of up to two years and the potential to be the highest-grade gold mine in Australia, plus Battery Hill's gold stamp battery which saw the first gold poured in December 2017 following substantial refurbishments
- collaborative, professional and efficient emergency response execution in the operational response to the Daly River floods in January and February 2017
- signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to facilitate agribusiness trade and investment
- supporting the expansion of trial farms in remote Aboriginal communities through the production of 90 000 blacklip oyster spat
- continuation of Redbank Mine rehabilitation, including a fish survey, cattle exclusion fence construction and continued stakeholder and Traditional Owner engagement
- the development of a joint biosecurity response strategy to ensure a nationally consistent response to the citrus canker outbreak
- appointment of an internal taskforce to lead the regulatory reform of the *Petroleum Act*, following government's 17 April 2018 announcement to lift the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and accept all of the 135 recommendations delivered through the inquiry report
- releasing the Agribusiness Potential of the Big Rivers Region to promote the potential for new and expanded crops and agricultural development in the Katherine and Big Rivers regions
- mineral lease and a mining authorisation to the Gulkula Mining Company, the first Australian mine owned and operated by Traditional Owners on country

- continued international partnerships in East Kalimantan as part of the Cattle Breeder project
- completion of the Precision Pastoral Management Tools project
- facilitating Territory mango exports to the United States.

The department's diversity is captured in the projects we manage, the research we undertake, the industries we support and in our workforce, which operates across research farms, stations, science precincts and offices in different climatic zones throughout the Territory. We seek to recognise our people as one of our greatest strengths, capitalising on diversity, introducing preparedness activities to support an ageing workforce, building on retention and attraction programs and enhancing communication to support a transparent and shared pathway to achieve our goals.

Rapid advances in technology provide us with data-driven opportunities to support enhanced productivity and profitability outcomes for industry and in developing a greater understanding of our resource potential. As a department we are focused on developing our systems and business processes to be contemporary, digital, scalable and efficient to meet stakeholder expectations, now and into the future.

We have exciting opportunities ahead. I am confident that the clarity, direction and focus collaboratively developed and encapsulated in the new Strategic Plan 2018-2022 will support our department to drive economic growth across the Territory's primary industries and resources.



**Alister Trier**

Chief Executive

Department of Primary Industry and Resources

28 September 2018

# Fast facts

The department:



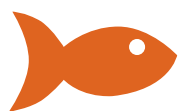
// had **456 staff** (full time equivalent) as at 30 June 2018

staff in **11 major locations** across the Territory as at 30 June 2018



// total expenditure of **\$90 million** with the majority funded through output appropriation from the Northern Territory Government (77 per cent) as at 30 June 2018

collected **\$12.8 million** income through the sales of goods and services (32 per cent), regulatory services (40 per cent) and other sources (28 per cent)



// appointed **six marine rangers** as fisheries **inspectors** under the *Fisheries Act*.

# Key achievements for 2017-2018

- Implemented a Harvest Strategy for the Mud Crab Fishery.
- Completed nine projects as part of the \$50 million Recreational Fishing Infrastructure program.
- Produced 90 000 blacklip oyster spat at the Darwin Aquaculture Centre to expand trial farms in remote Aboriginal communities.
- Darwin Aquaculture Centre produced and tagged 4500 golden snapper fingerlings to better understand survival of juveniles released into Darwin Harbour.
- The Aboriginal Fishing Mentor program supported the establishment of small-scale Aboriginal fishing businesses in remote communities.
- Stocked Manton Dam with 100 000 barramundi fingerlings and Palmerston Lakes with 1500 barramundi fingerlings.
- Six marine rangers appointed as fisheries inspectors under the *Fisheries Act*.
- Completed the Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus - Subsidised Interest Rate Scheme and associated leading edge research.
- Continued the ongoing partnership for the East Kalimantan Cattle Breeder project, and completed the Precision Pastoral Management Tools project.
- Developed ongoing export markets for mangoes, melons, barramundi and livestock and evaluated potential horticultural commodities for Central Australia.
- Facilitated livestock and agricultural produce movement to domestic and international markets.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to facilitate agribusiness trade and investment.
- Participated in the Northern Territory/Rizhao Economic Cooperation forum in Shandong Province, China.
- Delivered a 'Buying and Selling Bush Foods' workshop involving 35 Aboriginal women harvesters from Utopia and supported Aboriginal community forestry projects in the East Arnhem region.
- Completed The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessment of NT veterinary services.
- Delivered private cattle veterinary training on reproductive disease and calf loss in Alice Springs.
- Promoted exploration and mining investment opportunities in east Asia and north America.
- Collaborated with Geoscience Australia to assess resource potential of the Barkly region, with release of the Territory's largest government acquired seismic survey.
- Delivered pipeline licence approval for the Tanami Gas Pipeline and consent to construct.
- Continued Redbank Mine rehabilitation including a fish survey, cattle exclusion fence construction as well as stakeholder and Traditional Owner engagement through the Redbank Working Group.
- Undertook an export trial of sashimi (fresh) barramundi to restaurants in Osaka, Singapore and Sydney.
- Continued the commercialisation process for passionfruit and flowering ginger varieties developed by the department.
- Provided professional development of mining officers supporting the attainment of Certificate IV in Government Investigations by seven staff.



# Key priorities 2018-2019

- Continue to lead the delivery of the \$50 million Recreational Fishing Infrastructure program.
- Ensure sustainable development of the Territory's fisheries, implement key fishery harvest strategies and continue to introduce electronic logbook reporting.
- Facilitate fishing access agreements for waters overlying Aboriginal land, working in partnership with relevant land councils to increase Traditional Owner participation in decision making and management of recreational and commercial fishing opportunities.
- Engage with industry partners to bolster sustainable growth of the Territory's pastoral, horticultural, fishing and aquaculture industries, with a focus on developing Katherine as an inland port and logistics hub and increasing on the ground support to deliver greater 'on farm' research impact.
- Continue to investigate strategies to develop the bush food and bush medicine industry.
- Participate in the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia.
- Support increased primary production in regional areas, including Aboriginal business development, employment opportunities and capacity building and supporting the Indigenous Pastoral Program.
- Supporting the completion of upgrades by the NT Livestock Export Association to the Berrimah Export Yards.
- Attract increased research and development funding for the department's research farms.
- Support the economic development of agribusinesses by identifying new and diversified markets, and expanding high value trade to existing markets.
- Protect Territory primary industries from exotic pests and diseases to uphold market access.
- Grow the United States mango export program, develop a mango and melon export program targeting Singapore and Hong Kong and explore potential for investment into donkey farming in the Territory.
- Facilitate new investment and pastoral lease diversification.
- Implement projects identified in the Master Plan under the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries.
- Implement national priorities including:
  - finalise proof of freedom for the National Banana Freckle Eradication program
  - National Browsing Ant Eradication program
  - citrus canker response
  - progress the NT's commitment to the Aquatic Deed whilst negotiating the best outcomes for the Territory becoming a signatory.
- Collaborate and strengthen relationships with our stakeholders and the community.
- Use regulation of our industries and resources as a foundation for appropriate economic development including:
  - progress the review of the *Livestock Act*, including adoption of welfare, *Plant Health Act*, *Agricultural and veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act* and the *Veterinarians Act*
  - continue to progress the Animal Protection Bill 2018.
- Complete the delivery of the Northern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance (NABS) project through implementing 2018-2019 Workplan activities.
- Implement new brands database with movement of brands records from 1912-2018 to NT archives.
- Deliver private veterinary emergency animal disease training in Darwin.
- Develop the mechanisms to enable the transfer of environmental regulatory powers to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- Provide support to the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing and Implementation Division to implement recommendations from the inquiry's final report.

- Develop a whole-of-government energy policy that meets the challenges of energy security, energy equity and environmental sustainability.
- Support and grow the exploration sector through implementation of the Resourcing the Territory initiative.
- Promote the Territory as an exploration destination and attract investment into the resources sector from international markets with a key focus on Asian and North American markets.
- Support the development of Tennant Creek as a mining, minerals and gas services centre.
- Facilitate access to extractive resources for the construction of the Territory's infrastructure.
- Improve the transparency of all mining related regulatory activities.
- Continue to assess, prioritise and implement work at legacy sites throughout the Territory, including the program of safety works in the vicinity of Tennant Creek, in parallel with the development of the Legacy Strategic Plan.
- Support development opportunities for Aboriginal engagement in the mining industry.
- Engage in the development of a strategic approach to the closure of Rio Tinto Alcan Gove.
- Complete the review of Mining Management Plan requirements for the exploration, extractive and mining industries to improve regulatory efficiencies/regulation.
- Transform current Mines, Energy and Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) business process by adopting business intelligent systems that make customer interactions more efficient and effective.
- Deliver the Stage 2A Rum Jungle Rehabilitation project design.
- Support professional development of mining officers by providing access to training.

# Purpose

This Annual Report describes the department's performance in 2017-2018 against the framework of its key strategic documents and within its resources and approved budget. It has been prepared by the Chief Executive to meet reporting requirements under the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*, *Financial Management Act*, *Information Act* and subordinate legislation.

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

1. Overview
2. Corporate governance
3. Our performance
4. Our people
5. Stakeholder engagement
6. Financial performance

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

(a)	Functions and objectives	Sections 1 and 2
(b)	Legislation administered	Section 2
(c)	Organisation, including changes in employee data since 2016-2017	Sections 2, 3 and 4
(d)	Operations, initiatives and achievements	Sections 1 to 6
(e)	Financial planning and performance	Sections 2 and 6
(f)	Adherence to the public sector principles including measures taken, any failures, management training, staff development programs and work health and safety programs	Sections 2 and 4
(g)	Financial statements consistent with sections 11 and 13 of the <i>Financial Management Act</i>	Section 6

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

- Northern Territory Government's 2017-2018 Budget Paper No. 3
- Industry Development Plan 2013-2017
- Strategic Plan 2014-2017
- The department's Work Health and Safety Action Plan 2017-2018.

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



Feedback on this report is welcome and can be provided to [info.dpir@nt.gov.au](mailto:info.dpir@nt.gov.au)



# Vision, mission, values



Figure 1.1. Landscape shot of crystal clear water in a dam on a mining site

## VISION

### INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013-2017:

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

### STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2017:

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

## MISSION

### INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2013-2017:

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

### STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2017:

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

## VALUES

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

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

# About the department

The department brings together many of the key functions that drive economic development on Northern Territory (NT) lands, coastal areas and inland waterways, and its operations cover the whole of the Territory. Its industry sector areas are mines and energy, geoscience, fisheries and product integrity and primary industries.

These include regulatory and research functions related to:

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

The organisational chart illustrates the structure with more detailed information regarding the alignment of key functional responsibilities across the business areas outlined above.



Figure 1.2. A moment of mutual respect between a manager and his heifer

# DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES

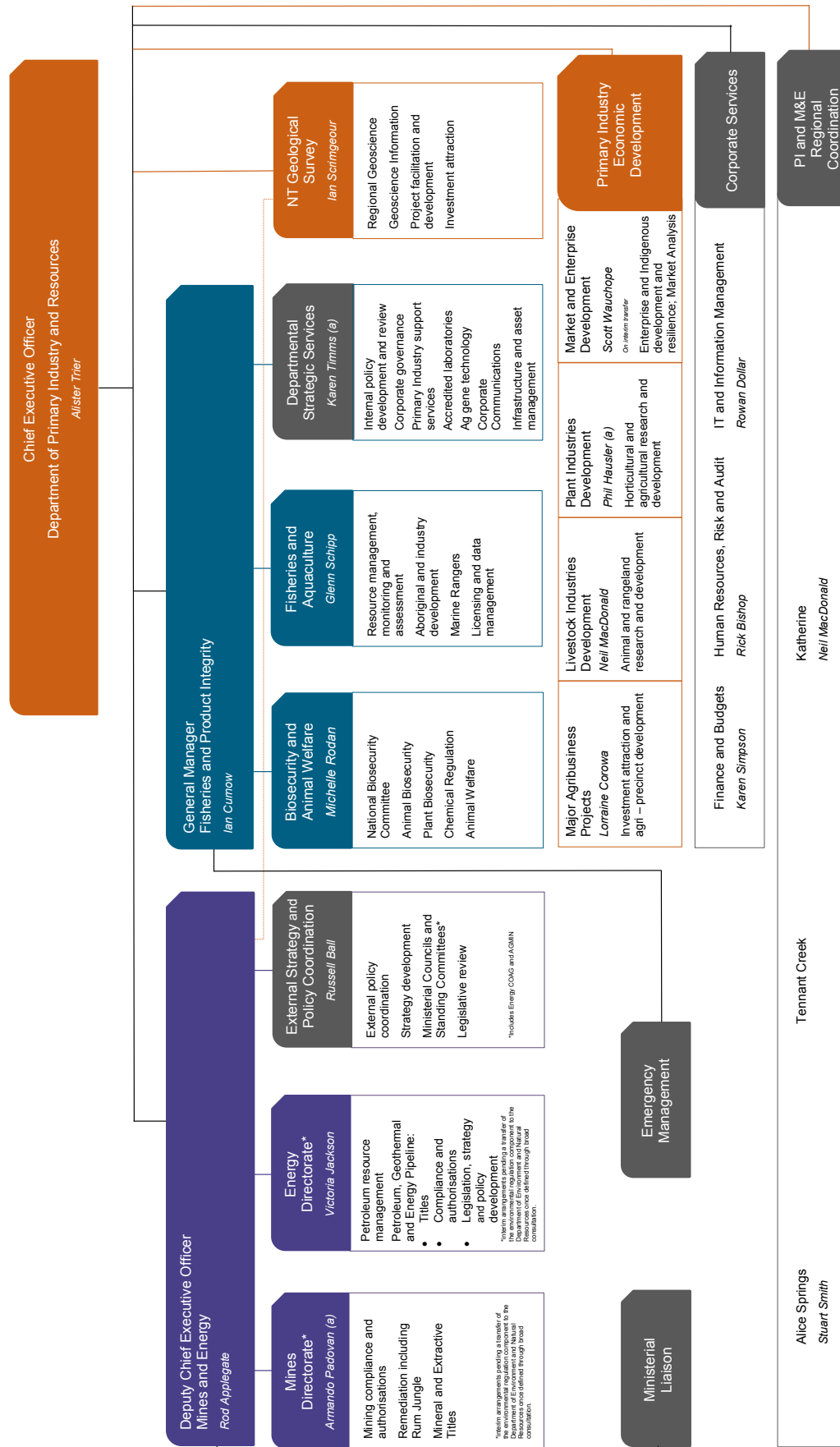


Figure 1.3. Organisational chart



**Table 1.1 Department of Primary Industry and Resources functional responsibilities**

## FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### Primary Industry Economic Development

Market and Enterprise Development	Enterprise development and resilience Market analysis and development Aboriginal economic development Research farms/stations
Plant Industries Development	Horticultural and agricultural research and development
Livestock Industries Development	Animal productivity and rangeland research and development
Major Economic Projects	Investment attraction and agri-precinct development
<b>Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS)</b>	Regional geoscience Geoscience information Project facilitation and development Investment attraction
<b>Shared Corporate Services and Regional Management</b>	Whole of department Regional coordination Financial services Human Resources, Risk and Audit IT and Information Management

### DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### Mines and Energy

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

## GENERAL MANAGER

**Fisheries and Product Integrity**

Biosecurity and Animal Welfare

National Biosecurity Committee

Animal biosecurity

Plant biosecurity

Chemical regulation

Animal welfare

Fisheries

Resource management, monitoring and assessment

Aboriginal and industry development

Marine rangers

Licensing and data management

**Departmental Strategic Services**

Whole of department

Internal policy development and review

Primary Industry support services

Accredited laboratories

Agricultural gene technology

Shared corporate communications

Shared infrastructure and asset services

**Emergency Management**

Whole of department

Emergency response capability and preparedness



Figure 1.4. One Korean company has committed to purchase 60 per cent of the vanadium from the Mount Peake project, located approximately 235km north of Alice Springs.

## Promoting the Northern Territory's mineral investment opportunities to the East Asian market

**The department actively markets the Northern Territory as a destination for investment at key international conferences to facilitate the growth of the resources sector.**

The East Asian market offers significant opportunities, with Japan and the Republic of Korea featuring annually in the top five of the Northern Territory's major export destinations.

Deputy Chief Executive Rod Applegate and Executive Director Geological Survey Ian Scrimgeour visited Japan and Korea in September 2017 to promote minerals investment opportunities in the Northern Territory and strengthen relationships with potential investors.

The department joined representatives from the Department of Business, Trade and Innovation at the Australia-Japan Joint Business Conference in Tokyo, and arranged business meetings with six major Japanese companies and a further four companies in Korea.

"Japan is the Territory's biggest trading partner, while South Korean companies have shown a strong appetite to get involved with resources and infrastructure projects in the NT," Mr Applegate said.

"Maintaining strong relationships in these markets is paramount to raising the Territory's profile as a trusted investment destination and source of minerals for the resource-hungry economies of East Asia."

Ian Scrimgeour noted the comprehensive value of the department's international presence.

"We met with one Korean company that has already committed to purchase 60 per cent of the vanadium from the Mount Peake project near Barrow Creek, and who

are planning to apply their technology at a processing plant in Darwin," Mr Scrimgeour said.

"We were able to demonstrate government support for the project and answer their questions about the regulatory processes necessary for the project to come into operation.

"We also maintained our relationships with government resources corporations in Japan and Korea, who are key partners in promoting mining and exploration opportunities in the NT to local companies.

"Potential Japanese and Korean investors continue to show a strong interest in exploring or developing projects for commodities such as copper, zinc, gold and lithium."



# Board of Management



**Alister Trier** | CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

Alister joined the Northern Territory (NT) Public Service in 2002, working in the field of Indigenous economic development. In 2009 Alister was appointed to the position of Executive Director Minerals and Energy with

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

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



**Rod Applegate** | DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MINES AND ENERGY

Rod joined DPIR in September 2016 and, as Deputy Chief Executive, is responsible for the mines and energy activities of the department. Over the past six years, Rod has also enjoyed roles as the Chief Executive of the former Departments of Lands, Planning and the Environment, and Land Resource Management.

He has extensive experience in land and water resource management, strategic planning, regulation of development, building and transport, and major project facilitation.

He has strong skills in negotiation, as well as policy analysis and formulation.

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



**Ian Curnow | GENERAL MANAGER, FISHERIES AND PRODUCT INTEGRITY**

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

Ian leads the department's Emergency Management branch including its responsibilities under the Territory Emergency Management Plan as the Biosecurity and Animal Welfare

Functional Group Leader in an emergency response and is the conduit between the Territory and Regional Emergency Committees and the department.

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



**Russell Ball | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL STRATEGY AND POLICY COORDINATION - MINES AND ENERGY**

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

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

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

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



### **Karen Timms** | ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC SERVICES

Karen has been with public sector based primary industry operations through her career over 30 years. Qualified in analytical chemistry and with a background in laboratory management, she started with the department in 2005 and in recent years has been Acting Executive Director for the division for several periods.

The division covers a range of functions that provide key services for the whole department. In particular, it has responsibility for infrastructure management which has included initiating and managing the Berrimah Farm redevelopment project.



### **Zoe Malone** | DIRECTOR, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Zoe joined the department as Director Corporate Communications in 2014. She provides strategic communications, marketing and media management for the department. Zoe's responsibilities include liaison with the Communications Review Committee in the Department of the Chief Minister, compliance with relevant accountability requirements, providing support to biosecurity incursions and emergency responses, and working closely with the Minister's office

regarding media and communications activities.

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

Zoe has undertaken placement as Executive Officer to the Chief Executive from May 2018 with Helena Bott as Acting Director Corporate Communications.





Figure 1.5. Michael Mungula and Doreen Collins from the Crocodile Island Rangers inspect banana plants on Milingimbi Island

## Departmental collaboration in Arnhem Land

**With the Northern Territory occupying 17 per cent of Australia's land mass but being home to only one per cent of its population, getting out to the more remote areas of the Territory to meet divisional objectives isn't always easy.**

To make the most of often scarce time and resources, different teams within the Department of Primary Industry and Resources sometimes work together to help each other achieve their divisions' outcomes.

In February, the Fisheries Division's Aboriginal Training Coordinator Leah Gardiner, and National Banana Freckle Eradication Program Surveillance Planning Coordinator Brian Hennessy travelled together to Ramingining and Milingimbi in Arnhem Land to assist each other with two very different projects from different divisions within the department.

Brian was undertaking banana plant inspections as part of phase 4 of the National Banana Freckle Eradication program and browsing ant surveillance as part of the ongoing surveillance

work since browsing ants were detected in Darwin in August 2015. Leah was working with local Indigenous ranger groups to identify future training opportunities and assess their patrol skills as part of the department's ranger development initiative.

Working together as required and individually at other times, Brian and Leah inspected banana plants in and around Ramingining with the help of the Wanga Djakamirr Rangers; Brian travelled to Milingimbi Island to deliver training material to the Crocodile Island Rangers, assess banana plants and check the local ant populations for any signs of Browsing Ants; Leah assessed the Wanga Djakamirr Sea Rangers' patrol skills; information about current training opportunities and Fisheries Compliance courses

was provided to the Indigenous rangers; and browsing ant surveillance was undertaken at the Ramingining barge site.

Embarking on the trip together meant Leah and Brian could assist each other with their core work when required, and build on the relationships each had already established with the Wanga Djakamirr and the Crocodile Island Rangers. It also presented a rare opportunity to better understand and appreciate some of the work that is undertaken by other sections of the department.

Brian and Leah both thank the Indigenous ranger groups in Ramingining and Milingimbi for their unlimited support in arranging the visit and assisting with the banana and ant checks, and their ongoing sea patrol work in the area.



# Locations



Figure 1.6. McArthur River at the Borroloolua bridge

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

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

The functions of our research facilities is to provide:

- secure farm land, machinery, livestock, and farm infrastructure required to conduct regional specific research, demonstration, and extension projects
- laboratories, workshops, and other facilities required for the delivery of diagnostic, research and extension services to industry and the community
- operational bases for the delivery of services to industry which include regulatory and biosecurity management, disease monitoring, fisheries, industry development and training programs, research and various regionally-relevant extension programs.

Staff across the Territory undertake activities related to regional geological programs, as well as maintaining information services and exploration drill core libraries.

Mining and petroleum compliance officers are responsible for the enforcement of all aspects of the *Mining Management Act* and *Petroleum Act* throughout the Northern Territory (NT). This includes assessing and regulating extractive and exploration and production operations, as well as active and remediated mining and petroleum sites.

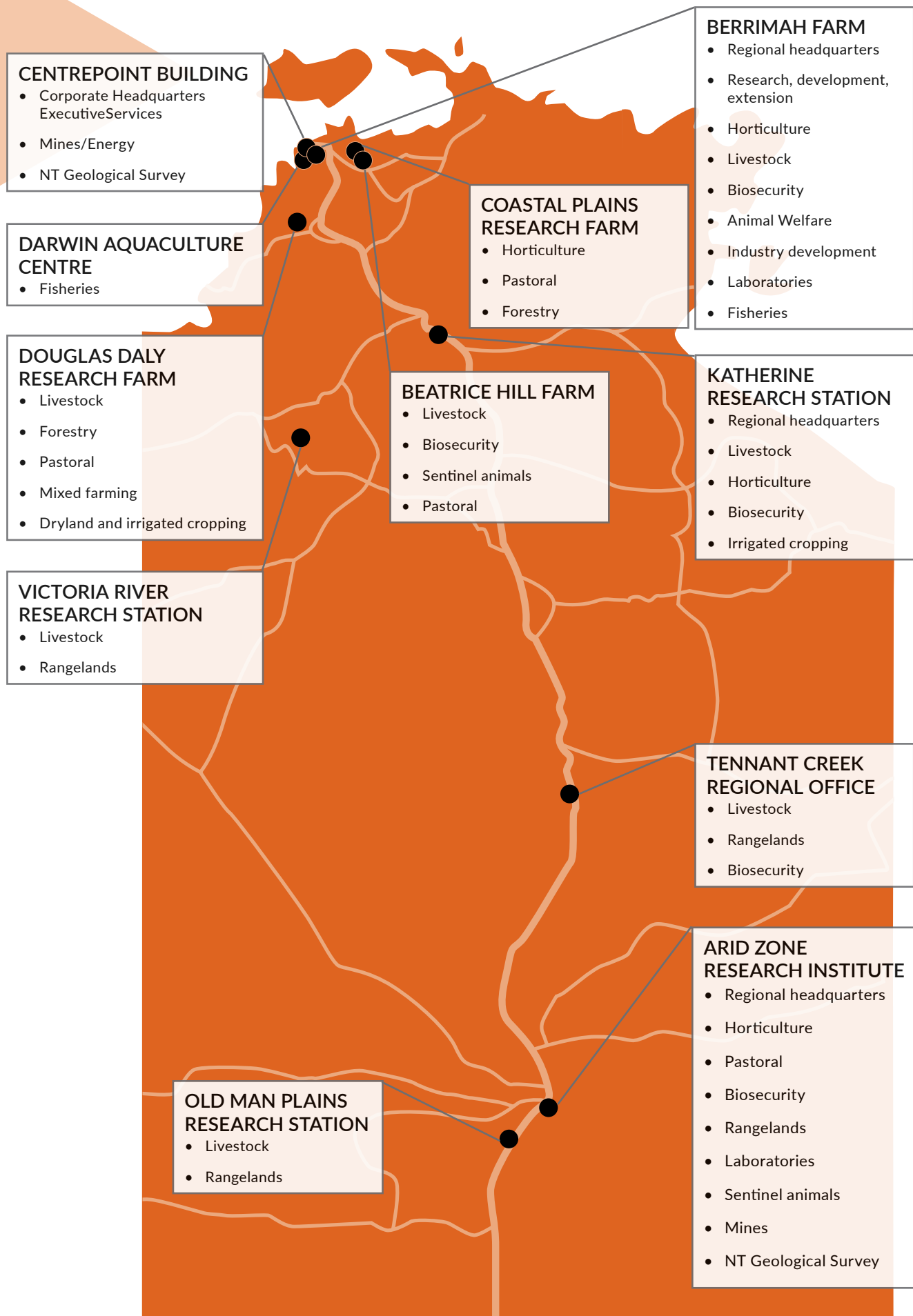


Figure 1.7. Map of locations

## Arid Zone Research Institute

**LOCATION: SOUTH STUART HIGHWAY, ALICE SPRINGS**

**Area: 256 hectares**

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

For the department, AZRI has a focus on research, development, extension, biosecurity and animal welfare for the pastoral and horticultural industries, and regulation and survey for mining in the south of the NT.



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

Apart from the office complexes, the institute houses cattle and horticultural farming infrastructure, an accredited water microbiology laboratory, a library, staff interim housing and vocational education classrooms. AZRI is home to an award-winning scheme to store recycled water from the town in an underground aquifer for agricultural reuse.

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

Research work on AZRI includes intensive horticultural trials and livestock research under the rangelands program. This year AZRI hosted a number of research programs in partnership with other organisations including:

- development of horticulture in central Australia research on leased sections of Ti Tree Research Farm and a section of the Arid Zone Research Institute
- seedless grape variety trial with CSIRO.

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

## Beatrice Hill Farm

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

**Area: 2 600 hectares**

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

The only buffalo research program in Australia is based at Beatrice Hill Farm. Under this program a Riverine Buffalo breeding herd has been developed through a cross-breeding program using imported Riverine animals from the United States and an artificial insemination program using imported Italian Riverine dairy buffalo semen. For the first time since the Riverine herd's establishment, the herd number exceeded the target level in 2016.

With record live export numbers achieved for buffalo during the year, a renewed interest has been stimulated in the research findings from this herd.



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

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

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

## Berrimah Farm

**LOCATION: MAKAGON ROAD, BERRIMAH**

**Area: 6.3 hectares**

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

Berrimah Farm is currently undergoing substantial redevelopment to create new facilities to assist with the department's and industry needs now and into the future. Berrimah Farm, originally 175 hectares, has a strong history of being at the forefront of research and development for the primary industry sectors. The land surrounding the existing footprint has been transferred to Halikos Property Development for the creation of the NorthCrest residential precinct.

The remaining portion of the land, 6.3 hectares, will be transformed into a modern purpose built facility to accommodate the Department of Primary Industry and Resources' world leading science and development teams. Berrimah Farm will be known as the Berrimah Farm Science Precinct.

A new molecular biology laboratory is progressing through a rigorous design process assisted by the highly qualified staff from the department.



Figure 1.9. Cattle at Berrimah Farm

This state of the art facility will be modular in design and will ensure the facility can grow with industry in the decades to come.

A new field laboratory and staff accommodation facility will commence late in 2018 and will house the Livestock Industry Development and Plant Industry Development branches. This facility will create a functional and practical location for researchers to continue the high quality outputs industry requires to grow agriculture over the coming years.



The John England Building has undergone a significant facelift and now houses the Industry Development branch and Biosecurity and Animal Welfare Division. This open plan environment has break out areas and meeting rooms that offer modern, comfortable work areas. New chemical storage and climate controlled store rooms are currently under construction along with an upgrade to essential services on site.

The total project is worth in excess of \$30 million, the single largest investment in the department's infrastructure in history and, when finished, this will be a world-class science precinct.

The redevelopment of Berrimah Farm has provided the opportunity to establish a purpose built building, sheds and office accommodation for the Fisheries Division at the Berrimah Industrial Park. The new facility is close to completion and the entire Fisheries Division will transition to this new facility in November 2018.

The important work that the department currently undertakes was paramount in the redevelopment and through the dedication and commitment of the scientific staff, minimal disruptions to these works has resulted. Some of the key research and monitoring programs have been moved to other departmental facilities; most notably the sentinel animals for the National Arbovirus Monitoring program have moved to Beatrice Hill and the passionfruit variety trials have been relocated to Coastal Plains.

The department is committed to delivering this new facility in 2019 and to being open and transparent with all stakeholders throughout this development. The department is currently exploring opportunities for collaboration and possible cohabitation of these facilities in the future.

### Coastal Plains Research Farm

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

**Area: 140 hectares**

Coastal Plains Research Farm is the principal horticultural research farm in the Darwin Region involved in the evaluation of new varieties of mangoes, rambutans, passionfruit, jackfruit and other tropical fruits. It is the only testing facility in Australia for Panama Disease Tropical Race 4 that affects bananas. In addition to being the site for tropical horticultural research, it plays a collaborative role in the national mango breeding program and for testing the potential of new tropical horticultural crops.

This year the Coastal Plains Research Farm hosted a number of research programs:

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project - a demonstration site that investigates appropriate IPM programs for Top End trellis vegetable crops in conjunction with the NT Farmers Association.
- Integrated Tropical Passionfruit Production systems – looking to extend passionfruit vine life and selection of improved clones.



Figure 1.10. Arthur Cameron talking about tropical grasses.

- Banana Panama Disease Tropical Race 4 (TR4) disease management - looking at banana varieties that may be tolerant or resistant to TR4.
- Mango Rootstock and Scion trial – evaluating scion material from the National Mango Breeding program trial.
- Mango trial - accounting of nitrogen uptake, cycling and mobilisation at different growth stages.

- Rambutan program - high density clonal evaluation and germplasm collection.
- Jackfruit program - seedling selection block for improved quality and yield, and irradiated seed block for potential seedless fruit.
- Cool season production of tropical grasses – evaluating fodder crops grown under irrigation during the Top End dry season.
- Plantation forestry with African mahogany – genetic selection trial, part of a series of trials on NT Government research farms.

## Darwin Aquaculture Centre

**LOCATION: CHANNEL ISLAND, DARWIN HARBOUR**

**Area: 2.9 hectares**

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

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

A key focus in recent years has been the research and development of species appropriate for culture in remote coastal Aboriginal communities. Species such as tropical rock oysters, giant clams and sea cucumbers may all be suitable for the establishment of small-scale, community-based businesses. This work has created partnerships between remote communities, local industry and international research organisations.

## Douglas Daly Research Farm

**LOCATION: JUNGAWA ROAD, DOUGLAS DALY REGION**

**Area: 3100 hectares**

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

The farm provides research, development and extension services to pastoral and mixed



Figure 1.11. Quinoa crop

farming producers in the Katherine, Daly and Top End regions and is a focal point for regional development.

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

This year a number of research programs were underway including:

- a comparison of grazing methods (ranging from cell grazing to continuous set stocked), to evaluate the impacts on animal performance, pasture growth and soil carbon levels
- a study to determine whether insecticidal ear tags are effective in preventing three day sickness (bovine ephemeral fever)
- a project to identify and evaluate genotype fertility traits in Brahman heifers with the aim of increasing the accuracy of estimated breeding values (which will improve the rate of genetic progress through selection)
- participation in a selection program for high fertility Brahmans - young bulls are grown out on site and evaluated as part of the wider NT Government program
- plantation forestry with African mahogany - genetic selection trial, part of a series of trials on NT Government research farms.

### Katherine Research Station

**LOCATION: STUART HIGHWAY, KATHERINE**

**Area: 1260 hectares**

The Katherine Research Station is the department's headquarters for delivering services in the region including office accommodation, laboratories, glass houses, cool rooms, animal housing, animal handling facilities and other farm infrastructure including:

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

The Katherine region has very good prospects for future primary industry development as soils and rainfall are suitable for intensification of cattle production as well as irrigated cropping and horticulture. The region is also well placed to supply emerging Asian markets.

A successful online auction was held at Katherine Research Station this year for department-bred select Brahman bulls. Eighty bulls were sold online at an average price of \$2 940 and a high price of

\$7000. A successful select Braham female sale also took place.

During 2017-2018 the research station also hosted several on-farm events, workshops and meetings including:

- Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA): Nutrition EDGE workshops
- weaner nutrition and management workshop
- MLA BeefUp Forum
- Heytesbury Pastoral Company Head Stockman course
- grazing fundamentals workshop
- NT Farmers Association farm tours
- wet-season crop and hay field walk
- Bushfires NT firefighting courses
- Katherine Pastoral Industry Advisory Committee meetings
- NT Cattlemen's Association meeting.

The research station also hosted research programs including:

- cassava crops for use as an intensive cattle feed

- biosecurity sentinel herd for early disease detection
- Senepol cross breeding trial using leased paddocks on nearby Manbulloo Station
- National Mango Breeding program - rootstock/scion trial
- mango trial – accounting of nitrogen uptake, cycling and mobilisation at different growth stages
- mango flowering and physiology research on local producers' farms
- plantation forestry with African mahogany – genetic selection trial, part of a series of trials on NT Government research farms
- banana freckle: deflasking and hardening-off of tissue cultured disease free plants for the NT banana industry and general community
- agricultural diversification crop trials – maize, peanut, soybean, rice, burgundy bean and cavalcade

- new crop and crop variety trials – peanuts, lucerne, hemp, chickpea and quinoa.



**Katherine Research Station's online auction sold 80 bulls online at an average price of \$2 940 and a high price of \$7 000**

## Old Man Plains Research Station

**LOCATION: SOUTH STUART HIGHWAY, ALICE SPRINGS**

**Area: 52 200 hectares**

Old Man Plains Research Station comprises rangelands, cattle and research facilities for development and extension programs to support the Central Australian pastoral industry. This provides the pastoral industry in arid areas with a sound base to facilitate increased production and long-term viability of the industry while also preserving the health and diversity of rangeland ecosystems. As the only research station in the arid zone, the research findings are representative of a large part of the Australian outback and are of national significance.

Old Man Plains Research Station also supports the activities of the Indigenous Pastoral Program and other ongoing Central Australian research programs.

Research projects at Old Man Plains for 2017-2018 included:

- investigating the latest quality grazing strategy research recommendations for spelling and stocking rates on the consistent supply of premium beef in Central Australia
- investigating and evaluating practical management options for improving the consistency of high premium abattoir grade and Meat Standards Australia compliance from Central Australian steers
- improving breeder herd efficiency in the arid region with further investigation and fieldwork to provide genetic-based profiles on the arid rangelands for 'adapted, productive cows' and balanced genetics to produce progeny with good meat quality and good fertility.



## Paspalis Centrepont Building

### LOCATION: DARWIN CITY

Staff from across several divisions are centrally located in the Paspalis Centrepont Building in the Smith Street Mall, incorporating Mines, Energy, Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) and Strategic Services Division staff.

NTGS provides high quality geoscientific information to support exploration of the Territory's mineral and petroleum resources. The Mines and Energy divisions regulate mining and petroleum activities, respectively, to ensure the responsible



Figure 1.12. Frances Perrett and Andrew Scott reviewing a Mine Management Plan

development of the Territory's resources. Staff conduct inspections and audits to ensure best practice in environmental management and reduction of environmental impacts arising from exploration and development activities.

## Core Library, Darwin

### LOCATION: FARRELL CRESCENT, DARWIN

The department has Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) staff based at the Darwin Core sampling of drill cores. Access to this collection and subsequent reporting information supports testing for new exploration activities and in formulating drilling programs and exploration strategies within the Territory. The Core Library at Winnellie holds samples from 2200 different drill holes located across the Top End.

It also houses the HyLogger equipment for assessing the mineral content of samples via hyperspectral analysis. NTGS field vehicles and equipment are based in the facility and Core Library staff also provide remote technical support for NTGS geologists during the field season. Mining

Library located in Winnellie. The Core Library gives explorers and researchers essential archival and reference services by providing viewing and compliance staff in the Environmental Monitoring unit and the Mertens lab truck are also based at the complex.



Figure 1.13. Farrell Crescent Core Library

## Core Library, Alice Springs

### LOCATION: POWER STREET, ALICE SPRINGS

The Core Library located in Alice Springs retains drill core samples from mineral and petroleum exploration throughout Central Australia.

Containing over 500km of core samples, the Core Library gives explorers and researchers access to view and sample drill cores.

## Tennant Creek regional office

### LOCATION: TENNANT CREEK

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

status as well as training of stock camp staff and managers.

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

## Victoria River Research Station

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

Area: 31 400 hectares

The Victoria River Research Station is also known as Kidman Springs and is located in the Victoria River District. This research facility runs approximately 700 breeder cattle as a typical breeding operation. Most progeny are transported to the Douglas Daly Research Farm after weaning where they are grown out in other trials and either sold or used as replacement breeders.

The station is nationally significant as a semi arid tropical rangeland and cattle production research site with research programs for 2017-2018 including:

- the internationally significant Shruburn fire project - established in 1993 it is the only one of its kind on grazed savannas to assess the impact of fire management on woody vegetation cover and pasture conditions
- long-term pasture measurements to monitor land condition change and to test carrying capacity recommendations for land types found in the Victoria River district
- the Kidman Springs Best Bet Management System - the program has been instrumental in driving productivity gains in northern cattle production systems over the last 27 years

- investigating phosphorus nutrition in tropical cattle and improved fertility in Brahman cattle
- a study to determine and quantify the impact of phosphorus (P) supplementation on the reproductive performance of cattle on P deficient soils
- maintenance of the main breeder herd of the high fertility-selected Brahmans - heifers are transferred to Douglas Daly Research Farm where they are used in studies on genomics before returning to Victoria River Research Station as mature cows. The fertility of this herd is also compared to that of commercial Brahmans at the research station.



The Kidman Springs  
Best Bet Management  
System has been driving  
productivity gains in  
northern cattle  
production systems  
over the last 27 years.

# Key contacts

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Phone: +61 8 8988 1612

## BERRIMAH FARM / DARWIN REGIONAL OFFICE

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Figure 1.14. Gulkula Mine employees on site

## Gulkula Mine provides opportunities

**The Gulkula Mining Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Gumatj Corporation Ltd, began bauxite mining operations in 2017 on the Dhupuma Plateau 30km south of Nhulunbuy. The Gumatj people are the Traditional Owners of the land that the mineral lease has been granted over, and the Gulkula Mine is the first Indigenous owned and operated bauxite mine.**

The company plans to progressively expand its mining operations to produce up to 500 000 tonnes of bauxite per year within five years. Under a sales agreement signed in August 2017, the bauxite is purchased by Rio Tinto's Gove operation, which then ships it to customers.

The Gulkula Mine complements the Gulkula Regional Training Centre, which was established in 2016 by the Gumatj Corporation with funding contributions from Rio Tinto and the Australian and Northern Territory Governments. The training centre offers culturally relevant work readiness training to Yolngu from across the East Arnhem region.

A key element of the training centre is to provide real mine operational experience through

accredited training whilst ensuring that trainees accrue significant experience and hours on key mining plant and machinery.

This project has opened up opportunities for the Aboriginal people of the region for employment not only at the Gulkula Mine, but also Rio Tinto's Gove Operations.

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources supports greater autonomy over mining on Aboriginal land, bringing benefits to the Traditional Owners of the land being mined.

The project underwent thorough environmental assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act* prior to being authorised under the *Mining Management Act*.





## 2. Corporate governance

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# Fast facts



executive support for **seven** statutory bodies

**294 intranet** news items **published**



**284** veterinary surgeons **registered** as at June 2018

over **1300** subscribers to **newsletters**



over **7500** Facebook followers

# Governance model

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



\*Documents replaced by Strategic Plan 2018-2022

Figure 2.1. Corporate Governance Framework – elements described

# Operating framework

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



Figure 2.2. Overarching operating framework



## Legislation

Under the Administrative Arrangements Order, the department's

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

**Table 2.1. Statutory responsibilities**

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

## Statutory bodies

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

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

A review of the roles and responsibilities of the statutory bodies was initiated following election of the new government, amalgamation of departments and pending regulatory reviews. The Mining Advisory Committee is still under review.

### Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

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

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

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

- Animal Welfare Organisation Incorporated in the NT - RSPCA Northern Territory (NT) Inc
- Australian Veterinary Association Ltd
- Local Government Association of the NT
- NT Cattlemen's Association Inc
- Charles Darwin University
- Parks and Wildlife Commission NT
- Pet Industry Association of Australia
- Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC)

### Fisheries Management Advisory Committees

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

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

There are currently four such committees: the Mud Crab Fishery Management Advisory Committee (MCFMAC), the Offshore Snapper Fishery Management Advisory Committee (OSFMAC), the Coastal Line Fishery Management Advisory Committee (CLFMAC) and the Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee (RFAC).

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

RFAC provides advice to the Minister on key matters of importance to recreational fishing, including providing advice on the governments \$50 million commitment to recreational fishing infrastructure.

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

### Mining Advisory Committee

The Mining Advisory Committee, also known as the statutory Mining Board is established under part six of the *Mining Management Act*. Members are appointed for their individual skills and knowledge of mining or related industries to provide strategic advice to the Minister on mining issues.

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

### NT Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund Advisory Committee

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

### Veterinary Board of the NT

The Veterinary Board of the NT was established under Part 2 of the *Veterinarians Act*.

The board administers the *Veterinarians Act*, regulations and the code of conduct. The Act charges the Board with responsibility for the registration of appropriately qualified persons as veterinary surgeons and veterinary specialists, enabling them to practice veterinary surgery in the Territory.

The functions of the board are:

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

The board held four meetings during 2017-2018. Elections to the board resulted in one new veterinarian member. The board revised two guidelines, registered 284 veterinarians and received three complaints. Following due process, all three complaints were dismissed.

## Government strategies and commitments

The department's corporate strategy and planning were aligned to key government strategies and

commitments, consistent with the policy agenda for Developing Northern Australia.

## Budget papers

The Treasurer hands down the budget annually which sets out the fiscal and economic outlook for the year, sets government priorities and establishes budgets. Regional highlights are also published annually to reflect the delivery of programs and services in the regional areas of the NT.

The department's operational groups to drive outcomes and key deliverables for 2017-2018 were:

**Primary Industry Development** – to support the increased economic growth and viability of existing and emerging primary industries.

**Fisheries and Product Integrity** – to protect the reputation and integrity of the Territory as a producer of quality primary produce.

**Resource Industry Development** – to support the exploration and development of the Territory's mineral and energy resources by providing quality information and advice to national and international stakeholders.

**Mining Services** – to facilitate project development through efficient and effective administration of laws regulating mineral titles and activities associated with mineral exploration, mining and production of mineral products.

**Energy Services** – to facilitate project development through efficient administration of petroleum titles and assessment of petroleum exploration applications.

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

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

## Sector-wide policies, protocols, codes, standards, guidelines

The department operates within the sector-wide framework of policies, protocols, codes of practice, standards and guidelines. Some examples are Treasurer's Directions, employment instructions

and the code of conduct. Any documents prepared by the department were consistent with these overarching documents.



# Corporate strategy and planning

## Strategy documents

The department operated under several strategic and corporate planning documents that have been guiding the department since combining in 2016. These planning documents continued to align the department's operations with the Northern Territory (NT) Government's overarching strategies, policy agenda for Developing Northern Australia and resource allocation through output groups in Budget Paper No. 3 throughout 2017-2018.

These documents include:

- **Corporate Plan 2013-2017** – which describes the principles underpinning the department's work, its people and how the department will deliver government priorities.
- **Industry Development Plan 2013-2017** and **Strategic Plan 2014-2017** – which outlines the objectives, key strategies and key actions that will result in the delivery of outcomes to industry clients. Both plans were developed in partnership with stakeholders.
- The **People Plan 2014-2017** – which focuses on the maintenance and development of people capabilities and capacities to meet objectives.

- The **Work Health and Safety (WHS) Management System** - is the key WHS document, which together with other governance documents, establishes the department's approach to managing work health and safety, which is being updated to encompass the whole agency structure.

Extensive consultation, collaboration and planning to develop the new five-year strategic plan commenced in October 2017 and a consultation draft was circulated for staff feedback in November 2017. The development process was driven by a subcommittee of representatives from across the department leading to the release of the Strategic Plan 2018-2022 in March 2018.

Outputs delivered during 2017-2018 under the strategies in the Industry Development Plan and aligning with the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan are reported in Section 3: Performance Reporting. Actions delivered under the People Plan are reported throughout Section 4: Our people and in Appendix 1.

## Work health and safety planning

The department is committed to safety and a safe working environment by investing in systems that manage risk and promote an enhanced health and safety culture.

We are committed to improved systems and leadership to prevent work-related injuries, illnesses and unsafe work practices. To maintain an effective health, safety and risk assessment framework the department has the following:

WHS policy	Outlining the shared commitment to a safe and healthy working environment.
WHS management system	Designed as the central element in the WHS planning system and as a useful 'how to' guide for WHS management in the department.
WHS strategic plan	Setting overall goals and objectives.
WHS action plan	Details the responsibilities and actions to align with strategic outcomes.
Workplace hazard inspection checklist	Form – for systematic identification and assessment of workplace hazards.
Divisional WHS operational risk register template with safety manual format	Template - summarising identified risks, risk analysis and evaluation, control descriptions and evaluations, post control analysis and evaluations and timelines.
Divisional WHS quarterly action plan	Form for planning and addressing mandatory and specific quarterly actions to be carried out by the divisions.
Divisional WHS quarterly report	Form – for reporting on actions completed and not completed by the divisions each quarter.
Injury/incident notification form	Form – for reporting injuries/incident and assessing risk.

The work of the WHS Steering Committee is described under leadership and control, later in this section.

## Management of risk

### APPROACH TO RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management supports the identification of strategic and operational threats to the department's objectives and enables the development of strategies to mitigate adverse consequences.

The department has established a Risk Management Policy to guide implementation of consistent risk management practices.

The department has a risk management plan based on the Australian Standard on Risk Management (AS/NZS ISO 31000-2009).

It provides instructions to staff for the implementation of consistent risk management practices throughout the department.

During the risk assessment process, the department will:

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

### Strategic Business Risk Register review

The department's Strategic Business Risk Register identifies the department's top-level risks in meeting the Industry Development Plan, Corporate Plan, People Plan, Strategic Plan and Budget Paper No. 3.

Work commenced on a high level organisational restructure in March 2018 which proposed changes to the department's divisional leadership, reporting lines and changes to the future membership of the Board of Management. During 2018-2019 work to be undertaken by the Business Improvement and Risk Management Committee (BIRMC) in the context of the Strategic Plan 2018-2022, the new departmental structure and Budget Paper No. 3.

### Risk mitigation - insurance and insurable risk

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

### Insurance

The purchase of commercial insurance also serves to mitigate risk. The department purchases commercial insurance for overseas travel and volunteers covering public liability property damage.

A summary of the department's insurance arrangements, costs and value of claims for 2017-2018 are listed below.

**Table 2.2. Insurance costs 2014-2015 to 2017-2018**

Insurance premium summary	2014-2015*	2015-2016*	2016-2017	2017-2018
Overseas travel	\$2493	\$2977	\$1543	\$1416
Volunteer**	\$1339	\$5804	\$0	\$0
Personal	\$780	\$0	\$0	\$0
Motor vehicle+	\$0	\$6142	\$5858	\$6038
Workers compensation ++	-	-	-	\$280 000

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

\*\* 2015-2016 includes a prepayment of \$2 238 for 2016-2017

+ 2015-2016 includes motor vehicle insurance for trailers under the National Banana Freckle Eradication program and 2014-2015 premium expensed in 2013-2014 – no premium expensed in 2014-2015

++ 2017-2018 agency contribution to Northern Territory Public Service Workers Compensation Scheme

### Insurable risk

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

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

Risk to people and risk of asset failure were considered significant to warrant commercial insurance investment.

## Workers compensation

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

**Table 2.3. Workers compensation summary**

Workers compensation	2014-2015*	2015-2016*	2016-2017	2017-2018^
Total costs	\$227 342	\$587 817	\$135 506	\$252 670
WHS incidents without claim status	43	72	55	58
WHS incidents with claim status	9	6	6**	2
Claims per incidents (%)	17	8	8	3

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

\*\* 2017 data corrected to previously reported figure

^ Combined data from WHS002 Claim Costs Summary, Gallagher Bassett and settlements

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

Mitigation strategies for the workers compensation insurable risk category include:

- maintaining a comprehensive WHS management system including an annual action plan and communications strategy
- a comprehensive system of WHS related policies and procedures
- a whole-of-department emergency management function and emergency management procedures
- cyclone planning procedures
- an employee assistance program allowing up to three free visits per year to a contracted counselling service

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

## Property, assets and vehicles

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

**Table 2.4. Property and assets summary**

Property and assets	2014-2015*	2015-2016*	2016-2017	2017-2018
Total costs	\$0	\$84 183	\$49 228	\$5 656
New claims - vehicles and fixed incidents	7	32	22	19

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



Mitigation strategies for property and asset insurable risks include:

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

### Indemnities

An indemnity is an undertaking to compensate, protect or insure another person or entity against future financial loss, damage or liability.

Indemnities can be issued in place of buying commercial insurance. Mitigation strategies and processes to offset this insurable risk include:

- an internal procedure, guidelines and checklists to assist staff to determine the suitability of entering into funding agreements and contracts containing indemnity clauses
- removal of clauses imposing an indemnity where possible
- legal review of contracts containing indemnity clauses
- a risk assessment of any indemnity provisions being relied on
- application of WHS processes, as applicable
- procedures and practices that promote compliance with all applicable legislation, such as the *Information Act*
- formal adoption of the indemnity process in Treasurer's direction G2.5 Guarantees and Indemnities.

### Public liability

Insurable risk relates to liability owed to a third party which suffers loss or damage as a result of the department's activities. Mitigation strategies and processes include:

- scheduled maintenance programs for properties, including tree and other vegetation management, daily monitoring, path and roadway clearing
- building and property repair and maintenance programs

## Stakeholder engagement

The department used both formal and informal methods of stakeholder engagement. Formal methods included advisory committees such as the Aboriginal consultative committees which inform fisheries and aquaculture activities and pastoral industry advisory committees which inform research and development programs.

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

Similarly, the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) and the Mines and Energy divisions undertook formal and informal methods of stakeholder engagement.

Formal methods included playing a key role in working groups for engagement of stakeholders, particularly with traditional Aboriginal owners, the development of stakeholder engagement plans, hosting the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) 2018, hosting industry forums, development of collaborative and grant programs and participating in inquiries and advisory committees.

Informal methods included meetings, community information sessions, promotion of the Territory at international events and updating signage and information on the website.

## Employee engagement

The NT Public Sector People Matter Survey benchmark report measures employee perspectives on working in the department and compares the results of the department against other comparative agencies.

The People Matter Survey was undertaken in May 2016 with 68 per cent participation by department staff. A response plan was subsequently developed and implemented to respond to feedback received.



Figure 2.3. A sentinel cattle herd has been established in Lospalos, Timor-Leste

## Strengthening biosecurity through the establishment of a Timor-Leste sentinel cattle herd

**The department enhances the impact of its research through strong engagement with industry stakeholders. Collaborative research with neighbouring countries reduces the risk of a biosecurity incursion, and develops the international capacity to manage one.**

The Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory (BVL) has been contracted by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to develop sentinel herd monitoring and provide laboratory training to Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries (MAF) staff in Timor-Leste.

In June 2017, BVL staff Dr Lorna Melville, Officer in Charge, and Neville Hunt, Virology Technician, travelled to Timor-Leste to establish the Lospalos sentinel cattle herd.

The project transfers technical knowledge to Timor-Leste, helping MAF staff improve monitoring for cattle diseases and associated insect vectors. Additionally, collaboration and continued department support enhances Australia's disease intelligence in the region.

After travelling the 250 kilometres from Dili to Lospalos, cattle of a suitable age were selected from the herd and local MAF staff were trained in correct blood collection techniques. Modifications were made to the cattle race, and the insect light trapping system established.

MAF staff were trained in the correct identification of the *Culicoides* midges, known for their capability of transmitting pathogens – notably, bluetongue virus – to livestock and wild animals. The midges were separated from other insects collected from the light trapping systems.

Local Timor-Leste staff tested the cattle's blood samples for evidence of bluetongue virus infection with samples sent back to BVL for confirmatory serological tests.

Ongoing blood samples and insect collections continue to be shipped to Darwin for checking by BVL staff in parallel with ongoing testing in Timor-Leste.

The transfer of technical knowledge and ongoing relationship building between BVL and MAF staff improves Timor-Leste's monitoring of cattle diseases and associated insect vectors. The project also assists the Territory's own biosecurity monitoring, further improving our abilities to protect Northern Australia's cattle industry.

# Leadership and control

## Board of Management

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

- shape the department's strategic process, identify priorities in line with both government priorities and the department's business, and provide responsible and accountable decision making
- provide direction to the department on the way forward for the department to engage our industry stakeholders and jointly develop industries.

### BoM MEMBERSHIP AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

- Chief Executive (CE), **Alister Trier** (Chair)
- Deputy Chief Executive, **Rod Applegate**
- General Manager, **Ian Curnow**
- Executive Director External Strategy and Policy Coordination, **Russell Ball**
- Director Corporate Communications, **Zoe Malone**
- Acting Executive Director Departmental Strategic Services, **Karen Timms**

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

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


### Subcommittees

Under BoM, six key standing subcommittees were established which work across the department within their respective charters. Each subcommittee has terms of reference, is chaired by a divisional director and reports to BoM. Details of each subcommittee are outlined on pages 54 to 63.

- **Work Health and Safety (WHS) subcommittee:** Provides oversight of the department's WHS

governance framework to manage and mitigate WHS risks in departmental workplaces.

- **People Engagement and Development subcommittee:** to identify and implement programs and projects to support the continuous development of our people.
- **Business Improvement and Risk Management subcommittee:** Provides independent advice and assistance on the effectiveness of the department's audit and risk management. It provides business improvement leadership and highlights areas of focus for improvement based on evidence provided by audit outcomes and reviews.
- **Information Management subcommittee:** to identify opportunities to incorporate technology for better department service delivery, and to provide a review mechanism as required under the Treasurer's Directions.
- **Strategic Emergency Management subcommittee:** to oversee the implementation and maintenance of the department's Emergency Management Framework.
- **Expenditure Management subcommittee** to oversee recruitment, including contract extensions, higher duties and temporary transfers for periods six months or greater.



Six key  
subcommittees  
were established  
under the Board of  
Management



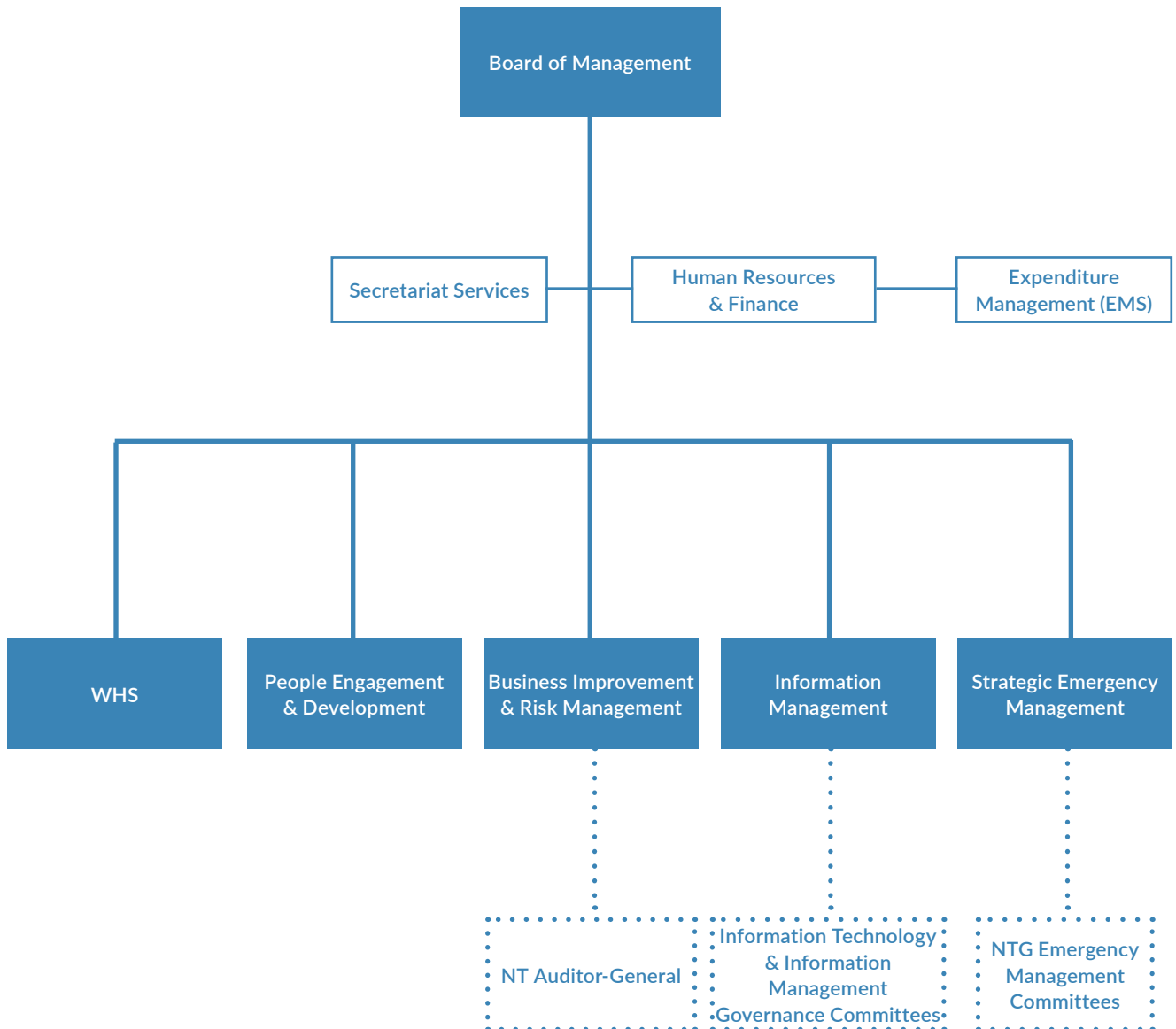


Figure 2.4. Board of Management, subcommittees, corporate support, external relationships

### Directors meeting and forums

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

The Deputy Chief Executive chairs regular meetings for directors of the Mines and Energy divisions of the department. The General Manager Fisheries and Product Integrity chairs regular meetings for the directors of the primary industry development divisions of the department.

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

## Board of Management subcommittees

### WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE

This steering committee has taken over the role previously managed by the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries by the Executive Management Group and within the former Department of Mines and Energy by the Executive WHS Steering Committee. It provides oversight of the department's WHS governance framework to manage and mitigate WHS risks in departmental workplaces.

#### Membership as at 30 June 2018:

Name	Role	Position title
Phil Hausler	Chair	Executive Director Plant Industries
Rick Bishop	Member	Director Human Resources, Risk and Audit
Victoria Jackson	Member	Executive Director Energy Division
Karen Timms	Member	A/Executive Director Departmental Strategic Services
Emma Muntz	Member	Manager Mining Team 2
Phil Hausler	Member	Manager, Basement Geoscience
Eloise Beyer	Member	Senior Geologist

The committee's terms of reference requires the development and maintenance of a governance framework that facilitates strategic work health and safety planning for implementation by divisional

directors and the oversight of the development and promotion of standards, procedures and processes.

It aims to develop strategies to promote a positive workplace culture in relation to workplace health and safety and monitor the department's WHS performance, risk assessment and management in terms of ongoing compliance. The committee reports and provides recommendations to the

Board of Management and Chief Executive regarding annual WHS objectives, targets and performance targets that comply with legislative requirements.

#### 2017-2018 achievements

The WHS Strategic Plan outlines objectives, key focus areas and key performance indicators for the department. The WHS Action Plan further defines the 'what, who, when and how' for each of the focus areas and outlines what divisions should be focusing on to improve WHS in their operations.

- Work Health and Safety Policy signed off by the CE on 21 September 2017.

- Developed a draft WHS Strategic Plan 2018-2019 for the department.
- Developed a draft WHS Action Plan 2018-2019 for the department.
- At each meeting, examined department incident reports and costs analysis for trends and indicators.

### **BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

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

The CE established the department's BIRMC to replace the Risk and Audit Committees of the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) and Department of Mines and Energy (DME).

BIRMC is a subcommittee reporting to the BoM with secretariat support from the Manager Risk and Audit. The committee has no executive powers and is required to act objectively and be an independent source of advice to the CE.

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

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

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

An internal communication plan has been implemented in collaboration with the Director of Human Resource, Risk and Audit to raise the awareness of BIRMC, its function and focus.

BIRMC also has oversight of departmental initiated audits and reviews that are aligned to a strategic and operational focus. As part of its terms of reference, BIRMC also monitors the NT Auditor-General's Office Assurance program.

External audits are be conducted by the Auditor-General, who is independent of the department, impartial, and acting in the public interest.

## BIRMC membership as at 30 June 2018

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

Name	Role	Position title
Lorraine Corowa*	Chair	Director Major Economic Projects
Rick Bishop	Member	Director Human Resources, Risk and Audit
Karen Simpson	Member	Chief Financial Officer
Russell Ball	Member	Executive Director, External Strategy and Policy Coordination
Karen Timms*	Member	A/Executive Director Departmental Strategic Services
Roslyn Vulcano*	Member	Director Mining Operations
Leonie Cooper*	Member	Principal Plant Biosecurity Officer
Jessica Arnold	Member	Manager, Emergency Management

\*Leonie Cooper temporary resignation, Karen Timms resigned 6 December 2017

\*Lorraine Corowa resigned 24 April 2018, Ros Vulcano appointed Chair.

## 2017-2018 achievements

- Monitored the Northern Territory Auditor-General's Office audit recommendations and assisted departmental management in the implementation of these recommendations.
- Implemented the BIRMC internal audit schedule.
- Monitored and reported on the BIRMC audit program and associated recommendations.
- Established a Risk Management Policy.
- Established a Fraud Risk Management Policy based on the international standard on Fraud Control and the NT Auditor-General's Fraud Assessment Framework and provided departmental training on fraud risk management.
- Conducted a strategic risk workshop.

## Internal audit function

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act*, the department has an internal audit function to assist the Accountable Officer in the performance of their functions. An Audit Plan is managed by the

## 2017-2018 meetings and locations

Date	Location
<b>BIRMC</b>	
6 July 2017	Darwin
16 August 2017	Darwin
6 December 2017	Darwin
7 February 2018	Darwin
9 May 2018	Darwin

Manager Risk and Audit and monitored by BIRMC. In 2017-2018, the following audits and reviews were conducted to test internal controls and processes.



Internal audit/review	Objective
Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) programs: Bringing Forward Discovery and CORE	A cost benefit analysis and business improvement assessment to determine the effectiveness of investment attraction programs.
Review of interstate home based employment	Review home based work arrangements to meet the requirements of the department's home based work guidelines.
Departmental laboratories accreditation by National Association of Testing Authorities	Internal audits were conducted to meet compliance with accreditation to 'AS ISO/IEC 17025:2005 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories'.
Examination of delegations	Review compliance with departmental delegations.
Audit of compliance with Buy Local Plan	Review of agency procurement to ensure compliance with Buy Local Plan.
Air travel	Assess departmental travel compliance with the whole of government Air Travel Policy and relevant legislation, policy and guidelines.
Negotiable instruments	Review and assess negotiable instruments to see they are managed in accordance with relevant Legislation and Treasurer's Directions.
High risk activity management, culture and practice review (WHS)*	Compliance and business improvement assessment to determine adequacy of policy, procedures and controls for high risk farm activities.
Internal animal welfare management business - process review*	Compliance and business improvement assessment to determine adequacy of Internal Animal Welfare Management policy, procedures and controls.

\*Draft reports for reporting period.

## PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The People Engagement and Development Committee will identify techniques to support the continuous development of our people. The committee's objective is to support the Board of Management (BoM) in making the department an attractive and positive place to work, recognising the importance of the wellbeing of people for the department's success.

The BoM established the People Engagement and Development subcommittee to support and enhance the internal employee communications, engagement and change management strategies and to provide momentum of driving a cultural shift within the department as a whole.

Specific items of business for the subcommittee, under guidance of the BoM included:

- consideration and understanding of current departmental culture and the opportunities for improvement \*
- identification of core principles and values that define our organisational culture, including principles and values for delivering change \*
- designing appropriate cultural competencies for the department \*
- meeting the objectives of the BoM through the identification of deliverables to achieve cultural change \*
- identification of effective ways to engage people in promoting the growth of organisational culture and have the department realised as a preferred workplace. \*

\* Any other item put forward by the Board of Management relevant to people engagement and workplace culture.

## Membership as at 30 June 2018:

Name	Role	Position title
Bryan McDonald*	Chair	Director Aquatic Resource Policy, Fisheries
Jessica Arnold*	Chair	Manager Emergency Management
Jo Whelan	Member	Manager Basement Geoscience
Neil MacDonald	Member	Director Livestock Industries Development/Regional Director
Helena Bott	Member	Acting Director Corporate Communications
Debby James*	Member	Director Petroleum Tenure
Stuart Smith	Member	Regional Director Southern
Kirsten Johnston	Member	Mining Team Manager - Central Australia
Brenton Cardona	Member	Aquatic Resource Officer

\*Bryan McDonald resigned as chair and as a member in December 2017

\*Jessica Arnold Chair of the Committee December 2017

\*Debby James resigned April 2018

## 2017-2018 achievements

- Committee terms of reference endorsed by the Board of Management assisted in identification of gaps highlighted by the People Matters survey to promote positive organisation culture change that aligned with the amalgamated departments developing strategic planning process.
- Participated in the STAR Award process to align with the newly develop strategic plan and organisational values.

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Information Management Committee (IMC) was established to identify opportunities to incorporate technology for better departmental information management and service delivery, and to provide an information and communications technology (ICT)<sup>1</sup> governance model and review mechanism as required under the Treasurer's Directions.

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

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

- monitor information technology and information management projects and practices to ensure consistency with the department's strategic direction and governance framework
- refer decisions to the BoM, management groups and appropriate bodies within the NT Government ICT Governance Framework as required.

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

### Membership as at 30 June 2018:

Name	Role	Position title
Ian Scrimgeour	Chair	Executive Director, NTGS
Glenn Schipp	Member	Director Fisheries and Aquaculture
Vanessa Madrill	Member	Multimedia Manager
Myrene Lyle	Member	Executive Officer
Alison Wiercinski	Member	Librarian, NTGS
Matt Hall	Member	Senior Extension Agronomist
Callan Thompson	Member (2017)	Senior Extension Agronomist
Rowan Dollar	Member	Chief Information Officer
Andrew Hurwood	Member	Manager Governance and Securities

### 2017-2018 meetings and locations

Date	Location
IMC	
6 July 2017	Darwin
16 August 2017	Darwin
6 December 2017	Darwin
7 February 2018	Darwin
9 May 2018	Darwin

### 2017-2018 achievements

- Developed a departmental ICT Policy for formal adoption.
- Developed project management templates to assist in the management of ICT projects for formal adoption.
- Approved 25 departmental ICT projects.

## Information Act

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

**Table 2.5. Information Act reporting requirements**

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

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

### INFORMATION OFFICER

Department of Primary Industry and Resources

GPO BOX 3000

DARWIN NT 0801

Telephone: 08 8999 2314

Email: [foi-privacy-dpif-dme@nt.gov.au](mailto:foi-privacy-dpif-dme@nt.gov.au)



During the year, the department received 14 formal access applications for government and personal information under the *Information Act*. The table below provides statistical data about these applications and trends over the previous four years.

**Table 2.6. Workers compensation summary**

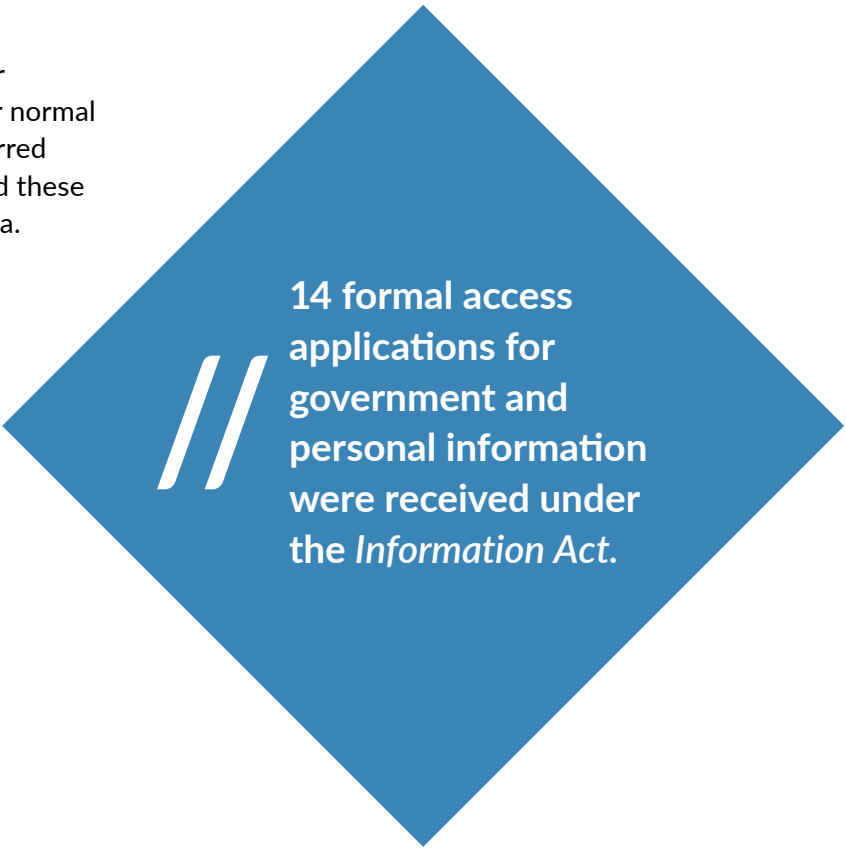
Type of request	2014-2015*	2015-2016*	2016-2017	2017-2018^
Applications received this year	17	22	22	14
Carried over from previous year	4	5	4	1
Finalised	7	22	25	9
Transferred	3	3	0	1
Carried forward into next year	5	4	1	6
Internal review, finalised	1	1	1	3

\* Combined data for the former DPIF and DME.

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

#### Privacy

The department's Privacy Policy is available upon request from [foi-privacy-dpif-dme@nt.gov.au](mailto:foi-privacy-dpif-dme@nt.gov.au). No privacy complaints were received in 2017-2018.



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

## STRATEGIC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Emergency management is a whole-of-department function reporting to the Deputy Chief Executive. The Strategic Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) was established as a subcommittee of BoM in 2016 with the amalgamation of the DPIF and DME to deal with emergency management related issues. Its role is to:

- provide strategic oversight of development and implementation of the Department of Primary Industry and Resources (DPIR) Emergency Management Framework
- approve emergency management related papers prior to being submitted to the BoM
- evaluate progress of DPIR in enhancing capacity and capability in emergency management preparedness
- consider after action reviews relating to response undertaken by DPIR to ensure the department is meeting its emergency management obligations
- consider any trends, initiatives or other issues relating to emergency management emerging at a local, Territory or national level that may be applicable to or impact on DPIR
- develop initiatives to influence culture and resourcing in relation to emergency management
- provide strategic direction and leadership in relation to whole of government emergency management topics relevant to DPIR.

The SEMC has recently reviewed its membership and terms of reference following amalgamation of the DPIF and DME.

### Membership as at 30 June 2018:

Name	Position title
Michelle Rodan*	Director, Biosecurity and Animal Welfare (Chair)
Jessica Arnold	Manager, Emergency Management (Secretariat)
Jop van Hattum*	Director Petroleum Technology and Operations
Karen Simpson	Chief Financial Officer
Rowan Dollar	Chief Information Officer
Ros Vulcano	Director, Mining Operations
Zoe Malone	Director Corporate Communications

\*Michelle Rodan resigned as Chair February 2018.

\*Jop van Hattum resigned as member May 2018.

### 2017-2018 achievements

- Monitored progress of departmental emergency management projects, finalised the Territory Biosecurity Emergency Plan to replace the outdated Biosecurity Emergency Management Response Plan, review of the previous wet season's operations including a review of the Territory Animal Welfare in Emergencies Plan, updating of divisional cyclone plans, review of preparedness training and capability and review of emergency management information and management systems.
- Monitored and reviewed departmental engagement in whole-of-government emergency responses preparedness.
- Reviewed biosecurity emergency preparedness and committed to supporting the emergency management unit with increasing the staff enlisted on the emergency management first response team.
- Endorsed the industry liaison officer workshop developed by the emergency management unit.

### EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

In August 2017 the Expenditure Management Subcommittee (EMS) was formed to assist the department to save around two per cent of the department's recurrent budget allocation over the following two years. This followed government's announcement of savings measures for the public service.

The BoM formed the EMS to consider recruitment activity, expenditure, potential business efficiencies and to tracking savings.

Part of the role of this subcommittee is to review financial reports and bring changes to the progression and process of recruitment. Key changes include the requirement that all internally and externally funded recruitment for periods of six months or greater, and proposals to evaluate positions, are considered by the subcommittee.

In the reporting period the subcommittee met monthly, with a total of eleven meetings.

### Membership as at 30 June 2018:

Name	Position title
Alister Trier	Chief Executive (Chair)
Rod Applegate	Deputy Chief Executive
Ian Curnow	General Manager
Russell Ball	Executive Director, External Strategy and Policy Coordination
Zoe Malone	Director Communications
Karen Simpson	Director Budgets and Finance
Rick Bishop	Director Human Resources/ Risk and Audit
Sarah Corcoran	Director Biosecurity and Animal Welfare

Various staff provided Secretariat in 2017-2018.

### Organisation structure

Over 2017-2018 the department sought feedback and views from staff on the development of the new strategic plan and the high level restructure of the department's functions being realigned to meet the five goals outlined in the new strategic plan. A transition group was established to develop and facilitate meaningful consultation between all participants about this review.

The department's high-level realigned organisation chart was published on the website in April 2018, showing the realigned structure, positions, occupants, functional responsibilities and reporting lines.

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

## Internal communications

Internal communication and engagement throughout the department is primarily led via direct information flow within divisions, branches and units. Divisional directors lead information flow to division staff through regular formal meetings or ongoing communication via email and other methods.

The CE produced a fortnightly staff eNewsletter on key activities and initiatives across the department, opening with his personal update and continuing a theme of workplace health and safety in each edition.

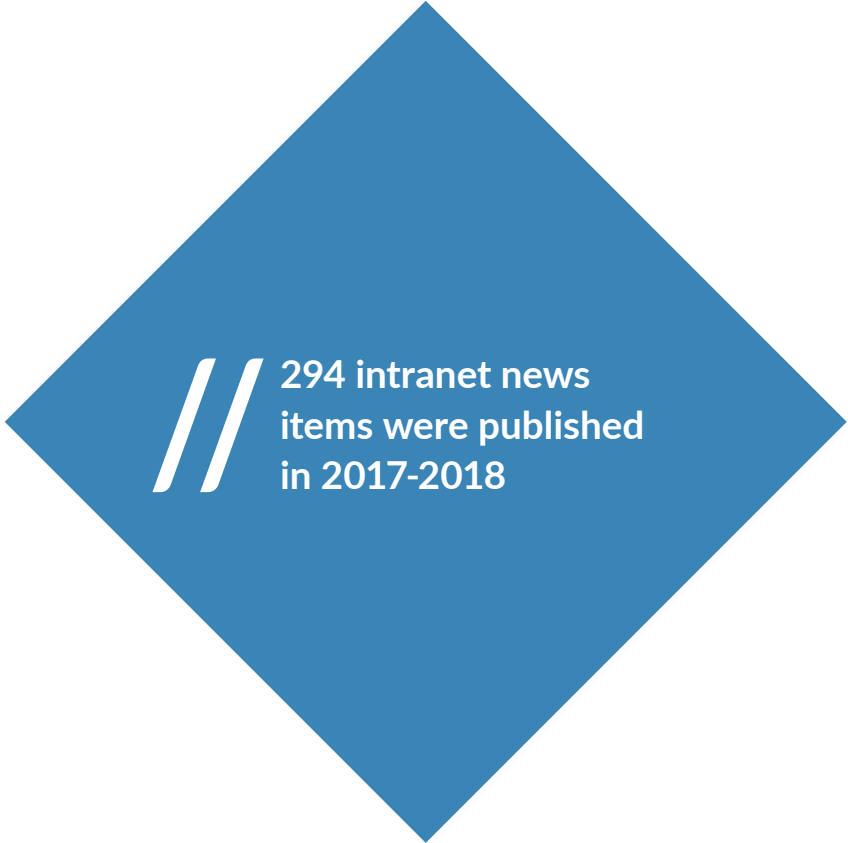
From January 2018, the CE's eNewsletter shifted to a monthly edition, highlighting key activities and initiatives published throughout the prior month and delivering an aggregated view of all workplace health and safety updates and corporate news presented across the department for the prior month.

All internal news features and staff updates moved to real-time publishing across the staff intranet news centre, with key items featuring in the monthly eNewsletter as a wrap up. In 2017-2018, 16 eNewsletters were published.

During 2017-2018, there were 294 news items published on a range of topics on the staff intranet.

Internal communication and engagement strategies have also been developed and implemented to support key internal focused department activities, initiatives and projects.

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



**294 intranet news  
items were published  
in 2017-2018**



# Operations and performance

## Divisional business plans

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

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

2017-2018 business plan reports were developed quarterly for submission to Executive Management Group and later Board of Management (BoM).

## Operational plans and individual work plans

Depending on the size of the division, operational and/or program plans were also produced. Individual officers in some areas developed their

own work plans as a subset of overall business planning processes.

## Personal development reviews

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

Completion of these discussions was monitored using the MyPDR online tool. A discussion was considered current if it occurred in the previous 365 days and was recorded in MyPDR. In 2017-2018, 29 per cent of staff had current Personal Development Review discussions recorded. The department will aim to improve this measure in 2018-2019.

## External communications

The department's operations were reported to its clients through a range of mechanisms, including regular regional newsletters. The newsletters reported regional departmental activities and extension information to industry and stakeholders.

In 2017-2018, the department produced the following newsletters:

Newsletter Name (frequency)	Published	Audience	Distribution method circulation numbers
Alice Springs Rural Review	July, September, December 2016	Alice Springs region producer	111 electronic subscribers
Alice Springs Rural Review	September 2017, February 2018	Alice Springs region producer	111 electronic subscribers
Barkly Beef	May 2018	Barkly region producers, some producers in other regions (including QLD)	74 electronic subscribers
Katherine Rural Review	September 2017, December 2017, March, June 2018	Katherine region producers	213 electronic subscribers
Top Paddock	September 2017, November 2017, March 2018	Top End producers	355 electronic subscribers
Animal Health	August 2017, November 2017, February 2018 and May 2018	Pastoral producers	Newsletter inserted into above two publications.
Pastoral Market Update	Monthly	Pastoral industry, Meat and Livestock Australia, other government agencies	183 electronic subscribers
Veterinary Board of the Northern Territory	August 2017, December 2017, May 2018	Pastoral producers, Veterinarians and other Veterinary Boards	284 electronic subscribers
Citrus Canker Update	May 2018	Territory community	101 electronic subscribers

The Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration (CORE) program produces the Investor News newsletter which is distributed to local, interstate and international subscribers. No newsletters were distributed during 2017-2018. Fact sheets on commodities and investment opportunities were available through the department's website.

The citrus canker emergency response team produces the Biosecurity alert: citrus canker eradication program update newsletter which is distributed to 101 subscribers. Two newsletters were distributed during 2017-2018 in the early stages of the response.

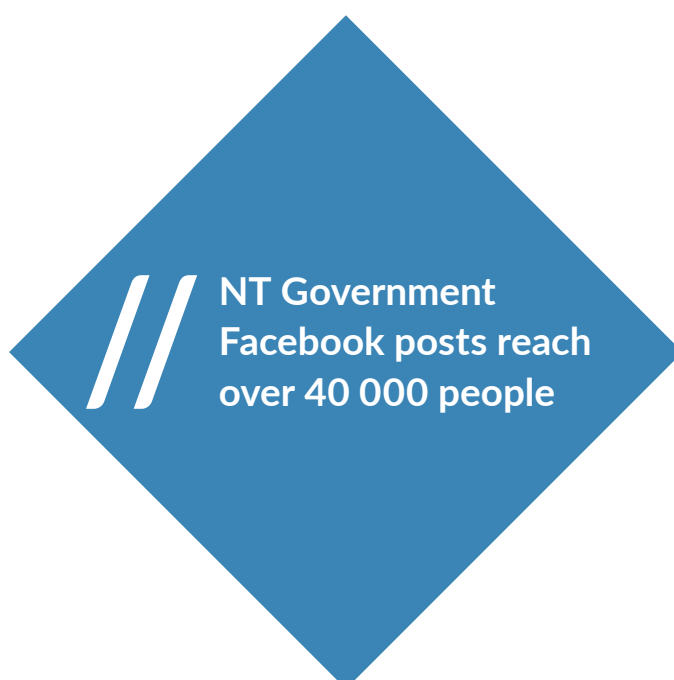
Radio, print and social media communications were embedded across the Northern Territory (NT) to support the commencement of the citrus canker emergency response in calling for the public to check their citrus plants for suspected citrus canker disease.

Eight technical, educational and promotional videos were uploaded to the department's YouTube channel, attracting 512 views.

The Fisheries NT Facebook page (@FisheriesNT) communicated key messages to fishing stakeholders and other interested followers. The Facebook page now has over 7 500 followers. The NT Government Facebook page (@NTgovernment) communicated 22 department specific key messages and initiative promotions to community stakeholders and other interested followers. The NT Government Facebook page has over 11 500 direct followers and our posts reached over 40 000 people.

The department contributed news articles to NT Government eNewsletters, The Pulse, Developing the Centre, Developing the Top End, the NT Government Facebook page and industry newsletters, such as the NT Farmer's Association newsletter and the NT Seafood Council newsletter.

The department hosted the 19th Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) in Alice Springs on 20-21 March 2018, where a mix of Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) and industry presentations showcased the rich minerals and petroleum potential of the NT. The event was attended by 208 delegates, including representatives from 50 exploration companies, as well as government and Aboriginal organisations.



# Monitoring and compliance

## Internal audits

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

It provides an independent and objective review and advisory service and provides independent assurance to the Chief Executive.

## External audits

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

## Estimates hearings

The Minister presented to the Estimates Committee at the annual estimates hearings on 18 June 2018 which examined the department's seven output groups. This appearance was supported by the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, General Manager and Chief Financial Officer with briefings, data analysis and other information supplied by the department.



# Accountability, reporting and review

Ongoing accountability measures have been described in the preceding subsections.

## Reports to government and minister

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

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

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

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

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

The Departmental Liaison Officer (DLO) located in the Minister's Office facilitated the two way flow of information and services. Pieter Conradie worked in this capacity from 2017 until June 2018 when Jason De Araujo commenced a six month placement.

## Annual report

For the Chief Executive as the accountable officer, the annual report formed one of the important mechanisms for reporting to the Minister and Parliament.

## Reports to Board of Management

As part of the Board of Management meeting schedule, all divisional and corporate services directors provided reports on activities. Divisional director reports and work health and safety (WHS) quarterly reports were also available on the intranet.

Milestones in divisional business plans were reported to the board.

## Performance measures and performance reporting

Performance measures and reporting are covered in the next section, Section 3: Performance reporting.

## WHS performance reporting

The department's performance against its WHS Action Plan 2017-2018 is outlined in Section 4: Our people work health and safety.



Figure 2.5. Team NT at the Northern Australia Investment Forum

## Showcasing Territory major projects

**Northern Australia is home to the world's largest cattle stations, pastoral operations and beef processing facilities, and improvements in supply chains are lifting efficiencies.**

And the resources sector of Northern Australia has the potential to further expand its role as the leading contributor to Australia's export revenue.

These were some of the key messages at the second Northern Australia Investment Forum (NAIF), where the Department of Primary Industry and Resources (DPIR) played an important role in showcasing some of the Northern Territory's major projects to the world.

More than 500 delegates attended the 2017 NAIF, which was held in Cairns from 19-21 November.

Senior DPIR representatives were part of a Territory delegation of industry, business and

government representatives that attended the high-level, invitation-only event, which hosts senior leaders from Australian and international companies.

NAIF presented attendees with projects, opportunities and information about investing in Northern Australia and promoting Northern Australia as an investment destination with a focus on the agribusiness and food, resources and energy, and tourism infrastructure sectors.

The Northern Territory Government hosted a breakfast for attendees prior to the opening session in 2017. The breakfast showcased Territory produce including fresh Calypso mangoes from Perfection Fresh in Katherine, and dried and preserved mango products including jams, chutneys and sauces by Crazy Acres Farms.

The exhibition marketplace allowed investors to engage with Northern Territory Government representatives about investment potential in the Territory.

Investment opportunities in the Territory's beef, fruit and vegetable, cropping and seafood industries were well received.

Three Territory-based minerals companies also showcased their Northern Territory projects in the marketplace – Arafura Resources Ltd's Nolans rare earths project, Verdant Minerals Ltd's Ammaroo phosphate project, and PNX Metals Ltd's Hayes Creek zinc/precious metals project.

DPIR's investment attraction teams are continuing the investment conversation with a range of international interests to support investment planning.

The 2017 NAIF was a collaborative event between the Australian Government and the governments of Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory and demonstrates a successful 'joined up' approach across Northern Australia.





# 3. Performance reporting

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# Fast facts



combined **mines and energy** commodities value is **\$5078 million – a 13.5 per cent increase** from the previous year



**3.64 per cent** of the NT workforce is **employed** in the **mining and energy sector**

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



**64 businesses** directly engaged in the **mining and energy sector**

**491** animal welfare **complaints** investigated – **eight successful prosecutions**



**487 property visits** to inspect, treat and **certify 61 393** head of livestock for the NT cattle **tick control program**  
**2051 properties** across the Territory **surveyed** for high priority plant pest and diseases

**32 Aboriginal rangers** attained **Certificate II** in **Fisheries Compliance**



**reviewed 1753** operational **Energy Titles** compliance reports

**regulated** over **3000 km** of energy pipelines



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



# Introduction

**The total value of the Northern Territory's (NT) combined primary industries (agriculture, forestry, and fishing) and resource industries (mining, energy and manufacturing) was estimated at \$5805 million for 2016-2017, an increase of 11.3 per cent on 2015-2016.**

The total value of the NT's combined primary industry commodities was estimated at \$725.6 million for 2016-2017, a decrease of 1.6 per cent on 2015-2016. This is forecasted to rise a further 2.7 per cent to an estimated \$746.2 million in the 2017-2018 reporting period due to increases in the livestock, fisheries, and horticulture industries.

In 2016-2017, agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries provided a total of 1143 jobs for Territorians, with the majority in rural and remote areas.

The total value of the NT's combined mines and energy commodities was estimated at \$5078 million for 2016-2017, an increase of 13.5 per cent on 2015-2016. This is forecasted to rise a further 3.9 per cent to an estimated \$5276 million in the 2017-2018 reporting period due to increases in the mining, energy and manufacturing industries. In 2016-2017, mining, energy and manufacturing industries provided a total of 4738 jobs for Territorians, with the majority in rural and remote areas.

## Industry Development Plan 2013-2017

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

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

## Strategic Plan 2014-2017

This plan identified areas of focus to establish the Territory as the preferred destination for resource investment and development enabling the Mines and Energy divisions and NT Geological Survey to develop and deliver services to its stakeholders.

Five strategic themes of economic development, balanced outcomes, relationships and stakeholders, governance and business systems, and our people are underpinned by 19 strategic objectives to achieve delivery of quality services.



# Key industry sectors - trends and analysis

## Industry descriptions

The Northern Territory (NT) economy is dominated by the construction and mining sectors. The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector accounts for 2.7 per cent (see Table 3.1) of the Territory economy in 2016-2017.

These industries influence the economic and social well-being of thousands of owners, managers, employees, service people and families in urban and rural communities, across all Territory regions.

**Table 3.1. Industry sector contribution to NT gross state product (GSP) 2016-2017**

Industry	Value (\$ million)	Change since 2015-2016	Contribution to GSP
Construction	2809	7.2%	11.0%
<b>Mining</b>	<b>3041</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>
Public administration and safety	3138	1.3%	12.3%
Health care and social assistance	1640	3.3%	6.4%
Transport, postal and warehousing	803	-3.4%	3.2%
Rental, hiring and real estate services (b)	370	-1.9%	1.5%
Professional, scientific and technical services	942	38.7%	3.7%
Education and training	1205	0.8%	4.7%
Manufacturing	1311	2.9%	5.2%
Retail trade	720	1.4%	2.8%
<b>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
Financial and insurance services	575	8.3%	2.3%
Administrative and support services	490	21.9%	1.9%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	387	-0.5%	1.5%
Accommodation and food services	649	2.5%	2.6%
Wholesale trade	550	3.0%	2.2%
Other services	380	-3.1%	1.5%
Information media and telecommunications	123	3.4%	1.2%
Arts and recreation services	298	8.0%	0.5%

Source: 5220.0 - Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2016-2017

The agriculture, forestry and fishing industries are a capital intensive sector and its growth patterns over the last two decades have seen the sector expand along with the NT economy. Industry trends show that after a period of decreasing in the early 2000s, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector contributions to the Territory economy expanded, initially in early 2005-2006 (see figure 1) on the back of the cattle industry, and more recently horticulture.

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

Figure 3.1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector contribution to the NT economy

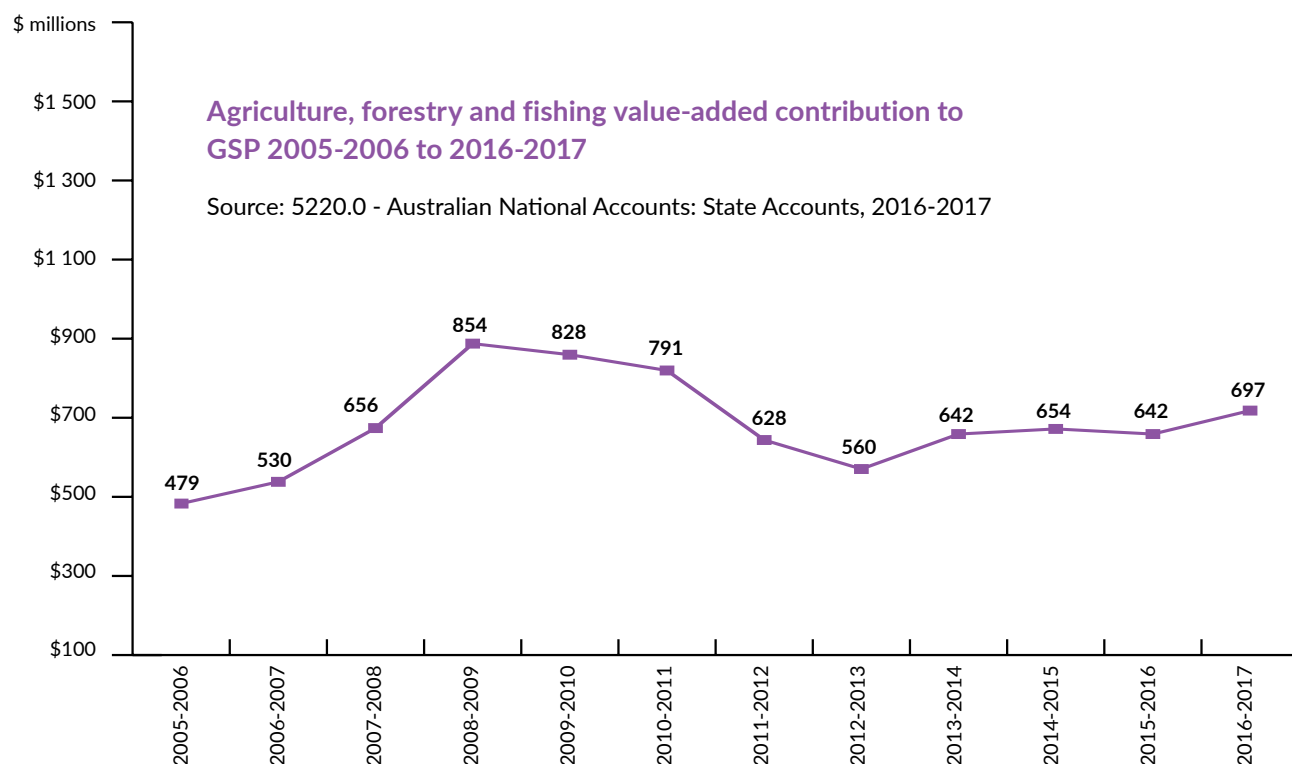
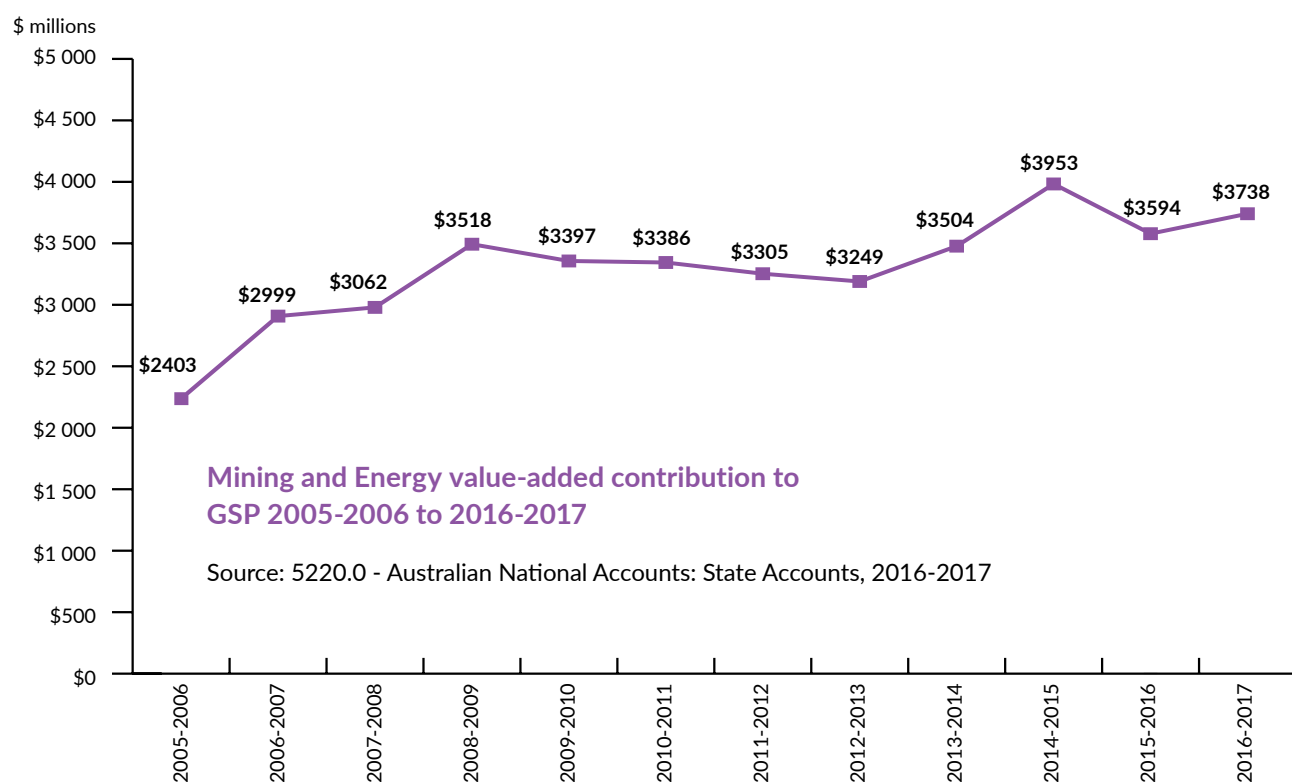


Figure 3.2. Mining sector contribution to the NT economy, 2005-2006 to 2016-2017.



## Employment

Almost one per cent of the NT workforce (full-time and part-time) is employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing with the mining sector employing 3.64 per cent. The vast majority of jobs are located in rural and remote areas and provide employment opportunities in the Territory's regional economies.

**Table 3.2. Employment by sector in the NT 2016-2017**

Sector	Employment by industry 2016-2017			
	Full time	Part time	Total	Percentage of total employment
Public administration and safety	15 159	1490	16 649	12.5%
Health care and social assistance	16 144	4227	20 371	15.3%
Construction	13 696	1418	15 114	11.4%
Education and training	10 421	3771	14 192	10.7%
Retail trade	6550	5099	11 650	8.8%
Accommodation and food services	5500	4164	9664	7.3%
Professional, scientific and technical services	5001	1216	6217	4.7%
Transport, postal and warehousing	5925	1455	7380	5.6%
Other services	4767	1408	6175	4.6%
<b>Mining</b>	<b>4650</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>4738</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
Manufacturing	3792	503	4295	3.2%
Administrative and support services	1952	777	2729	2.1%
Arts and recreation services	1989	1447	3436	2.6%
<b>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>1143</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Wholesale trade	1890	-	1890	1.4%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	2428	-	2428	1.8%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	2046	332	2378	1.8%
Financial and insurance services	1270	178	1448	1.1%
Information media and telecommunications	712	251	964	0.7%
<b>Total employment</b>	<b>104 821</b>	<b>28 038</b>	<b>132 859</b>	

Source: ABS Cat No. 6291.0 - Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly

NB. Figures are as at August 2017

## Businesses

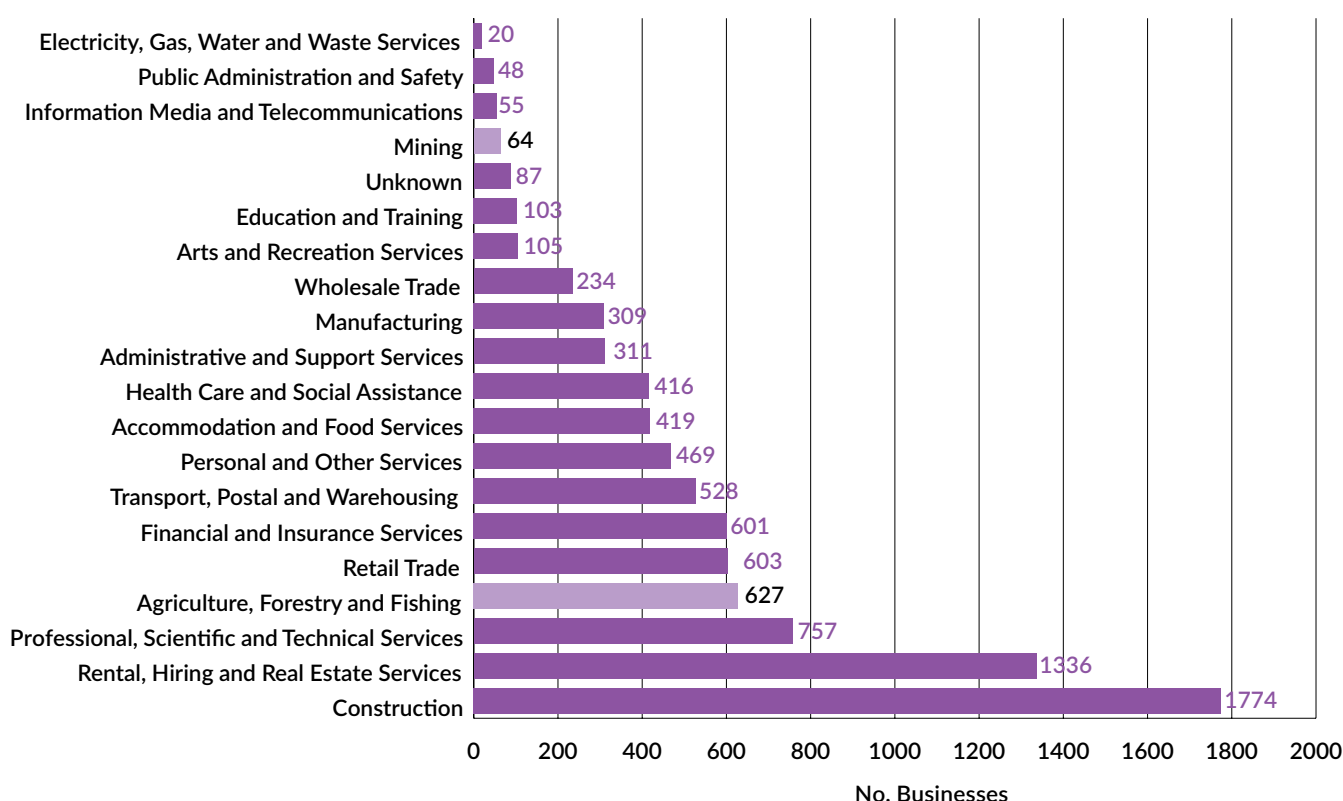
Figure 3.3 shows 627 NT businesses engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing as at June 2017, which is the fourth largest sector (by business count) in the NT economy.

The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is represented by 239 employing businesses or 5.6 per cent of total employing Territory businesses as at June 2017. In contrast the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector has 388 non-employing businesses representing 8.4 per cent of the total non-employing business in the NT reflecting a high proportion of independently owned/family owned and run business ventures.

Figure 3.3 shows 64 NT businesses engaged in mining in June 2017, which is the fourth smallest number of business by a sector in the NT economy.

The mining sector is represented by 42 employing businesses or 1.0 per cent of total employing Territory businesses in June 2017, while the mining sector has 22 non-employing businesses or 0.475 per cent of the total non-employing business in the NT. Low numbers for employing businesses is reflective of mining enterprises being listed as businesses in other jurisdictions outside the NT.

Figure 3.3. Number of NT businesses by sector, June 2013-2017



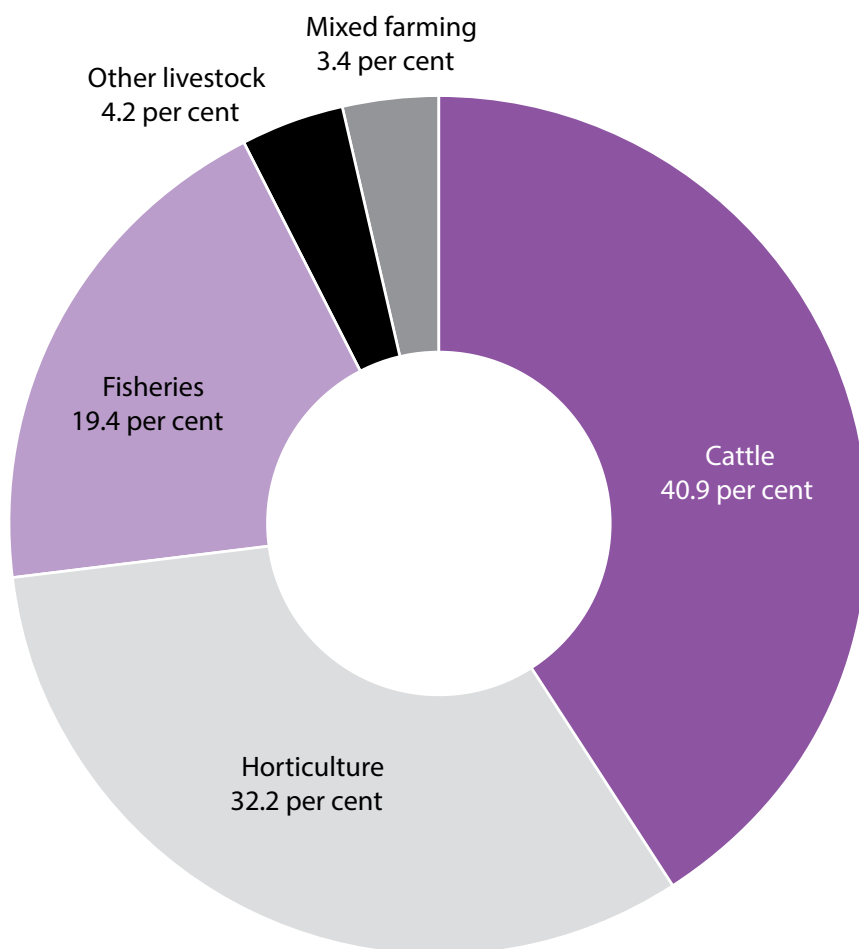
Source: ABS Cat. No. 8161.0 – Counts of Australian Businesses, June 2013 to June 2017

## Primary industry and fisheries

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

The NT fisheries industry includes harvesting of wild catch in NT waters, harvesting prawns in the NT zone of the Northern Prawn Fishery, and aquaculture. This includes a substantial recreational fishing sector generating tourism activity and lifestyle amenity.

Figure 3.4. Contribution of industry to sector production value, 2016–2017



Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources data collections

In 2016-2017 the department estimates the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector was valued at \$726.5million, which is a decrease of 1.6 per cent from 2015-2016. The sector is forecast to rise a further 2.7 per cent to \$746.2 million in 2017-2018 due to expected increases in the cattle sector, fisheries, and horticulture sector.

The beef cattle industry decreased in value by 9.1 per cent to \$297.1 million in 2016-2017, with a 19.1 per cent decrease in the value of live cattle exports and slaughtering (10.3 per cent), while values for interstate movement were up marginally.

The live export trade to Indonesia continues to be a challenging market for exporters. The department projects the cattle industry value increasing to \$308.8 million in 2017-2018.

The horticulture industry production value increased 4.1 per cent to \$233.7 million in 2016-2017, with increased values for grapes, vegetables, other fruits and nursery-cut flowers and turf. These increases were offset by a marginal decrease in mango and melon value. The horticulture industry value is estimated to rise to \$240.7 million in 2017-2018.



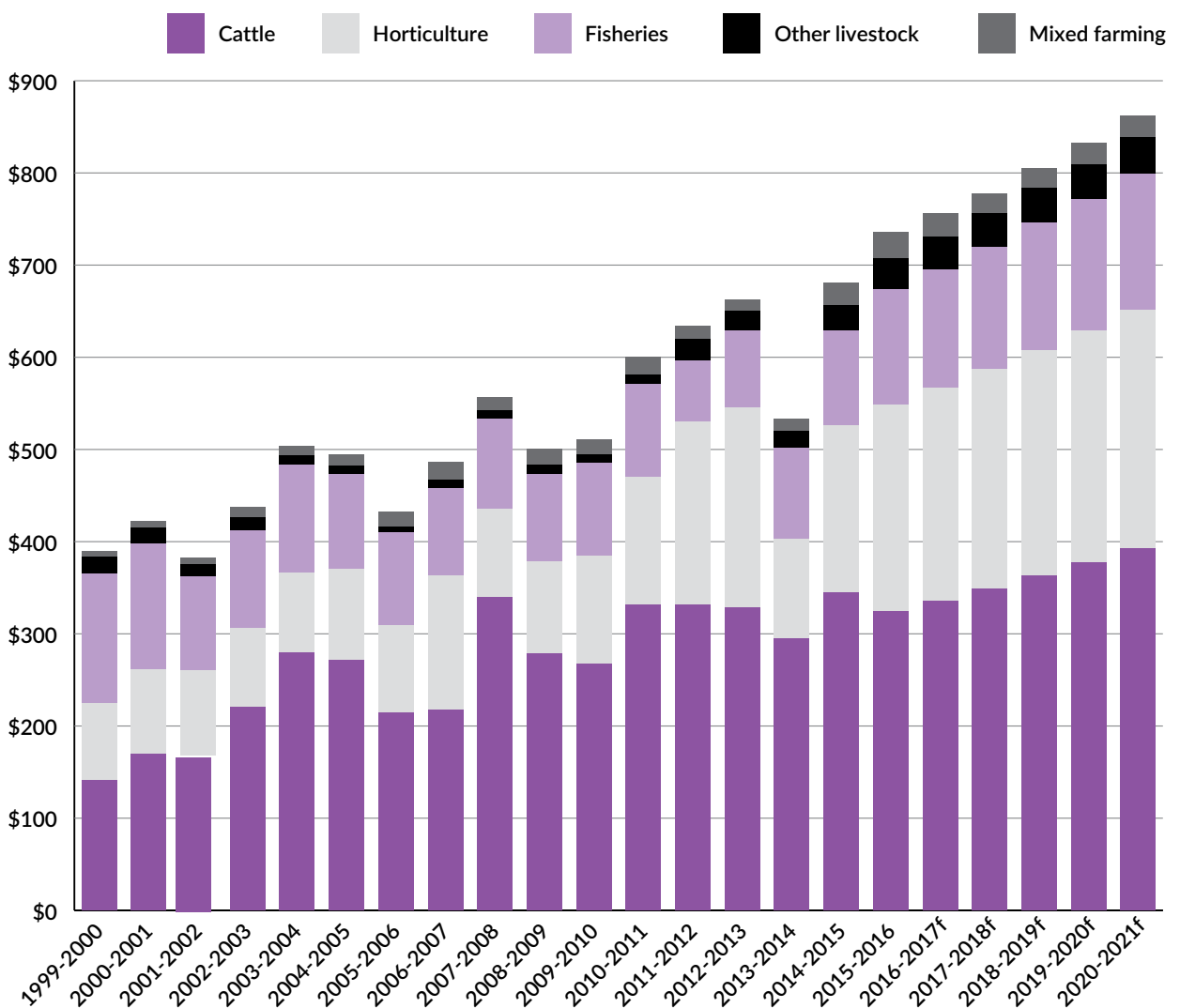
The fisheries industry rose by 13.3 per cent to \$140.8 million in 2016-2017, with increases in the value of aquaculture, wild catch fish, NT crustaceans, and molluscs and echinoderms production, while the production value of Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) crustaceans fell.

In 2016-2017 other livestock output (predominately crocodile production \$23.0 million) decreased 11.2 per cent to \$30.2 million due to decreased sales of premium crocodile skins and sales of live crocodiles.

Mixed farming (field crops) decreased in value by 14.1 per cent to \$24.7 million in 2016-2017, with decreases forecasted for 2017-2018 to \$19.9 million due to a 3.5 per cent fall in hay/fodder production, ceasing of a poppy trial and no further reporting of Tiwi wood chip exports. No seed production data was collected in 2016-2017.

Figure 3.5. NT primary industry and fisheries production value 2000-2001 to 2021-2022 (f) (\$m)

Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources Economic Data Collections, (f) = forecast



**Table 3.3. Northern Territory primary industry and fisheries value of production (\$m)**

Value of NT horticulture	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018f	2018-2019f	2019-2020f
Mangoes	95.5	88.5	88.3	90.9	93.7	96.5
Table grapes	0.8	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.5	8.7
Bananas(4)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Melons	45.8	52.6	50.3	51.8	53.4	55.0
Other fruits	4.7	8.0	17.7	18.2	18.8	19.3
Vegetables	17.2	41.5	43.9	45.2	46.6	48.0
Nursery and cut flowers and turf	17.9	18.0	17.7	18.2	18.8	19.3
Local markets	0.0	7.9	7.8	8.0	8.3	8.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>182.0</b>	<b>224.5</b>	<b>233.7</b>	<b>240.7</b>	<b>247.9</b>	<b>255.4</b>

Value of NT fisheries	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018f	2018-2019f	2019-2020f
Fish	26.2	31.6	37.3	38.4	39.5	40.7
Crustaceans	4.6	3.0	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5
Aquaculture	24.5	24.5	34.4	35.5	36.5	37.6
Molluscs and echinoderms	0.25	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
<b>Total NT fisheries</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>85.6</b>
Crustaceans Northern Fleet (3)	47.2	64.9	62.5	65.0	67.7	70.4
<b>Total fisheries</b>	<b>102.8</b>	<b>124.3</b>	<b>140.8</b>	<b>145.7</b>	<b>150.7</b>	<b>156.0</b>

Value of NT cattle, other livestock and mixed farming	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018f	2018-2019f	2019-2020f
Cattle	345.3	327.0	297.1	308.8	321.2	334.1
Other livestock	27.3	34.0	30.2	31.2	32.2	33.2
Field crops	24.4	20.0	19.3	19.9	20.5	21.1
Poppy (1)	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Forestry (2)	0.0	6.4	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>397.0</b>	<b>389.7</b>	<b>352.0</b>	<b>359.8</b>	<b>373.9</b>	<b>388.5</b>

Total NT rural industries and fisheries	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018f	2018-2019f	2019-2020f
Horticulture	182.0	224.5	233.7	240.7	247.9	255.4
Fisheries	102.8	124.3	140.8	145.7	150.7	156.0
Cattle	345.3	327.0	297.1	308.8	321.2	334.1
Other livestock	27.3	34.0	30.2	31.2	32.2	33.2
Field farming (incl. poppy/forestry)	24.4	28.8	24.7	19.9	20.5	21.1
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>681.8</b>	<b>738.5</b>	<b>726.5</b>	<b>746.2</b>	<b>772.5</b>	<b>799.8</b>

Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources Economic Data Collections, (f) = forecast data  
explanatory notes

1. Poppy production in 2015-2016 is a trial crop. No further production.
2. Forestry figures are reported shipments from the Tiwi Islands.
3. NPF (Commonwealth managed fishery, with zones for Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland).
4. No reported banana production in 2016-2017.

#### Forecasting notes

1. No data was collected for bananas for 2016-2017 therefore no forecasts were generated.
2. No forecasts were generated for poppy as the \$2.4m (2015-2016) represents a one-off trial crop not ongoing production.
3. No forecasts were generated for forestry as the \$5.4m (2016-2017) represents the second of two reported shipments of woodchips and no forecast is available beyond 2016-2017. Large plantations of African Mahogany and Sandalwood in the NT have not reached maturity and therefore their value cannot be included at this point.

## Resources

In 2016-2017, the total value of mineral and energy production (extraction) and processing (manufacturing) was estimated to increase by 13.5 per cent to \$5078 million before easing to 3.9 per cent in 2017-2018 with modest growth forecasted in the following year for 2018-2019 (see Figure 3.6). The value of uranium production is forecast to rise to \$265 million in 2017-2018 (see Table 3.4).

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

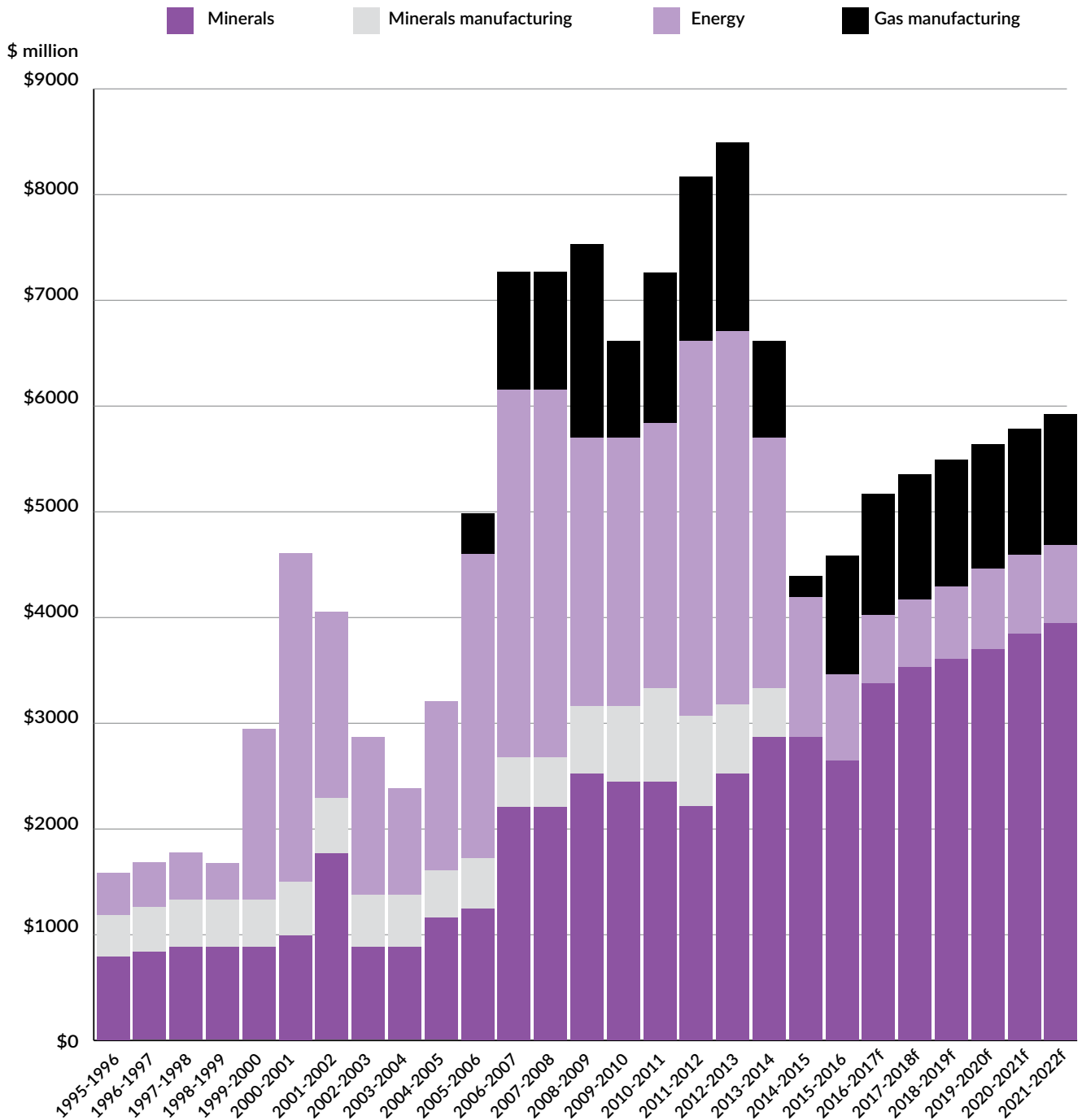
**Table 3.4. Value of NT mining (minerals and energy) and manufacturing 2016-2017 to 2018-2019 (f = forecast)<sup>1</sup>**

	Value (\$ million)		
	2016-2017	2017-2018 (f)	2018-2019 (f)
Mining and energy	4078	4234	4347
Manganese	1541	1590	1641
Other minerals	622	642	660
Gold	730	756	778
Zinc / lead concentrate	443	454	468
Total mining	3337	3442	3547
Oil	66	70	68
Gas and liquids	427	458	460
Uranium	248	265	273
Total energy	741	793	801
Liquefied natural gas	1000	1042	1052
Alumina	0	0	0
Total manufacturing	1000	1042	1052
Total mining and energy and manufacturing	5078	5276	5400

<sup>1</sup> Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources Economic Data Collections.

NB Figures include production from Blacktip and JPDA.

Figure 3.6. Minerals and energy production and processing values 1995-1996 to 2021-2022f



Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources Economic Data Collection





Figure 3.7. Improved packaging and stem management processes taking place in Cambodia.

## A world of opportunity in agricultural research

**The department recognises the value of workforce skill development and actively facilitates intellectual exchange between staff and industry networks.**

The department's support of the Crawford Fund Scholarship offers young researchers in the department the opportunity to learn more about international agricultural research.

Maddison Clonan, Research Horticulturalist with the Plant Industries Division, was the 2017 scholarship recipient. The funds supported her travel to Cambodia to contribute to Australian

Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) mango industry projects, and also attend the Crawford Fund Parliamentary Conference.

One of the prominent ACIAR projects is 'Building a resilient mango industry in Cambodia and Australia through improved production and supply chain practices'. The project aims to improve Cambodian export opportunities by building capacity in

Cambodian mango tree crop research, varietal selection, crop growth management, pest and disease management, post harvest handling, and supply chain management.

Ms Clonan was involved in developing production, harvest and post harvest handling practices to enhance fruit quality. A burgeoning international mango trade would drastically increase opportunities for Cambodian mango farmers.

"The trial implemented harvesting practices to reduce fruit blemish, infection and insect damage. These practices are not yet widely employed by Cambodia," Ms Clonan said.

Ms Clonan noted the importance of international collaboration in the agricultural research sector.

"Partnerships formed before, during and after travel enabled our 'on-the-ground' experimentation, facilitated dissemination of trial results and exposed us to opportunities for furthering our experimentation beyond the original design," she said.

"Mutually beneficial relationships have been formed between Australian, Cambodian and international stakeholders. We maintain these through regular email communication, proving valuable to the mango industry as a whole."

International collaboration and research to improve the productivity of the mango industry is of particular significance to the Northern Territory. The NT is the largest producer of mangoes in Australia, holding a 48 per cent share of production worth \$93.9 million in the 2017-2018 financial year — the largest Australian crop on record. The department is working directly with mango industry groups to develop new export markets throughout Asia and the United States, and relationships fostered between NT researchers and international industry stakeholders strengthens these opportunities.

In addition to networking, the on-ground international research experience developed Ms Clonan's skill set.

"Not only have I been able to utilise this opportunity to positively impact agricultural research in Cambodia and Australia, but the impact on my personal, professional and career growth has been immeasurable," Ms Clonan said.

Ms Clonan attended the Crawford Fund Parliamentary Conference in Canberra in August 2017, a conference that provided her with an enriched understanding of the international agricultural research industry.

"I can confidently say that I have gained a wealth of new knowledge about working, volunteering and studying in international agricultural research, and a newly formed passion for the goals and possibilities available in this area," she said.

"The conference covered many aspects of international agricultural research, most new to me, and presented by global leaders in their field with experience and passion. The scholars, mentors and coordinators were a vastly diverse group of intelligent, creative and inspiring people who were excited to share and collaborate with others.

Free access to global pools of data was a topic that I had not considered before this event, but it sparked my imagination as to the social, environmental and commercial prospects that worldwide data access could provide."

Other key discussion points that became common themes were:

- the need to integrate health/nutrition priorities into agricultural development
- opportunities for the private sector to generate change
- move agricultural development priorities from quantity to quality of production
- the need to generate gender balances in all areas of agriculture.

Staff attendance at conferences strengthens relationships between our department and industry stakeholders, ensuring regular consultation in research, development and extension and the creation of department policy.

The Crawford Fund Scholarship continues to deliver beneficial outcomes to the department, ensuring that our staff are supported in their development of contemporary research knowledge, strong leadership skills and valuable industry connections.

# Budget Paper No. 3 - key deliverables

The department was created on 12 September 2016 by an Administrative Arrangement Order. Therefore it was not possible to benchmark key performance indicators (KPIs) for 2016-2017 against output groups for the former Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) and Department of Mines and Energy (DME) in prior years. Data for 2017-2018 to 2018-2019 only is provided in the table below.

**Table 3.5. Performance against KPIs in Budget Paper No. 3 and variation explanations**

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2017-2018 ACTUAL	2017-2018 BUDGET	2018-2019 BUDGET	NOTES ON VARIATIONS
<b>Primary Industry Economic Development</b>				
<b>MARKET AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT</b>				
Enterprise and market development projects for the Territory agriculture sectors <sup>2</sup>	12	10	7	3 KPIs merged into other DPIR KPIs 3 KPIs finalised 1 additional KPI commenced
Aboriginal economic development and producer support programs	2	2	2	
<b>PLANT INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT</b>				
Programs that develop plant industries	19	19	19	
<b>LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT</b>				
Programs to support the development of the Territory livestock industry and its major markets	9	9	9	
<b>MAJOR ECONOMIC PROJECTS</b>				
Regional precinct development	1	1	1	

<sup>2</sup> The decrease reflects the finalisation of time limited project funding.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2017-2018 ACTUAL	2017-2018 BUDGET	2018-2019 BUDGET	NOTES ON VARIATIONS
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### Fisheries and Product Integrity

#### BIOSECURITY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

Biosecurity projects and programs that support preparedness, monitoring and responses to pest and disease incursions, animal welfare and chemical use	15	13	13	2 additional KPIs with the citrus canker and Asian honey bee biosecurity incursions
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#### FISHERIES

Projects that facilitate Aboriginal economic development opportunities <sup>1</sup>	8	8	4	
Proportion of fish stocks assessed as sustainable	82%	82%	82%	

### Resource Industry Development

#### INDUSTRY REPORTING

Statutory industry reports and sample submissions processed <sup>3</sup>	3235	2800	2940	Varies depending on company decisions and cannot be accurately forecast
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#### GEOSCIENCE AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Geoscience products developed or updated <sup>4</sup>	94	80	95	
Target rating for geological database The Fraser Institute Annual Survey (FIAS) <sup>5</sup>	15th	10th	10th	
Investment attraction and promotional events	14	14	14	

<sup>1</sup> Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources Economic Data Collections

<sup>3</sup> The increase is due to large core sample submissions from McArthur River mine and the implementation of mineral resource/reserve reporting in 2017-2018.

<sup>4</sup> The increase reflects additional data products resulting in a higher number of product releases.

<sup>5</sup> FIAS is an annual global survey of mining companies that ranks the attractiveness of jurisdictions for exploration and mining investment based on respondent perceptions. Australian jurisdictions had lower rankings for many of the FIAS indexes in 2017-2018, reflecting a perception within industry that Australia has become less attractive for mining investment.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2017-2018 ACTUAL	2017-2018 BUDGET	2018-2019 BUDGET	NOTES ON VARIATIONS
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## Mining Services

### MINERAL TITLES MANAGEMENT

Mineral exploration licences granted within 9 months		85%	85%	This is a new measure
Extractive mineral permits granted within 11 months <sup>6</sup>		85%	85%	This is a new measure

### MINING OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

Mine management plans are determined within 90 days <sup>6</sup>		85%	85%	This is a new measure A new measure has been introduced for 2018-2019 setting a target that 85% of MMPs will be assessed within 90 days of submission
Mine site inspection days <sup>6</sup>		200	200	This is a new measure

### LEGACY MINES

Tender value awarded to Territory enterprises <sup>6</sup>		85%	85%	This is a new measure
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## Energy Services

Energy titles application and report assessments within 60 days <sup>6</sup>		75%	75%	This is a new measure.
Operational sites visited <sup>6</sup>		85%	85%	This is a new measure.

<sup>6</sup> New measure



# Outputs framework - alignment

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

The Mines and Energy Strategic Plan guides the Energy Division, Mines Division and Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) in delivering services to meet industry expectations.

The department's Corporate Plan is guided by these key primary industry and resource plans in meeting the strategic goals of the government. The IDP's four objectives are aligned upwards to four of the department's seven output groups articulated in Budget Paper No. 3, and downwards with its strategies. These relationships are illustrated below, along with activity by the divisions within those Strategies in 2017-2018. The Corporate Services Division provides support to all business areas of the department and is therefore attributed against all strategies.

**Table 3.6. Alignment of the department's primary industries activity with Budget Paper No. 3 output groups and outcomes with IDP objectives for 2017-2018**

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

**Table 3.7. Alignment of Industry Development Plan objectives and strategies**

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

# Primary industry function

## Primary industry development



**Phil Hausler** | DIRECTOR, PLANT INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT  
– PRIMARY INDUSTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Phil took up the position of acting Director Plant Industries Development in March 2017.

Phil has been intimately involved in high-level policy and planning in the primary industry and agricultural sector and brings a strong level of experience to his role.

Responsible for research and development staff throughout the whole of the Territory, including Katherine, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, Phil also manages the

government's research farms, leads the research and development programs for both plant industry and livestock and, promotes the Northern Territory (NT) through its market enterprise development and agribusiness investment strategies.

Phil is committed to developing the NT through the enormous opportunities presented in agriculture and focusses on best practice management to achieve strong investment, development and environment outcomes.

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



**Neil MacDonald** | DIRECTOR, LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT – PRIMARY INDUSTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / REGIONAL DIRECTOR KATHERINE

Neil was appointed as Director Livestock Industries Development in 2014.

The Livestock Industries Development Division works with the Territory's cattle industry to increase herd productivity and to develop the industry's capacity to take advantage of improved market conditions.

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

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

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

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

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



**Lorraine Corowa | DIRECTOR, LIVESTOCK INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT – PRIMARY INDUSTRY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

Lorraine has 30 years of experience in development-focused positions within the NT Government.

Her previous roles in Power and Water Corporation, business and industry development, land development and regional and Indigenous economic development have provided a solid foundation for her current work facilitating agriculture development.

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

Lorraine also assumed responsibility for Market and Enterprise Development in June 2017.

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

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

## Fisheries and product integrity



**Glenn Schipp | DIRECTOR, FISHERIES – FISHERIES AND PRODUCT INTEGRITY**

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

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

manage the optimum sustainable use of the Territory's aquatic resources.

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

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

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



**Sarah Corcoran | DIRECTOR, BIOSECURITY AND ANIMAL WELFARE – FISHERIES AND PRODUCT INTEGRITY**

Sarah was appointed to the position of Executive Director Biosecurity and Animal Welfare in June 2018 after she joined the Department of Primary Industry and Resources as the Chief Plant Health Officer in September 2016. Prior to this, Michelle Rodan was Director of Biosecurity and Animal Welfare from March 2016 to April 2018.

Sarah has a passion for preserving vital agricultural industries and Australia's unique environment from invasive pests and disease. She holds experience working as a biosecurity practitioner in the Australian Government and two state departments of primary industries. During her career she has worked on a number of emergency responses to incursions of exotic pests and pathogens across the biosecurity continuum, and has

led national eradication programs for red imported fire ants, electric ants, banana freckle and most recently citrus canker.

Sarah holds a number of qualifications, including a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Botany and Zoology, Honours in Freshwater Ecology and has completed post-graduate studies in Epidemiology for Public Health. She is a trained quarantine entomologist and mosquito specialist, conducting research in vector surveillance and control in operational military environments. In her role as Executive Director, Sarah represents the NT on the National Biosecurity Committee, National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication program Steering Committee, and the Northern Australia Biosecurity Reference Group.

**OVERVIEW:** Biosecurity is foundational for the development of sustainable agribusiness and economic development in the Territory by managing risks to the economy, environment and human health. This includes effective chemical management and investigation of residues to protect human health and enhance market access. In addition, the Animal Welfare Branch supports the department to improve the welfare of animals across the Territory through administration of the *Animal Welfare Act*.

Biosecurity and Animal Welfare achieves this by working with industry, government and communities to ensure best practice biosecurity and animal welfare standards are adhered to within the NT.

A specialised workforce protects livelihoods of farmers from the daily threat of exotic pests and diseases, collaborating with stakeholders to implement biosecurity programs and protect this valuable asset.



# Industry development plan - performance

The department's performance against the Industry Development Plan (IDP) strategies is reported in the list below. Articles in brackets at the end of each activity relate it to the specific key actions in the IDP reflecting activity at the local, regional, Territory-wide and international levels.

Legend:

- B – Biosecurity and animal welfare
- D – Departmental strategic services
- A – Major agribusiness projects
- F – Fisheries
- L – Livestock industries development
- M – Market and enterprise development
- P – Plant industries development

## Objective 1 - Profitable and productive primary industries

### STRATEGY 1.1. PROVIDE CERTAINTY AND SECURITY TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT

<b>B</b>	Maintained the Veterinary Board and associated legislation. The Northern Territory (NT) has 284 registered veterinarians, with 146 holding primary registration and 138 secondary registration (1.1.2).
<b>B</b>	Introduced the Animal Welfare Protection Bill to align with Territory and national regulatory frameworks and policies into the Legislative Assembly (1.1.2/2.1.2).
<b>B</b>	Implemented animal welfare Standard Operating Procedures in relation to prosecutions and provided recommendations on policy and industry standards for acceptance under the <i>Animal Welfare Act</i> (1.1.2/2.1.2).
<b>D</b>	Continued to provide a cattle dip testing service for the NT cattle industry (1.1.1).
<b>P</b>	Assessed the agribusiness development potential of the Big Rivers Region to support the Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub (1.1.4).
<b>A</b>	Continued facilitation of the Ord Stage 3 agricultural precinct development project including stakeholder engagement and intergovernmental liaison (1.1.5).
<b>A</b>	Progressed discussions with the Western Australian Government regarding an intergovernmental agreement on water regulations for the Ord Stage 3 development (1.1.5).
<b>A</b>	Continued a collaborative study with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to define production risk in Ord Stage 3 agricultural zone (1.1.5).
<b>A</b>	Commissioned the preparation of the Regional Biosecurity Emergency Management Plan to describe biosecurity emergency management arrangements for prevention, preparedness and response for the NT Ord River Region (1.1.5).
<b>A</b>	Worked with the NT Cattlemen's Association to develop investment information for the pastoral sector (1.1.7).
<b>A</b>	Provided informative responses to enquiries from 50 parties interested in establishing donkey farming and/or processing in the Territory (1.1.8).

<b>A</b>	Completed and published annual overview and outlook economic data online, including annual production statistics for Territory primary industries and fisheries sectors (1.1.8).
<b>A</b>	Developed a Master Plan to implement the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to target investment in the Territory for supply into South East Asian markets (1.1.10).
<b>A</b>	Continued work with local, interstate and international investors to match investment opportunity with investor interest in the Territory agribusiness sector (1.1.10).
<b>A</b>	Facilitated investor delegations from Argentina, China, Japan and Indonesia interested in primary industry and fisheries investment (1.1.10).
<b>F</b>	Updated Fisheries regulations passed by Executive Council and implemented on 1 February 2018 (1.1.1/1.1.2).
<b>F</b>	Reviewed management arrangements for priority fisheries including coastal line and offshore net and line fisheries (1.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Held all scheduled meetings and consultations with Aboriginal communities and the Fisheries Management Advisory Committees (1.1.2/4.2.2).
<b>F</b>	Amended Mud Crab Fishery Management Plan and Harvest Strategy introduced following the comprehensive review of the management arrangements for the fishery (1.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Prepared a policy to guide the leasing of space at the Darwin Aquaculture Centre by commercial operators (1.1.1).
<b>L</b>	Continued to provide technical advice related to the assessment of native vegetation clearing applications to agencies involved in approvals processes (1.1.4).
<b>L</b>	Supported Territory pastoralists to source investors and diversify pastoral lease activities (1.1.7).
<b>L</b>	Implemented a follow-up coaching program to the Nutrition EDGE workshop to assist producers to undertake cost-benefit analysis of priority scenarios (1.1.9).
<b>L</b>	Continued to deliver training in the use of Breedcow and Dynama software (a herd budgeting package) (1.1.9).
<b>M</b>	Active in the organising committee for the Food Futures Conference in 2018 in collaboration with the NT Farmers Association (1.1.1/1.2.2/1.2.3/2.1.1). Successful conference attended by 220 delegates including captains of Australian rural industry and international delegates.
<b>M</b>	Collaborated with the NT Land Corporation to identify land releases for agribusiness investment including Wildman River and Gunn Point (1.1.4).
<b>M</b>	Participated in the review of the inter-governmental agreement on drought policy (1.1.9).
<b>M</b>	Continued to facilitate the delivery of Rural Financial Counselling Services in the NT, with agreement to extend the program to 30 June 2019 (1.1.9).
<b>M</b>	Worked with the Australian Government to implement the transitional Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme in 2017-2018, and continued to support the development of the new 10-year program identified in the Australian Government's Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper (1.1.9).
<b>M</b>	Worked with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to plan for the Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub (1.1.10).
<b>P</b>	Contributed to a CSIRO-led project to determine the commercial viability of agricultural opportunities, including irrigated agriculture, horticulture and forestry, in the Darwin Regional Assessment Area, in the North Australia Water Resource project (1.2.1).

<b>P</b>	Contributed information to update crop water requirements for the Darwin Water Control District for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) licensing of groundwater under the <i>Water Act</i> (1.2.1).
<b>P</b>	Contributed to the DENR led project to update land use mapping to achieve improved biosecurity outcomes across the Territory, and communicated this to industry (1.2.1).
<b>P</b>	Contributed to DENR land suitability reporting with potential plant industries identifying land suitable in the Larrimah, Wildman, Ti Tree, Wadeye, and Gunn Point regions (1.2.1).
<b>P</b>	Provided plant diseases diagnostics service for free on samples provided by growers, nurseries, householders and other stakeholders (1.2.1).

## STRATEGY 1.2. FACILITATE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN PRODUCTION QUANTITY AND QUALITY

<b>F</b>	Leased portions of Darwin Aquaculture Centre to industry clients to facilitate research and development (1.2.1).
<b>F</b>	Digitised relevant historical research reports to enable online use (1.2.3).
<b>F</b>	Applied research to improve hatchery production of blacklip oysters at the Darwin Aquaculture Centre (1.2.1).
<b>F</b>	Delivered 90 000 blacklip oyster spat to expand a trial oyster farm on South Goulburn Island (1.2.2).
<b>F</b>	Scientific article 'Embryonic, Larval, and Early Postlarval Development of the Tropical Black-Lip Rock Oyster <i>Saccostrea echinata</i> ' published in Journal of Shellfish Research (1.2.1).
<b>F</b>	Assisted the Queensland Government in a mud crab project looking at environmental influences that drive production (1.2.1).
<b>F</b>	Developed research partnerships with Queensland Government, Western Australian Government, Charles Darwin University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (1.2.2).
<b>L</b>	Investigated additional market options for Territory cattle by crossbreeding Brahman cows with Senepol bulls to improve carcass quality while maintaining resilience to NT conditions. Phase 1 (steer performance and meat quality) has been completed. Phase 2 (female performance) is ongoing (1.2.1).
<b>L</b>	Continued the long-running project on performance comparisons between Composite and Brahman cattle herds to determine the potential profitability of Territory beef enterprises with the use of Multibreed Composite cattle (1.2.1).
<b>L</b>	Continued the ongoing Brahman fertility project in Katherine, Kidman Springs and Douglas Daly with musters in May and September. Surplus bulls and heifers were sold to the Territory industry injecting superior genetics to improve Brahman fertility (1.2.1).
<b>L</b>	Developed a project proposal under the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing North Australia targeting sustainable irrigation farming systems using off stream water harvest (1.2.1).
<b>L</b>	Collected data to investigate the benefits of phosphorus supplementation on the reproductive performance of young breeding cattle (1.2.1).
<b>L</b>	Continued research on breeding and management practices to improve buffalo production (1.2.1).

L	Collected data for a collaborative study with University of New England and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to genotype fertility traits with the aim of increasing the accuracy of fertility estimated breeding values (1.2.1).
L	Provided extension services to the livestock industry to ensure that new entrants are able to access the information required to adapt to Territory conditions (1.2.2).
L	Final report submitted on the effect of weaning size, feed requirements and post-weaning growth rate in heifers (1.2.2).
L	Completed trials on the effectiveness of using insecticidal fly tags to prevent three day sickness in cattle, and evaluating a new insecticidal fly tag with a different active ingredient (1.2.2).
L	Collected baseline data for a trial assessing the cost-effectiveness of vaccinating cattle against Clostridial diseases (1.2.2).
L	Completed phase 1 of research into cost-effective measures for adding weight to cull cows looking at floodplain and feedlot options to supply animals to the Darwin abattoir (1.2.2).
L	Delivered a Grazing Land Management EDGE workshop to cattle producers in the Barkly region (1.2.3).
L	Completed a comprehensive technical manual for buffalo producers (1.2.3).
L	Completed research to develop best management guidelines for use of soil nitrous oxide emissions associated with nitrogen fertilisers in key plant industries and communicated this to industry (1.2.3).
L	Commenced industry-led research to optimise production value from mahogany plantations (1.2.3).
L	Reviewed and published livestock disease control and livestock endemic disease management extension information on the new NT Government website (1.2.3).
L	Continued to provide potential stakeholders with information about livestock production opportunities in the Territory (1.2.3).
L	Produced four editions of the Quarterly Feed Advisory Bulletin for the pastoral industry available from the department's website and via targeted circulation (1.2.3).
L	Implemented a pilot whole-of-business decision making livestock producer demonstration project, with six livestock businesses participating (1.2.5).
L	Drafted a technical guide outlining livestock profitability scenario modelling for various options e.g. improved pastures and liveweight gain for Katherine (1.2.5).
L	Completed the second year of the major project to develop a clearer understanding of the long-term effects of phosphorus deficiency in cattle and the benefit to cost ratio of supplementation (1.2.5).
M	Development of an agri-innovation project plan for Plant Industries Development (1.2.1/1.2.2/1.2.3/1.2.4/1.2.5/2.1.1).
M	Worked with the Australian Government to roll out the Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia (1.2.2)
M	Undertook research and communicated findings on understanding and mitigating the aggregative behaviour of the magpie goose on mango orchards in the NT, funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia (1.2.3/1.2.5/2.1.1/2.1.2)
M	Commenced investigation of technology to reduce the costs and complexity of establishing 'Judas' animals to enhance adoption of the technique in pest management regimes (1.2.3/1.2.5/2.1.1/2.1.2).
M	Finalised feasibility study of the viability of commercial harvesting of agile wallabies in the Territory, funded by AgriFutures Australia (1.2.5/2.1.1/2.1.2/2.1.1).

P	Established the second round of passionfruit hybrids at Coastal Plains Research Farm.
P	Superior germplasm was selected complementing the advanced hybrid selections and the commercialisation of elite passionfruit genetic material for the hot monsoonal tropics (1.2.1).
P	Early quantification of key economic parameters such as yield and growth achieved from novel high density rambutan orchard system (1.2.1).
P	Continued advanced jackfruit selections made and established for industry evaluation and assessment (1.2.1).
P	Contributed a major role in the national banana Panama Disease research and development program that has led to involvement in two major Horticulture Innovation Australia projects (1.2.1).
P	Advanced integrated mixed farm production systems to compliment and diversify pastoral enterprises including introduction of improved pasture, hay and field crops (1.2.1).
P	Investigated opportunities to develop an irrigated pasture seed industry in the NT (1.2.1).
P	Analysis and write up of the project on hard mature mango as a non-fruit fly host and presentation of the results at the 11 <sup>th</sup> Australia Mango Conference including participation in a panel discussion on market access (1.2.1).
P	Collaborated with Plant and Food Research, New Zealand to develop a synthetic pheromone for the mango fruit borer, <i>Citripestis eutraphera</i> (1.2.1).
P	Participated in the Agricultural Centre for International Agricultural Research funded Cambodia and Northern Territory mango project (1.2.1).
P	Conducted studies on honey bees to determine whether they can transmit Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (1.2.1).
P	Conducted research on alternative pollinators for a range of crops (1.2.1).
P	Provided in field advice and training on the control of giant northern termites ( <i>Mastotermes darwiniensis</i> ) in mangoes and sandalwood (1.2.1).
P	Provided information about plant diseases management to stakeholders (1.2.1).
P	Detected one new plant pathogen for the NT and two new plant pathogens nationally (1.2.1).
P	Collaborative project between the department and NT Farmers Association, funded by Landcare, demonstrated integrated pest management strategies on vegetables to growers in the Darwin area (1.2.1/1.2.3).
P	Maintained the NT Economic Insect Reference Collection (NTEIRC) which currently has 51 000 accessions, all fully databased (1.2.1).
P	Provided a diagnostic entomology and advisory service to government, industry and the public (1.2.1).
P	Provided advice to industry through publications (agnotes, etc), extension visits and telephone and email contact (1.2.3).
P	Confirmed specific chemical capability of inducing mango flowering under non-inductive weather conditions (1.2.3).
P	Improved definition of sentinel temperatures for mango flower induction for use in mango orchard management (1.2.3).
P	Applied ionic diagnosis to characterise mango nutrient status as a basis for understanding nutrient interaction (1.2.3).



<b>P</b>	Demonstrated the capacity of strategic tip pruning to modify mango fruit maturity and flowering behaviour in Katherine (1.2.3).
<b>P</b>	Progress made towards understanding the molecular basis of mango flower induction in chemically induced and temperature induced flowering (1.2.3).
<b>P</b>	Trials conducted to evaluate remote sensing technologies to predict mango crop variability within orchards (1.2.3).
<b>P</b>	Produced a digital map of current Territory mango orchards and provided to industry and research partners (1.2.3).
<b>P</b>	Supported the adoption of near infrared spectroscopy to non-destructively predict mango maturity (1.2.3).

#### STRATEGY 1.3. EXPAND MARKET OPTIONS FOR TERRITORY PRODUCTS

<b>B</b>	Provided extension, licensing and audit services to ensure compliance of Territory meat industry with national standards (1.3.4).
<b>B</b>	Completed audits of facilities and processes to check compliance with meat industry hygiene rules and standards (1.3.4/1.1.2).
<b>B</b>	Maintained and improved the plant health status of the plant and plant product industries of the Northern Territory through targeted surveillance programs (including the National Plant Health Surveillance program, Port of Entry and Pest Free Areas of Production Fruit Fly trapping and the National Bee Pest Surveillance program) (1.3.1).
<b>B</b>	Administered the <i>NT Plant Health Act</i> 2008 and Plant Health Regulations 2011, including issuing of licences, market access accreditation, permits for movement of plant material and inspections in accordance with national certification requirements (1.3.1).
<b>L</b>	Continued a major project assisting importation of breeding cows to East Kalimantan province in Indonesia (1.3.1).
<b>L</b>	Completed a Central Australian Quality Graze Producer Steer Challenge to assess and compare steer performance and access to premium markets. A quarter of Central Australian producers participated and quarterly update reports were published on a website established for participants to follow progress (1.3.1).
<b>L</b>	Completed fieldwork investigating the advantages of the cell grazing system over continuous grazing to soil carbon sequestration, and animal and pasture production at the Douglas Daly Research Farm (1.3.3).
<b>L</b>	Developed an information package on regulatory requirements for prospective and existing abattoirs, and conducted inspections (1.3.4/1.1.1).
<b>M</b>	Participated in national trade and market access working groups including Horticulture Innovation Australia's Trade and Market Prioritisation Working Group and the Australian Government's Primary Industry Technical Market Access and Trade Development working group to ensure Territory commodities are on the national agenda and assist with market development opportunities (1.3.1).
<b>M</b>	Coordinated inbound delegations including from China, Indonesia and Vietnam, and outbound delegations to China, Indonesia and Vietnam to strengthen existing relations, explore trade opportunities for agricultural commodities and to promote the Territory as a supplier of choice for live cattle and buffalo (1.3.1).
<b>M</b>	Participated in the Committee of Northern Australia Agriculture Ministers' Senior Leaders Working Group to progress the Northern Australia Beef Industry Roundtable workplan priorities (1.3.1).

<b>M</b>	Provided technical support to the mango industry in gaining access to the USA market resulting in an increase in shipments of Australian mangoes to the USA from five tonnes in year one to 63 tonnes in year four; and three Territory growers being approved to export to the USA (1.3.1/1.3.2).
<b>M</b>	Continued to support the mango industry to obtain improved maximum residue limits in important potential markets for a fungicide registered in Australia (1.3.2).
<b>M</b>	Supported trade development initiatives including airfreight of mangoes and a trial of chilled barramundi to Singapore and Japan (1.3.2).
<b>M</b>	Commenced discussion with Darwin International Airport and Qantas regarding the establishment of a Hong Kong freight service during the mango season (1.3.2).
<b>M</b>	Provided technical and strategic advice to the Darwin International Airport regarding a proposed Airport Freight and Training Hub (1.3.2).
<b>P</b>	Established a mango trial at Ali Curung using National Mango Breeding program cultivars (1.3.1).
<b>P</b>	Evaluated potential horticultural commodities for Central Australia, including garlic, asparagus, lucerne, quinoa, and rockmelon (1.3.1).

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

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

<b>B</b>	Administered the <i>Animal Welfare Act</i> and associated regulations. Investigated 491 animal welfare complaints with a range of compliance activities undertaken. Eight successful prosecutions were undertaken (2.1.2).
<b>B</b>	Engaged the livestock industry on the enactment of Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines to promote best practice animal welfare outcomes. Regulations for Land Transport Standards completed and regulations for cattle welfare standards under development. Two infringements were issued (2.1.2).
<b>B</b>	Delivered animal welfare police education sessions to align best practice within government (2.1.2).
<b>B</b>	Administered the scientific licensing legislation and issued 20 licence renewals and one new licence for the use of premises for teaching and research involving animals (2.1.2).
<b>B</b>	Administered \$200 000 in Animal Welfare Grants awarded to eligible organisations (2.1.2).
<b>B</b>	Provided community education in relation to animal welfare through participating in the show circuit, Million Paws Walk and other relevant community events and industry meetings (2.1.2).
<b>F</b>	Continued implementation of electronic monitoring in key fisheries (2.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Vessel monitoring system levies introduced in all relevant commercial fisheries (2.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Collected independent catch data in all key fisheries (2.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Implemented electronic reporting of catch and effort data in several key fisheries (2.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Undertook surveys of coastal reef fish at six sites to assess the impacts of reef protection zones (2.1.1).

<b>F</b>	Completed scientific assessment of the impacts of the use of trawl gear, in the Timor Reef Fishery (2.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Undertook monitoring of mud crabs from the Gulf of Carpentaria and Bynoe Harbour (2.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Conducted an Ecological Risk Assessment of the Offshore Snapper and Coastal Line Fisheries (2.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Collected tissue samples of blacklip oysters across the NT coastline to assess genetic variability to inform translocation procedures for edible oyster farming.
<b>F</b>	Contributed to a national project investigating the impacts of trawl and bycatch identification in Australian waters (2.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Assisted the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and GEO Australia on habitat mapping and sediment sampling in Darwin and Bynoe Harbours (2.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Assisted Charles Darwin University with Australian Research Council project on fish resilience (2.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Contributed to the production of national and jurisdictional fish stock status reports (2.1.4).
<b>F</b>	Partnered with Microsoft to develop an artificial intelligence model to identify fish in remote underwater videos (2.1.1).
<b>L</b>	Collected data for a project comparing the performance of cattle under intensive rotational grazing and set stocking grazing systems at Douglas Daly Research Farm (2.1.1).
<b>L</b>	Completed data collection and analysis for trials on identification of improved grazing and burning practices for sustainable management of native pastures at Beetaloo and Delamere stations (2.1.3).
<b>L</b>	Completed annual data collection for the Alexandria Station site grazing trial (2.1.3).
<b>L</b>	Carried out annual data collection and analysis for pasture sustainability project at Victoria River Research Station (Kidman Springs) (2.1.3).
<b>L</b>	Conducted a land condition and carrying capacity assessment of Victoria River Research Station (Kidman Springs) (2.1.3).
<b>L</b>	Completed biannual fieldwork for the Victoria River Research Station long-term fire trial: Shruburn (2.1.3).
<b>L</b>	Completed the Precision Pastoral Management Tools project to support pastoralists in improving the efficiency of their enterprises (2.1.3).
<b>L</b>	Carried out objective carrying capacity estimates for station development, subdivision of pastoral leases, and new pastoral enterprises (2.1.3).
<b>M</b>	Participated as a member of the organising committee for the Australia-Pacific Extension Network International Conference September 2017. Successful conference organised in partnership with Global Forum of Rural Advisory Services, with more than 300 delegates, including 100 internationals. (2.1.1).

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

<b>F</b>	Continued to monitor catch and effort data from the Recreational Fishery in the greater Darwin area (2.2.1).
<b>F</b>	Implemented new management arrangements to protect and encourage effective and efficient use of coastal reef stocks (2.2.1).

<b>F</b>	Negotiated with Northern Land Council and other stakeholders on access to the intertidal zone to benefit remote Aboriginal communities and provide access for commercial and recreational fishers (2.2.3).
<b>F</b>	Amended Barramundi Fishery management arrangements to reflect community and industry expectation (2.2.1).
<b>F</b>	Released 100 000 barramundi fingerlings into Manton Dam and 1500 into Durack Lakes (2.2.3).
<b>F</b>	Produced, tagged and released 4500 golden snapper into Darwin harbor and 500 into the Darwin Waterfront lagoon (2.2.3).
<b>F</b>	Completed nine projects, and began second tranche of projects under the \$50 million recreational fishing infrastructure fund (2.2.3).

## Objective 3 - Biosecurity

### STRATEGY 3.1. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN NT BIOSECURITY STRATEGY

<b>B</b>	Finalised the Northern Territory Biosecurity Strategy 2016-2026 for launch in July 2017. Developed biosecurity discussion papers for the NT Economic Development Framework (3.1.1).
<b>B</b>	Provided the Northern Territory Response to the review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity and National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (3.1.1).
<b>B</b>	Represented the Territory on local and national committees to ensure Territory industry and stakeholders interests are adequately incorporated into local and national arrangements, including National Biosecurity Committee, Animal Health Committee, Plant Health Committee, Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia (3.1.1).
<b>B</b>	Chaired two meetings of the NT Zoonoses committee to address one health issue in the human and animal health, wildlife and environment sectors (3.1.1).
<b>B</b>	Undertook MAX training and implementation (3.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Continued active involvement in the national management of aquatic biosecurity, including the prawn white spot disease response (3.1.1).
<b>F</b>	Assisted with the finalisation of the national guidelines on the management of domestic ballast water (3.1.1).

### STRATEGY 3.2. INCREASE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN BIOSECURITY

<b>B</b>	Provided communications around biosecurity responses to banana freckle, cucumber green mottle mosaic virus, browsing ant, citrus canker and Asian honey bee (3.2.1).
<b>B</b>	Maintained effective Territory-wide plant and animal disease surveillance and investigation systems (3.2.2).
<b>B</b>	Participated in a successful industry liaison training event (two cattle, one buffalo, crocodile and barramundi participants) (3.2.2).
<b>B</b>	Addressed the Australian Indigenous Agribusiness Company annual conference on a range of animal biosecurity topics (3.2.3).

- B** Addressed the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) NT conference and produced a summary for AVA and NT regional news (3.2.2).
- F** Continued 'Don't dump your fish' public awareness campaign (3.2.3).
- F** New agreements developed with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to engage and support Aboriginal Rangers in aquatic biosecurity surveillance (3.2.3).

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

- B** Fulfilled national surveillance obligations for plants and animals to underpin and enhance Australia's claims of freedom for international and domestic market access (3.3.1).
- B** Administered the activities of the NT cattle tick control program with 487 property visits to inspect, treat and certify 61 393 head of livestock for movement out of the control area (3.3.1).
- B** Maintained an effective traceability system to ensure both domestic and international trading partners have whole-of-life traceability for product for market access and enable rapid resolution of any disease or chemical residue incident and resumption of market access. Compliance remained at approximately 97 per cent, 102 audits were conducted and 155 non compliances were identified and addressed. Two hundred and eighty-seven new property identification codes were registered in 2017-2018 (3.3.1).
- B** Collaborated on the National Bee Code of Practice (3.3.1).
- B** Provided Aquatic Animal Health diagnostic and health certification services to industry to enhance markets (3.3.1).
- B** Secured funding agreements through the Northern Australian Biosecurity White Paper to enhance diagnostics, technical capacity and animal and plant surveillance (3.3.1).
- B** Worked with NT Farmers Association to implement on-farm biosecurity protocols for cucumber green mottle mosaic virus to enhance melon and cucurbit production (3.3.1).
- B** Supported the live export program by providing 213 animal health certifications to enable verification of international trade protocols (3.3.1).
- B** Achieved a high Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) compliance rate with 96 per cent of businesses compliant and all non-compliance rectified. Undertook 129 ICA audits and 180 market access certificates issued (non-ICA) (3.3.1/3.3.2).
- B** Livestock regulations reviewed and amendments to schedule for notifiable animal and diseases finalised and published on NT Government website (3.3.1).
- B** Provided regulation of Territory produce exported to interstate markets with all interstate quarantine requirements met, including no incidents, crop contamination or poor certification (3.3.2).
- B** Fulfilled the Territory's responsibilities under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Government to investigate and manage residue trace backs to underpin food safety standards (3.3.2).
- B** Continued monitoring and auditing of the use of agricultural chemicals. The Chemical Regulation Branch issued twenty-four 1080 Permits, 19 Bait Injector authorisations, ninety-eight S7 authorisations and 57 Aerial, Pilot Ground and Professional Business Licences (3.3.2).
- B** Participated in the National Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Control Use Task Group on harmonising training standards, licensing and access to chemicals (3.3.2).



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- B** Participated in the national cow-catcher III traceability exercise (3.3.1).
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- B** Coordinated the National Significant Diseases Investigation project and general animal disease investigation services and reporting with a number of worthwhile livestock disease investigations and diagnoses. Emergency animal diseases excluded (3.3.1).
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- B** Satisfied the requirements of the national Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Freedom Assurance program to deliver nationally integrated TSE risk minimisation measures to keep Australian animals and their products free from TSEs and ensure that the NT and Australia retains the highest level international rating (3.3.1).
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- D** Commenced laboratory testing of the Kunjin virus and porosis poxvirus under the Cooperative Research Centre project: Strategies to prevent two viruses devaluing Australian crocodile skins (3.3.1).
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- P** Commenced investigating biological control options for Mango Leaf Hopper as an alternative to pesticides, and continued trials on alternative timing of new fungicide for the control of Mango Stem End Rot (3.3.1).
- 
- P** Continued research activities into the management of cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV) including weeds, non-crops, and the involvement of honey bees in spreading the virus (3.3.1).
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- F** Conducted monitoring for Polyflouroalkyl substances in the Darwin region (3.3.1).
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- F** Commenced regular monitoring of *Penaeid spp* prawn samples to detect for white spot syndrome virus and support national proof of freedom surveillance (3.3.1).
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### STRATEGY 3.4. RESPOND TO BIOSECURITY INCURSIONS

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- B** Progressed amendments to the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement and Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and participated in the development of the Aquatic Deed (3.4.1).
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- B** Coordinated training in Alice Springs to enhance emergency disease preparedness throughout the private vet network (3.4.1).
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- B** Maintained interstate livestock market access with no major livestock disease incursions or welfare incidents with 485 NT health certificates/waybills/declared movement permits issued for movement of NT livestock and 1087 NT health certificates/waybills received for the entry of 158 248 livestock into the NT (3.4.1).
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- B** Participated in emergency preparedness for *Xylella fastidiosa* incursion with presentations from international experts (3.4.1).
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- B** Participated in the consultative committees on emergency plant pests in relation to tomato potato psyllid, citrus canker, mango malformation disorder, giant pine scale, chestnut blight, , khapra beetle, brown marmorated stink bug, varroa mite and provided input through the National Biosecurity Management Consultative Committee into electric ants, red imported fire ants, browsing ant, and the Aquatic Consultative Committees on emergency animal diseases into white spot in prawns (3.4.1).
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- B** Continued the inspection and treatment program for internationally-travelled vessels to monitor the establishment of marine pests in Darwin marinas. No pests established during 2017-2018 (3.4.1).
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- B** Managed the national cost shared Banana Freckle Eradication program and secured funding to enable proof of freedom to be progressed in 2018-2019 (3.4.2).
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<b>B</b>	Managed the National Browsing Ant Eradication cost shared program and secured national agreement that browsing ant remains feasible to eradicate from Australia (3.4.2).
<b>B</b>	Emergency animal disease exclusions were conducted on 214 livestock disease investigations (115 by government vets and 99 by private vets) were conducted to rule out emergency diseases or investigate suspect notifiable diseases with 96 emergency animal diseases excluded (3.4.2).
<b>B</b>	Surveillance for high priority plant pests and diseases was undertaken on 2 051 properties across the Territory (3.4.2).
<b>B</b>	Surveillance under the National Arbovirus Monitoring program resulted in the revision of the Blue Tongue Free zone twice in 2017. Collected and tested samples and reported results from sentinel and sero-survey sites for the National Arbovirus Monitoring program (3.4.2).
<b>B</b>	Responded to the incursion of Queensland fruit fly at Ti Tree. The response remains on track for successful eradication which will enhance market access for the region (3.4.2).
<b>B</b>	Post-mortem kits delivered to over 100 pastoral properties across the NT (3.4.1).
<b>B</b>	Issued newsflash on the confirmation of a Leishmania species in a Nabarlek at Territory Wildlife Park, necrotising fasciitis in greyhounds, and changes to the Blue Tongue Virus zones (3.4.2).
<b>B</b>	Commenced the national emergency response program for citrus canker including the development of a nationally agreed response plan to support detection and eradication efforts to November 2018 (3.4.2).
<b>B</b>	Implemented the Asian honey bee eradication program to effectively remove populations of Asian honey bee from the NT (3.4.2).
<b>D</b>	Continued monthly surveillance for flavivirus activity on behalf of the NT Department of Health (3.4.2).
<b>D</b>	Collected and tested samples and reported results from eight sentinel and nine sero-survey sites for the National Arbovirus Monitoring program.
<b>D</b>	Established a cattle sentinel herd in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea and commenced blood collections and associated vector trapping (3.4.2).
<b>D</b>	Continued the National Arbovirus Monitoring program at Beatrice Hill farm (3.4.2).
<b>F</b>	Maintained monitoring programs across Territory coastal areas of high vessel traffic for early detection of marine pests. Collaborated with other jurisdictions in the development of novel techniques for the early detection of marine pests (3.4.1).
<b>F</b>	Continue to work in collaboration with Darwin marinas and yacht rally organisers to ensure effective monitoring of vessels entering Darwin marinas (3.4.2).
<b>F</b>	Inspected marine debris, several ghost nets, foreign fishing vessels and, several 'fishing aggregation devices' with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (3.4.1).
<b>F</b>	Detected and eliminated invasive asian green mussels on a recreational vessel arriving from Indonesia (3.4.2).
<b>P</b>	Plant Industries participated in National Plant Pest Proficiency testing through the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics with successful outcomes. Participation works towards continued high level diagnostic service capabilities in preparedness for any biosecurity incursions (3.4.1).
<b>P</b>	Maintained a high level of plant health diagnostic proficiency by participating nationally in the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostics, National Plant Health Proficiency Testing program, Modern Diagnostics Project, National Plant Biosecurity Diagnostics Network, Annual Diagnosticians Workshop and diagnostic training through laboratory workshops (3.4.1).

- P** Identified 6126 entomological samples for industry and biosecurity, including positive identification of invasive pest ant species (5995), fruit flies (56), and suspected screw worm fly larvae (four—all negative), tomato potato psyllid samples (two negative) and others (3.4.2).

## Objective 4 - Indigenous participation

### STRATEGY 4.1. SUPPORT ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT

- F** Delivered two nationally accredited training course (Certificate II Fisheries Compliance) to Aboriginal marine rangers (4.1.1).
- F** Six marine rangers appointed as fisheries inspectors under the *Fisheries Act* (4.1.2).
- F** New agreements developed with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to engage and support Aboriginal rangers in aquatic biosecurity surveillance (4.1.2).
- F** Continued mentoring visits by Fisheries Division staff to marine rangers groups (4.1.1).
- F** Partnered with the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation to deliver business management training to support Aboriginal participation in the seafood industry (4.1.2).
- F** The Aboriginal Fishing Mentor program conducted training and mentoring to Aboriginal coastal licence holders in seven remote Aboriginal communities (4.1.1).
- F** Held a stakeholder workshop to review the experiences and needs of Aboriginal coastal licence holders to inform the service delivery of the Aboriginal Fishing Mentor program and facilitate partnerships across NT Government agencies (4.1.3).
- F** Participated in Fisheries Research and Development Corporation research project in partnership with the Northern Land Council investigating sea country economic opportunities in the Borroloola region (4.1.3).
- F** Employed Aboriginal Aquaculture research assistants to support research and data collection activities on oyster trials at South Goulburn Island, Nhulunbuy and Groote Eylandt (4.1.4).
- F** Employed and provided professional development for four Aboriginal apprentices across three facilities, developing skills in business and laboratories (4.1.2).
- F** Utilised the skills of Aboriginal marine ranger groups and two Aboriginal apprentices in Borroloola and Maningrida to collect biological samples of Barramundi and participate in monitoring of mud crab stocks (4.1.4).
- P** Supported Aboriginal community forestry projects in the East Arnhem region with technical advice and support for research grant applications (4.1.1).

### STRATEGY 4.2. ENCOURAGE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- F** Engaged with the Department of Local Government and Community Services and Bawinanga Corporation in Maningrida to appoint Indigenous animal welfare inspectors (4.2.2).
- F** Established sites for oyster production in Aboriginal communities (4.2.3).
- F** Aboriginal Fishing Mentor program assisted Aboriginal licence holders to increase catches and sell product into local communities and Darwin (4.2.3).
- F** Improved partnership with the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation to support Aboriginal business opportunities in the seafood industry (4.2.2).

<b>L</b>	Provided technical assistance to the Indigenous Pastoral Program and other Aboriginal pastoral enterprises and proposals, and commenced several new projects in areas not previously used for modern cattle operations (4.2.1).
<b>L</b>	Provided tailored extension services and support to 25 Aboriginal-owned pastoral enterprises across the Territory (4.2.1).
<b>M</b>	Contributed to the organising and running of grazing land management workshops supporting training and mentoring activities for Aboriginal enterprises (4.2.3).
<b>M</b>	Continued to work with 25 Aboriginal pastoral enterprises to access new technologies and production systems supporting cattle production and generating significant revenue for re-investment (4.2.3).
<b>M</b>	Supported Aboriginal pastoral enterprises with feral animal control, carrying capacity assessments, weed surveys, land condition assessments and land management plans (4.2.3).
<b>M</b>	Provided support to Aboriginal pastoral landholders to apply, receive and project manage funding from government and non-government agencies for pastoral infrastructure, business diversification and land management activities and supporting Aboriginal employment and career pathways within industry (4.2.3).
<b>M</b>	Commenced an assessment of the economic potential of the bush foods and bush medicine industry in Central Australia (4.2.3).
<b>M</b>	Collaborated with industry and regulators to inform industrial hemp policy settings for the Territory (4.2.3).
<b>M</b>	Facilitated workshops to bring together key players in the bush foods industry and discuss industry challenges (4.2.3).
<b>M</b>	Collaborated with the South Australian (SA) Government in the NT/SA Growing the Native Food Industry Steering Committee to guide the regional economic development of the native foods industry (4.2.3).
<b>P</b>	Provided objective carrying capacity estimates for station development, subdivision of pastoral leases, and new pastoral enterprises with a focus on Aboriginal land (4.2.1).
<b>P</b>	Engaged with a horticultural agribusiness to broaden and strengthen its capacity to employ Aboriginal staff (4.2.3).



Figure 3.8. Safety works completed at the former Burnt Shirt site at Tennant Creek.

## Remediating legacy mines

**The NT has a number of legacy mine sites which can pose a risk to the environment as well as public safety.**

Most of these sites were created before 2005 and predated the requirement for operators to lodge a rehabilitation security bond and have either inadequate or non-existent securities. The estimated level of historical mining liabilities in the NT is in excess of \$1 billion.

It is in the collective interest of the mining sector to see legacy issues addressed, as their continuing presence is potentially having adverse impacts on the environment and can reinforce community opposition to mining, especially when new developments are being proposed.

Government is delivering on addressing legacy sites around the NT and in the past year

has been active in the Tennant Creek area, addressing safety and environmental issues around legacy mines and creating jobs and business opportunities in the region.

These projects are not only making it safer for Territorians and tourists, but it's also providing opportunities for local businesses. Legacy mines have adopted a minimum 40 per cent weighting for local content in all tenders to support local businesses.

Funding for the projects comes from the Mining Remediation Fund (MRF). The purpose of the MRF is to hold money from the levy in trust to be used to minimise or rectify impacts from legacy mines.

Liabilities in the form of abandoned open mine workings are being turned into opportunities and assets, including undertaking safety works to facilitate the development of tourism trails.

The government is also working with the Traditional Owners and Northern Land Council regarding the former Redbank mine site. This has included negotiating a cost sharing agreement to continue the Redbank Working Group meetings.

The Legacy Mines unit will continue to work with industry and stakeholders towards remediation of mine sites in the NT.



# Resources function

## Energy services



**Victoria Jackson** | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION  
– ENERGY SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Energy Division encompasses: Energy Titles, Administration, Petroleum Resource Management, Regulation, and Compliance.

The Energy Division remained focused on providing responses to the independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Onshore Unconventional Reservoirs in the NT, providing additional information at the request of the panel. The inquiry investigated the environmental, social and economic risks and impacts of hydraulic fracturing of onshore unconventional gas reservoirs and associated activities.

Post release of the inquiry's final report, the Energy Division continued to provide support and input for the implementation of the recommendations.

### TITLES ADMINISTRATION

The Energy Division has the responsibility of administering and monitor all energy tenure, and maintain registers in accordance with relevant NT legislation.

#### Achievements for 2017-2018

- Timely administration of petroleum, geothermal and energy pipeline titles.
- Assessed one energy pipeline permit application.

- Assessed one energy pipeline licence application and two licence variations.
- Assessed nine annual reports.
- Assessed 43 applications for suspension and extension/variations of permit work programs and Exploration Permit renewals, surrenders and partial relinquishments.
- Continued to develop, populate and test the Energy Division Information System (EDIS), an internal database developed to securely capture tenure information and the business processes and procedures required to effectively administer related statutory requirements.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Energy Division provides input to support the Minister and the department's participation in the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Energy Council's policy agenda. The division also provides substantial input to onshore and offshore oil and gas related policy discussions and position papers through the Upstream Petroleum Resources Group (UPR).

### Achievements for 2017-2018

- In May 2018, the Energy Division was represented at the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) Conference, supporting the Minister during a number of Minister to Minister and bi-lateral industry meetings.
- The Energy Division also supported the September 2017 NT Government hosted South East Asia Australia Offshore and Onshore Conference and the March 2018 Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES), the NT Geological Survey's key event to promote new mineral and petroleum science data and findings about NT geology.

## REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE

The Energy Division has responsibility for regulating more than 3000 km of pipelines in the NT, this includes 15 active pipelines and two inactive pipelines. Two projects of significance include the INPEX Fuel Gas Pipeline and Gas Export Pipeline and Jemena's Northern Gas Pipeline. The division also regulates all geothermal and petroleum exploration activities and production operations in the NT.

### Achievements for 2017-2018

- Assessed nine operational applications.
- Undertook 13 site visits and inspections.
- Received and reviewed 1753 operational compliance reports.
- Input 201 historical title files into EDIS to develop system integrity.
- Provided support to the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Territory, including any additional information as requested by the panel, and continued to support the implementation of the recommendations after released of the inquiry's final report.
- Provided technical input for the timely administration of pipeline licences and activity approvals and geothermal and petroleum activity approvals in accordance with procedures and legislations.
- Continued to enhance EDIS functionality to streamline systems and improve administrative processes including: merging Energy Titles and Energy Operations application assessment tracking spreadsheets into the Tenure Resource Administration Management module; and reviewing business processes, systems, procedures and policies.

## Onshore gas development



**James Pratt** | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ONSHORE GAS DEVELOPMENT

James joined the department in April 2018 and provides strategic leadership and policy advice for the department's implementation of recommendations from the Independent Scientific Inquiry into hydraulic fracturing of onshore unconventional reservoirs in the NT (the Inquiry). Prior to this James was seconded to the Department of Chief Minister to lead government's Hydraulic Fracturing Taskforce which supported the Inquiry led by the Hon Justice Rachel Pepper and 10 eminent scientists. James performed this role from September 2016 to April 2018 when government lifted the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, following receipt of the Inquiry's Final Report and consideration of its recommendations.

James has been in a variety of executive level roles within government during his 15 years of employment with the Northern Territory Public Sector.

Prior to being involved with petroleum related matters he was the Executive Director of Rangelands Division 2012-2016 in the Department of Land Resource Management. James was responsible for the successful delivery of government objectives for the economic development and sustainable use of the Territory's rangelands and broader natural environment. This included legislative reforms to the *Pastoral Land Act* that enhanced the capability of development on the pastoral estate, policy development on changes to pastoral lease rents, delivery of comprehensive land suitability assessments for broad acre and intensive agriculture activities and other land management initiatives.

James has substantial experience in providing policy, legislative and regulatory advice and undertaking community engagement practices. He has a Bachelor of Communications and Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management and will soon complete a Masters in Public Administration.

**OVERVIEW:** The department established an Onshore Gas Development Division in April 2018 following the NT Government's acceptance of all 135 recommendations made by the Independent Scientific Inquiry into hydraulic fracturing of onshore unconventional reservoirs in its final report. The branch is tasked with implementing 57 recommendations that the department has been assigned in accordance with the government's Implementation Plan for the Inquiry's recommendations. These recommendations are a broad mix of legislative amendments, policy and strategy development and operational frameworks. The branch works closely with other similar inquiry recommendation implementation teams at the Department of the Chief Minister and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Onshore Gas Development continues to work with industry and the community to implement the department's recommendations from the Final Report of the Independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Onshore Unconventional Reservoirs in the Northern Territory which includes:

- legislative changes to the *Petroleum Act* and Petroleum (Environment) Regulations
- greater transparency of government and industry operations through policy development
- increased compliance and enforcement efforts
- contribution to establishing environmental baselines for regulatory purposes.

## Achievements for 2017-2018

- Established an Onshore Gas Development Division in April 2018 to implement the department's regulatory reforms and policy development as defined by the recommendations in the final report of the Inquiry in the Northern Territory.
- Contributed to the Northern Territory Government's Implementation Plan in response to its acceptance of all 135 recommendations

made in the Final Report of the Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing.

- Engaged CSIRO to commence landscape methane monitoring on exploration permits in the Beetaloo Sub-basin for a period of six months, as per the recommendations from the Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing.

## Mining services



**Armando Padovan | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MINES DIVISION  
- MINING SERVICES**

Armando commenced in the role of Executive Director, Mines Division in April 2017. He is primarily focused on achieving effective regulation of the Territory's mining sector through the development, review and implementation of key government reforms and mining policy initiatives.

Darwin bred, Armando has seen many changes over time. After completing university in Adelaide, working interstate in the water resources area, then travelling around Europe and the United States, Armando returned to Darwin in 1994 when he began his 24-year career with the NT Government.

As a member of the Northern Territory Public Service, Armando has been instrumental in the delivery of

significant reforms and initiatives of government. Armando has worked in a range of senior executive management roles, and is an experienced professional officer and manager of natural resource management. He has previously worked in South Australia, New South Wales and Western Australia in a variety of roles.

Armando holds a Master of Science from the University of Adelaide, and is a graduate of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government Advancing Leadership program; Executive Coaching (Yellow Edge Consulting) and Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment Senior Executive Leadership program.

**OVERVIEW:** The Mines Division plays a key part in promoting and facilitating the development of the mining industry by supporting growth through consistent and sustainable practices.

The division administers the Northern Territory's *Mining Management Act (MMA)* and *Minerals Titles Act, (MTA)*, regulating mining activities from the first grant of tenure, to the approval and regulation of operations, including site rehabilitation and closure.

The focus of the division continues to be the provision of efficient services to clients through the streamlining of regulatory processes, increased transparency and system development.

The division consists of five branches: Mining Operations, Mineral Titles, Legacy Mines, Governance and Securities and Business Systems unit and two special project groups: focusing on the rehabilitation and closure of Rum Jungle and Ranger mines.

#### EXECUTIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Executive and Policy Development branch is responsible for facilitating strategic communication across Mines Division, government and the community; providing high level policy advice on mines related matters; and supporting the effective governance of the division.

#### LEGACY MINES

The Legacy Mines unit (LMU) administers the Mining Remediation Fund and works to address the impacts from legacy mines in the NT. This is being achieved through the development of an inventory of legacy mines and adoption of a risk based approach to the management and remediation of sites. To continue a robust and transparent approach to delivering legacy projects, LMU has been focusing on reviewing and updating its governance framework and procedures.

#### MINING OPERATIONS

Mining Operations is responsible for the regulation of mining activities with particular reference to the protection of the environment on and adjacent to mining sites in the Territory. This is achieved through enforcement of the *Mining Management Act* (MMA) which provides the basis for the authorisation of mining, management of mining sites and the provision of economic and social benefits to communities affected by mining activities. Mining activities in this context include exploration and extractive mineral activity (quarries and sand and gravel operations) along with both open pit and underground mining.

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

Recent efforts have concentrated on improving process and transparency in decision making. Following the initiative requiring mineral exploration operations on pastoral land to publish their MMPs on a website (either their own or the

department's) within 14 days of approval is a review of MMP requirements. The objective of the review is to improve efficiencies for both the operator and regulator. The intent is to focus the information provided in MMPs to ensure that relevant quality information is provided to mining officers assessing the MMP. The information in an MMP must provide sufficient quality and credible detail to enable mining officers to ascertain whether the proposed mining activities and associated management and mitigation options presented in the MMP will achieve minimal environmental impacts.

#### RUM JUNGLE

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

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

- the completion of rehabilitation design, costing and supporting documentation
- support for the Australian Government to build the capacity of Traditional Owners to maximise long term economic and employment opportunities during future rehabilitation works undertaken at the site
- site management and maintenance (security, weeds and fire)
- environmental monitoring activities
- repairs and maintenance work on the waste rock dump cover system at Rum Jungle Creek South
- stakeholder engagement particularly with the site's Traditional Owners.



## MINERAL TITLES

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

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

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

### Achievements for 2017-2018

#### Legislative

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

#### Economic

Mineral Titles invested a total of \$73 356 in a revitalisation project of Fossicking Area 4, Warrego, located near Tennant Creek. The final payment of \$30 205 was made in October 2017.

Legacy mines projects have ensured maximum local development opportunities with every procurement contract put to market. This has resulted in every contract being issued to local businesses with high levels of Aboriginal employment in a majority of projects.

The Mining Remediation Fund has contributed to minimising or rectifying environmental harm caused by unsecured mining activities. A total of \$216 304 was invested in activities during 2017-2018 in three areas:

- Redbank: Invested a total of \$57 117 for activities at the Redbank site including:

- progressing the fish survey to assess the potential of impacts on the receiving environment of elevated levels of contaminants released from Redbank
- weed management at the site.

- Tennant Creek Region: Invested a total of \$159 187 for activities within and around Tennant Creek including:

- safety works in the vicinity of the Burnt Shirt and near town areas. This included working closely with Aboriginal custodians, the Central Land Council and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (APAA) to complete rehabilitation of shafts within a sacred area
- completion an asbestos survey, obtaining an APAA Certificate and commencing planning for the remediation of the Pup and Dolomite mine sites.

#### Community

- Identified an area suitable for declaration as a new fossicking area in close proximity to Tennant Creek and negotiated the surrender of historical mineral leases located in the area.
- Developed and produced an *Aboriginal Land Rights Act Storyboard* to facilitate presentations to remote Aboriginal communities to inform about the mineral title applications process and associated opportunities.
- Increased awareness of fossicking in the Northern Territory by publishing an article in *Australia's Explorers Way*.
- Attended meetings with the Barkley Regional Economic Development Committee.
- Undertook stakeholder engagement in Tennant Creek to consult with the community regarding the progress of legacy mines programs in the region.
- Negotiated a cost sharing agreement with the Northern Land Council for the Redbank Working Group meetings.

#### Environment

- Attended meetings with the Barkly Regional Economic Development Committee.

- Undertook stakeholder engagement in Tennant Creek to consult with the community regarding the progress of Legacy Mines program in the Region.
- Negotiated a cost sharing agreement with the Northern Land Council for the Redbank Working Group meetings.
- Facilitated exit of extractive operators from key priority areas on the Howard Sand Plain.
- Worked with mining operators to minimise environmental impacts of their operations through site inspections.
- Managed the remote environmental monitoring stations at sites across the Territory to enhance the assessment of mine sites.
- Implemented the use of drones to capture high resolution imagery, reducing inspection times and increasing safety at more sites.

## Northern Territory Geological Survey



**Ian Scrimgeour | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NT GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
– RESOURCE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

Ian joined NTGS in 1995 as a regional mapping geologist based in Alice Springs. From 2002, he managed regional geoscience programs as Program Leader Mineral Prospectivity before being appointed Director NTGS in 2006.

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

**OVERVIEW:** The Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) is the custodian of knowledge and data on the Territory's geology and resources, and undertakes programs to support and facilitate the growth and effectiveness of the minerals and petroleum exploration industry, and increase the Territory's competitiveness in attracting exploration investment.

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

Key roles and activities of NTGS include:

- undertaking new pre-competitive geoscience, including geological mapping, geophysical surveys, regional prospectivity assessments and commodity studies aimed at providing a regional geological framework and baseline datasets to identify resource potential and support industry exploration
- promoting the minerals and energy potential of the Territory to the domestic and global exploration industry, and engaging regularly with industry regarding the results of geological survey programs and opportunities for exploration
- assisting companies with exploration and development-stage projects in the NT to attract investment from international markets, including undertaking missions to key markets to promote investment opportunities, undertaking business matching and hosting inbound investment delegations

- supporting innovation in the Territory's exploration sector by managing collaborative industry grants for greenfields exploration
- managing and distributing all data and information relating to the geology and the mineral and energy resources of the Northern Territory
- assessing and managing statutory reporting of exploration and production under the *Mineral Titles Act*, *Geothermal Energy Act* and *Petroleum Act*
- facilitating and case managing developing greenfields mining projects
- advising government and the community on issues relating to geoscience and minerals and petroleum resources, exploration and mining development.

#### Achievements for 2017-2018

- Release of first results of collaborative programs with Geoscience Australia under their Exploring for the Future program, including the South Nicholson seismic survey (700 km of seismic data in the NT).
- Implementation of the tenth round of the Geophysical and Drilling Collaborations under CORE, with five drilling projects and five geophysical surveys successfully completed.
- Acquisition and release of the Batten Fault Zone Gravity Survey.
- Release of basin-wide SEEBASE® study and GIS dataset for greater McArthur Basin.
- Released the first scientifically robust interpretation of the sub-surface boundary of the Beetaloo Sub-basin, and an interpretation-ready seismic dataset for the sub-basin.
- Land access consultations by NTGS successfully facilitated Commonwealth *Exploring for the Future* programs across the Barkly and Gulf region for 2017-2018.
- Release of exploration reports from 2007-2009 under the five year sunset clause of the *Mineral Titles Act*.
- Data capture completed of all historic industry drilling, sampling and geochemistry from 5 1:100 000 mapsheets in the Borroloola area.
- 2018 AGES Proceedings volume released in digital and hardcopy, including 25 technical papers, 12 with NTGS authors or NTGS-CSIRO embedded researchers.
- Attendance of 208 delegates at the AGES 2018 conference in Alice Springs in March including 123 industry representatives representing more than 44 exploration companies.
- Promotion of the Territory as an exploration destination at industry forums in Darwin, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth.
- Promotion of the Territory's mineral potential at key international events including Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada in Toronto and China Mining in Beijing.
- Actively promoted investment opportunities in 25 NT resources projects on behalf of 19 exploration companies, to international markets.
- Promoted minerals investment opportunities at the North Australia Investment Forum in Cairns in November.
- Participated in one delegation to China, and two to Japan and South Korea, promoting investment opportunities and strengthening strategic relationships with potential investors and government partners.

# Central services

## Strategic services

### OVERVIEW

Strategic Services provides specialist professional services to the department in biometric analysis, library, services and scientific and technical publications supporting research, development and extension activities. The division also manages the accredited veterinary diagnostic testing and water laboratories which provide services for government, businesses and the community and also whole of Northern Australian biosecurity monitoring of animal diseases. The division's broader responsibilities include internal policy development and review services, corporate communication and infrastructure and asset services (reported separately).

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

### Achievements for 2017-2018

- In conjunction with the Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics (DIPL), initiated and managed the Berrimah Farm Redevelopment program for infrastructure to allow for the relocation of staff and operations
- prior to land handover in 2019 for private development. The building program also includes the upgrading of essential services such as water and sewerage and replacement of several facilities which no longer meet the requirements of contemporary research and diagnostic programs.
- Edited and published scientific and technical publications across the full range of department functions.
- Maintained ongoing National Association of Testing Authorities accreditation requirements to ensure rigorous testing of water for human health and environmental monitoring for the community and for high standards of operation in delivering veterinary diagnostic services for biosecurity monitoring and testing of production animals.
- Represented the Territory in national gene technology policy forums and coordinated technical advice to the national Gene Technology Regulator.

## Infrastructure and assets services

### OVERVIEW

Infrastructure and Asset Services branch provides support and oversight for the management of department facilities, leased properties and assets across the Territory. These activities occur through works programs of Repairs and Maintenances and Minor New Works undertaken by DIPL. Further functions are undertaken via management of fleet vehicles, portable and attractive assets, and the provision of power supply, security and cleaning services contracts.

Works programming includes strategic application of budget with projects monitored and on-going liaison occurring between the department, DIPL project managers and contractors to ensure timely and high quality outcomes.

Fleet, asset and services management ensures efficient, cost-effective and compliant activities occur consistently, providing suitable outcomes for the department. This includes monitoring, recording and reporting on all fleet activities and liaison with NT Fleet for return and replacement of vehicles which are fit for purpose. Portable and attractive assets are monitored and reported on through communication with divisions according to finance policy.

### Achievements for 2017-2018

- Arid Zone Research Institute: commencement of major facilities improvements with removal of asbestos, upgrades to air-conditioning systems, flooring replacement and fencing repairs.

- Beatrice Hill Research Farm: extensive fence repairs.
- Berrimah Farm: upgrade of carbon dioxide monitoring systems in the veterinary laboratory building.
- Coastal Plains Research Farm: significant repairs and improvements to onsite accommodation and staff amenities including fence repairs.
- Darwin Aquaculture Centre: construction of live feed and temperature controlled room and installation of new secure entry gate and security camera for the facility.
- Douglas Daly Research Farm: construction of new cool room and remedial works of potable water supply and disposal of old accommodation buildings and sheds.
- Farrell Crescent Core Store: underwent stage 2 of total project for asbestos removal and archive building upgrades for structural certification.
- Katherine Research Station: upgrade of mains water lines, asbestos removal and bitumen road resealing.
- Old Man Plains Research Station: fence repairs.
- Victoria River Research Station: asbestos removal from main office, single quarters and kitchen amenities buildings.

## External strategy and policy coordination

### OVERVIEW

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

The head of the group was also a member of the department's Board of Management over 2017-2018 as well as the Business Improvement, Audit and Risk Committee.

### Achievements for 2017-2018

- Prepared the Minister's speech notes for Budget 2018-2019 and Estimates 2018.
- Prepared speech notes for the Chief Minister's The Year Ahead speech.
- Coordinated departmental reporting on Election Commitments and Letter of Commission projects.
- Provided responses for written questions for Estimates 2018.
- The Animal Protection Bill 2018 (Serial 44) was introduced into the Legislative Assembly. The Bill aligns and builds upon the existing animal welfare regulatory framework in the Northern Territory, and puts in place clearly defined rights, roles and responsibilities for government, industry and the community.
- Continued with the process for making amendments to the *Mineral Titles Act*. The drafting instructions for the proposed amendments are complete and are ready for Cabinet consideration.
- Worked on amendments to streamline the review processes under the *Mining Management Act*.
- Participated as an active member of and provided governance to the Major Projects Project Control Groups (PCGs) for the three mining projects which the department is the lead agency.
- Participated as an active member of other Major Project PCGs that the department supports.
- Completed a review into the mines



and energy legislative delegations at the Minister's request. The review recommendations will be implemented during 2018-2019.

- Provided Secretariat support for the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Energy Council, the COAG Energy Council Senior Committee of Officials, the Agriculture Ministers Forum and the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee meetings, teleconferences and out-of-session decision making.
- Provided comment on behalf of the department on 71 Cabinet Submissions. Coordinated departmental project plans to progress the Economic Development Framework.
- Coordinated 17 responses on behalf of the department on requests from the NT Environment Protection Authority to comment on Notices of Intent, draft Environmental Impact Statements and supplementary documentation.
- Coordinated 10 responses on behalf of the department on requests for comment on relevant planning applications received weekly from the Development Consent Authority.
- Coordinated 11 responses on behalf of the department on Foreign Investment Review Board applications.

## Emergency management

### OVERVIEW

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

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

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

In collaboration with Biosecurity and Animal Welfare, the unit is responsible for facilitating the development of response ready staff capable

of mounting effective responses to biosecurity hazards in the Territory. As a signatory to the Emergency Animal Diseases Response Agreement, the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and the National Environmental Biosecurity Emergency Response agreement, the Territory has an obligation to develop and maintain capability to respond to a biosecurity level three event.

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

### Achievements for 2017-2018

The branch led the department's wet season preparations, including cyclone, flooding and severe storm preparedness for all department business areas and re-engaging with supporting agencies and non-government organisations to ensure animal welfare responsibilities can be achieved, which includes and increasing community awareness supporting the 'Pets in emergencies' campaign.

### Coordination of the wet season response activities included:

- provided subject matter expertise and direction to the whole-of-government wet season preparedness program
- emergency Management staff participated in the following emergency responses:
  - Daly River flooding – coordinated response to maintain animal welfare while community was evacuated
  - Tropical Cyclone Marcus – temporary relocation of Berrimah farm staff, coordinated animal welfare preparedness in anticipation of surge in displaced animals
  - Tropical Cyclone Nora - coordinated animal welfare preparedness in anticipation of surge in displaced animals
  - citrus canker response- led the establishment of a functioning control centre through to national agreeance of response strategy and cost sharing arrangements.
  - Asian honey bee response- established a control centre and managed early response activities and response strategy.

### Other achievements:

- Implemented new biosecurity information management system (MAX).
  - Trained department staff in how to use and administer the system.
- Delivered WinBER training to 63 individuals across the department, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Animal Health Australia (AHA) and the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Continued to develop and strengthen the department's First Response Team (FRT) capability. The aim of the FRT is to have access to a trained staff responsible for establishing and co-ordinating the initial phase of an emergency response. The FRT comprises 160 staff (134 from DPIR, nine from DENR and small numbers from other government departments) with specific skills for managing emergency responses. One hundred of these staff have received foundation level biosecurity emergency response training (WinBER).



Figure 3.9. Checking animal welfare and providing food in Daly River

### 3. Performance reporting

Other training provided to members of the FRT in 2017-2018:

- Introduction to EM, WebEOC and AIIMS (Northern Territory Emergency Services).
- MAX administrator and user training (DPIR and Agriculture Victoria).
- Logistic Officer course (Australian Maritime Safety Authority).
- Incident Controller Level 2 (Animal Health Australia).
- WORKBER train the trainer (Tocal College).

The majority of FRT members have been nominally assigned a functional area that suits their skills and knowledge currently.

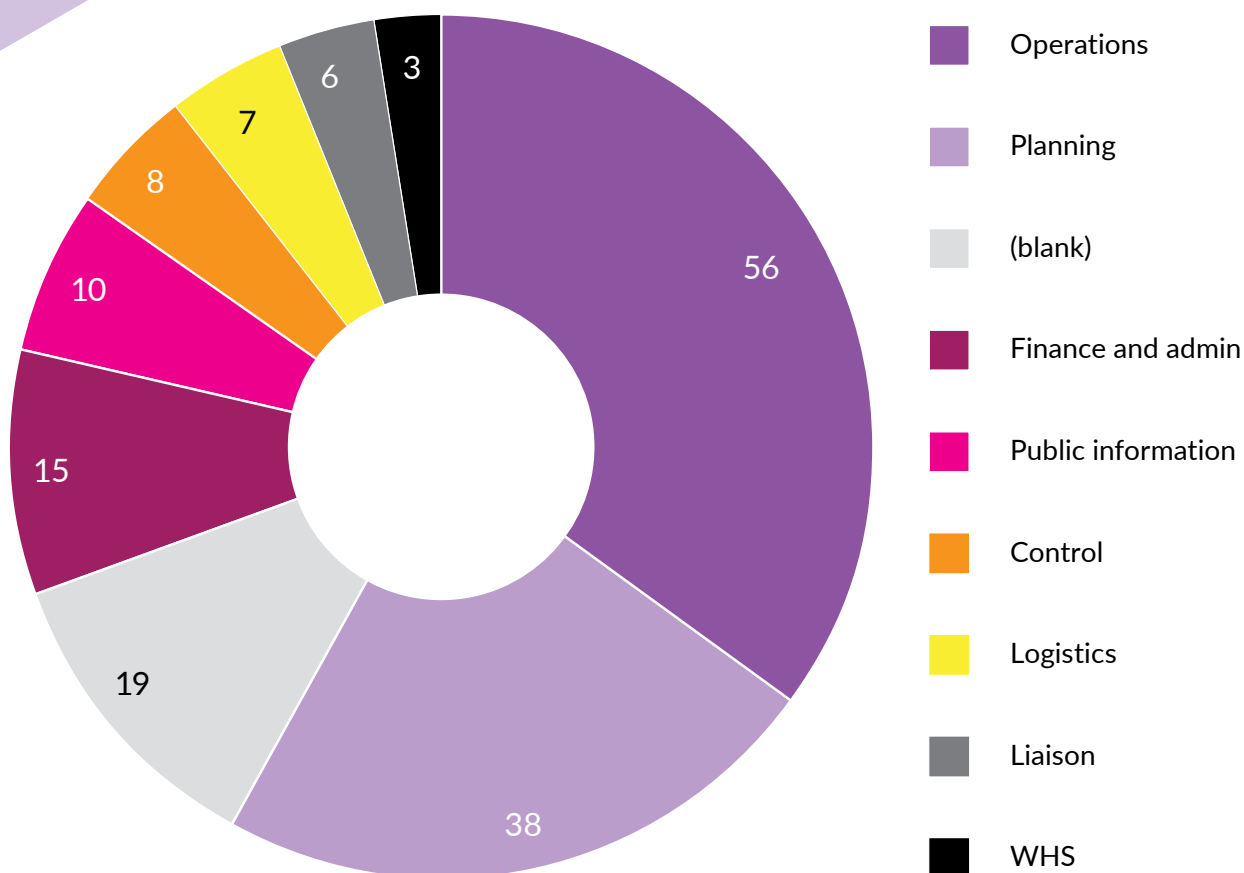
- Developed the National Interstate Deployment Guidelines as a member of the national Resource Specialist Task Group.
- Developed nationally consistent biosecurity emergency response training qualifications, material as part of the Biosecurity Emergency Response Training Australia (BERTA) program coordinated by the National Training Specialist Task Group.



Figure 3.10. MAX training (top left) and MAX in use at Daly River (top right) WINBER participants in Alice Springs (bottom)



Figure 3.11. Emergency response functional areas of the FRT



- Developed the Regional Biosecurity Response plan for the area of Ord 3 and Project Sea Dragon in consultation with stakeholders from the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries of Regional Development, the Australian Government and industry.
- To develop the response support capability of local industry, DPIR in collaboration with AHA and Plant Health Australia (PHA) delivered an 'Industry Liaison workshop' in Darwin on 22 February. The workshop was attended by 24 industry representatives as well as nine department staff and one trainer each from AHA and PHA.



Figure 3.2. Aquatic Biosecurity Officer, Helen discussing industry liaison in biosecurity emergency responses in Darwin

### Corporate Communications

#### OVERVIEW

The Corporate Communications branch strategically communicates government priorities to stakeholders through professional advice and support.

The Corporate Communications team manages media enquiries and interfaces, web updates and maintenance, internal communications development and delivery, emergency communications, marketing and strategic communications support, advertising, event and sponsorship coordination and other routine communication requirements for the department with a consistent approach aligning to whole-of-government directions.

#### Achievements for 2017-2018

- Supported more than 90 ministerial media releases, 24 departmental media releases and numerous other media interviews and opportunities; these ministerial opportunities included a number of key announcements including:
  - the opening of new mining project Emmerson's Black Snake Project in Tennant Creek, creating local jobs
  - the first six Aboriginal rangers to be appointed as Fisheries Inspectors
  - projects under the \$50 million recreational fishing infrastructure program
  - the new biosecurity hub to be built in Darwin as part of an \$8 million joint project by the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to guard against foreign pests and diseases.
- Supported the public information function of the citrus canker emergency response team to establish a communication and engagement strategy, managed media liaison, developed a collateral support suite, deliver online communication through the department's website and social media platforms, commenced community engagement activities and implemented an integrated marketing campaign to drive awareness and encourage self-reporting.
- Developed communication and marketing strategies to support department's projects and initiatives.
- Provided communication and public information services for biosecurity incursion responses for asian honey bee, banana freckle and browsing ant as well as animal welfare arrangements during emergency responses in the Daly River community.
- Supported displays focused on resources, fisheries, biosecurity, animal welfare and agriculture at two regional shows and 15 local, national and international events, conferences and exhibitions.
- Promoted the department's work through 16 editions of the Chief Executive's newsletter, 21 regional newsletters and the department's website.
- Published 101 department news items on the department website.
- Delivered media training to the three finalists of the Northern Territory's Rural Women's Award.
- Delivered daily media monitoring services to the department.
- Consulted across the department to develop a new intranet structure for development.



# Corporate services

## Finance



**Karen Simpson | CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (DIRECTOR FINANCIAL SERVICES)**  
– CORPORATE SERVICES

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

financial reporting, procurement and travel.

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

**OVERVIEW:** The Financial Services branch provides financial services including strategic financial and budget management advice, financial reporting, accounting, travel, financial training and maintains close liaison with the Procurement Network in the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation.

### Achievements for 2017-2018

- Provided a high standard of advice, support and professional services to the department from a financial management perspective, with a focus on client service.
- Facilitated and managed end of year monitoring processes which ensured the department achieved budget.
- No financial management issues raised in the agency compliance audit.
- Ensured the governance around financial management and travel was continually promoted to the department through educational information dispersion.
- Continued to review finance and travel procedures and processes to improve efficiency.

## Human resources, Risk and Audit



**Rick Bishop | DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES, RISK AND AUDIT**  
– CORPORATE SERVICES

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

employment matters, Aboriginal employment and work health and safety (WHS).

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

**OVERVIEW:** The Human Resources branch provides service and advice on the risk and audit function, change management, strategic human resources planning, resolution of complex industrial and employment matters, Aboriginal employment and participation in various governance matters.

#### Achievements for 2017-2018

Human Resources provided strategic, client focused HR services and solutions to assist the department's achievement outcomes.

- Provided strategic HR advice and leadership to support the Chief Executive Officers and Senior Executive Members.
- Provided advice and guidance on organisational restructures and change management.
- Provided specialist recruitment, and redeployment selection advice and online induction program for new employees.
- Maintained Aboriginal Early Careers programs and Aboriginal career development advice.
- Delivered the Annual STAR Awards.
- Provided advice on conditions of service.
- Provided specialist HR advice to managers and employees on employment and/or industrial issues.
- Provided support and management of employment issues including discipline, performance, grievances, and industrial matters.
- Managed the Employee Assistance program contracts/ service agreements.
- Provided estimates, State of the Service, and full-time equivalent (FTE) reporting.

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

## Information Management and Information Technology



#### Rowan Dollar | CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER – CORPORATE SERVICES

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

and communications technology governance, risk and compliance and functional performance.

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

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

## Achievements for 2017-2018

### Information management

- Provided advice on the implementation and content of the Business Classification System.
- Reviewed Information Management training plans and documentation in line with Territory Records Manager (TRM).
- Developed a new policy for electronic document management.
- Destroyed 4255 files in accordance with approved disposal schedules.
- Completed a census of all information management onsite storage facilities.
- Reviewed information management structure, position descriptions and succession plans.
- Managed the expansion of NTG wireless networking to most departmental sites.
- Managed the upgrade of computer networks at several department sites.
- Initiated a review of internal information security systems and controls.
- Expanded and promoted the use of video conferencing technologies.
- Provided support to the department's biosecurity response programs and replacement of the department's emergency management system.
- Managed the conversion of numerous paper based processes to electronic systems to improve efficiency, governance and reporting.

### Information technology

- Received and considered seven IT project proposals.
- Managed upgrades and enhancements to a number of specialist business systems.
- Assisted with the development of business requirements for the replacement of critical business systems for the Mines and Energy divisions.



## 4. Our people

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# Fast facts

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



**80 per cent** retention rate



**eight Aboriginal apprentices** during the year with  
**three in regional areas**

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



**48 per cent** of the workforce were **female**

**26 per cent** of executive staff were **female**

**5.7 per cent** identified as having a  
**non-english** speaking background



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



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

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

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

**two per cent** of females and **four per cent** of  
males were **65 or over**



**82 employees** used **flexible** working arrangements



# Developing capability

The department plays an integral, enabling role through the development and regulation of our industries, which are significant to our economy and to advancing our regions. Our roles are diverse, with industries ranging from mining and pastoral to horticulture and commercial fishing. Recognising the value of our people and sustaining the workforce capability necessary to deliver on the strategic goals will ensure the department can achieve the vision of the Northern Territory's (NT) primary industries and resources driving economic growth for the benefit of all Territorians.

The department has a strong foundation of working professionally and collaboratively with industry, across government and with Aboriginal stakeholders. Its people have sought-after skills in the agriculture, research, aquaculture, energy and mining sectors. In order to deliver outcomes that align with our strategic directions it must also aim to retain its professional workforce of scientific, technical and administrative enabling staff located across the Territory, and engaged in office, laboratory, remote and field-based work.

Employees are located in all major centres as well as remotely across the Territory. This presents challenges in the delivery of human resource support services, particularly in supporting change management activities. Across these diverse operations, a positive and consistent workplace culture must also be encouraged.

The department's employees have been recognised as the department's greatest strength in the agency strategic planning documents and in the consultative work in drafting the Strategic Plan 2018-2022 and strongly influenced the department's strategic goals and outcomes. The delivery of workforce and people programs is in line with the following strategies from the department's strategic plan:

- Maintain an effective health and safety risk assessment and management system.
- Improve workplace communication through transparency and accountability.

- Update workforce planning and recruitment strategies to target diversity.
- Value our people's contribution and celebrate achievements.
- Cultivate a positive workplace culture that supports behaviours consistent with our values.
- Create better workplace settings and networking opportunities to connect people and encourage intellectual exchange.
- Ensure use of a performance development and review system to connect staff development and workload planning to strategic direction.
- Develop mentoring and succession planning across the organisation.
- Strengthen our functional leadership and management capacity to drive implementation of our strategies.

The department's Human Resources (HR) branch is responsible for the following activities to support workforce development:

- Delivering advisory services on conditions of service and best practice human resources; including performance management practices, recruitment, probation and payroll processes.
- Developing programs, policies and frameworks which support the strategic plan objectives, and comply with contemporary practice and legislative requirements for employment.
- Supporting development programs to meet emerging business needs; including early careers programs such as apprenticeships and traineeships.
- Providing targeted HR advice and participating in working groups that support the department to deliver the following outcomes:
  - A safe workplace.
  - Diversity and a positive workplace.
  - An agile, skilled and resilient workforce.
  - A workforce that is integrated and the structure aligned to strategy.

- Establishing accurate and contemporary HR strategy, policies, procedures and processes.
- Supporting inclusion and diversity initiatives that include the department's Aboriginal Leadership Network and Chief Executive round table meeting with our young people.
- Providing case management, including liaising with outsourced worker's compensation provider.
- Managing the department's reward and recognition program i.e. STAR Awards.
- Providing advice regarding change management processes.
- Reporting requirements set out in the *Public Sector Employment and Management Act*.

## People Matter Survey

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

The department received high ratings in areas of: workplace wellbeing, commitment to service, diversity, respect (employee – employee support) and equal employment. Change management, grievance handling, performance management and senior management communication were identified as areas for improvement.

A response plan was previously developed to address the areas identified for improvement. The department continued to implement the actions from the response plan and, more recently, workforce strategies from the Strategic Plan 2018-2022 as follows:

- Revised the department's performance development review (PDR) process to align with the Strategic Plan 2018-2022.
- Developed a high-level restructure to better align functions to deliver the goals of new Strategic Plan 2018-2022 under one department.
- Reviewed the business planning process to align with the department's vision and strategic goals.
- Recirculated internal complaint handling procedures published on the intranet service centre.
- Promoted the performance management and merit selection workshops run by Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE).

# Demographics - metrics

## 2017-2018 staffing profile

Forty-one per cent of employees are in the administration classification, 27 per cent in the technical classification and a further 25 per cent in the professional classification.

Executive contract officers make up five per cent of departmental employees with the remaining two per cent falling under physical and early careers classification levels.

**Table 4.1. Classification of employees as at 30 June 2018**

Staffing classification	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Administration	205	187	188
Technical	124	127	125
Professional	132	120	114
Executive contract officers	26	25	23
Early careers	6	7	3
Physical	4	3	3
Casual survey interviewers	3	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>456</b>

Numbers are rounded and are based on full-time equivalent (not individuals), including casual and part-time employees as at 30 June 2018.

## Classification by region and division

The majority of employees were located in the Darwin region.

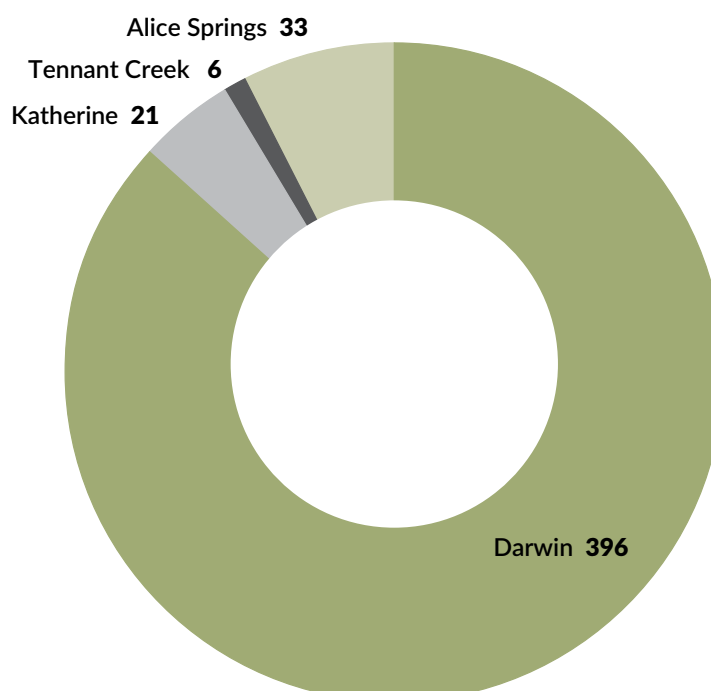


Figure 4.1. Full-time equivalent (FTE) by region as at 30 June 2018

Numbers are rounded and based on full-time equivalents (not individuals), including casual and part-time employees. Employees located in Douglas Daly counted in Darwin data and employees located in Kidman Springs counted in Katherine data.

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

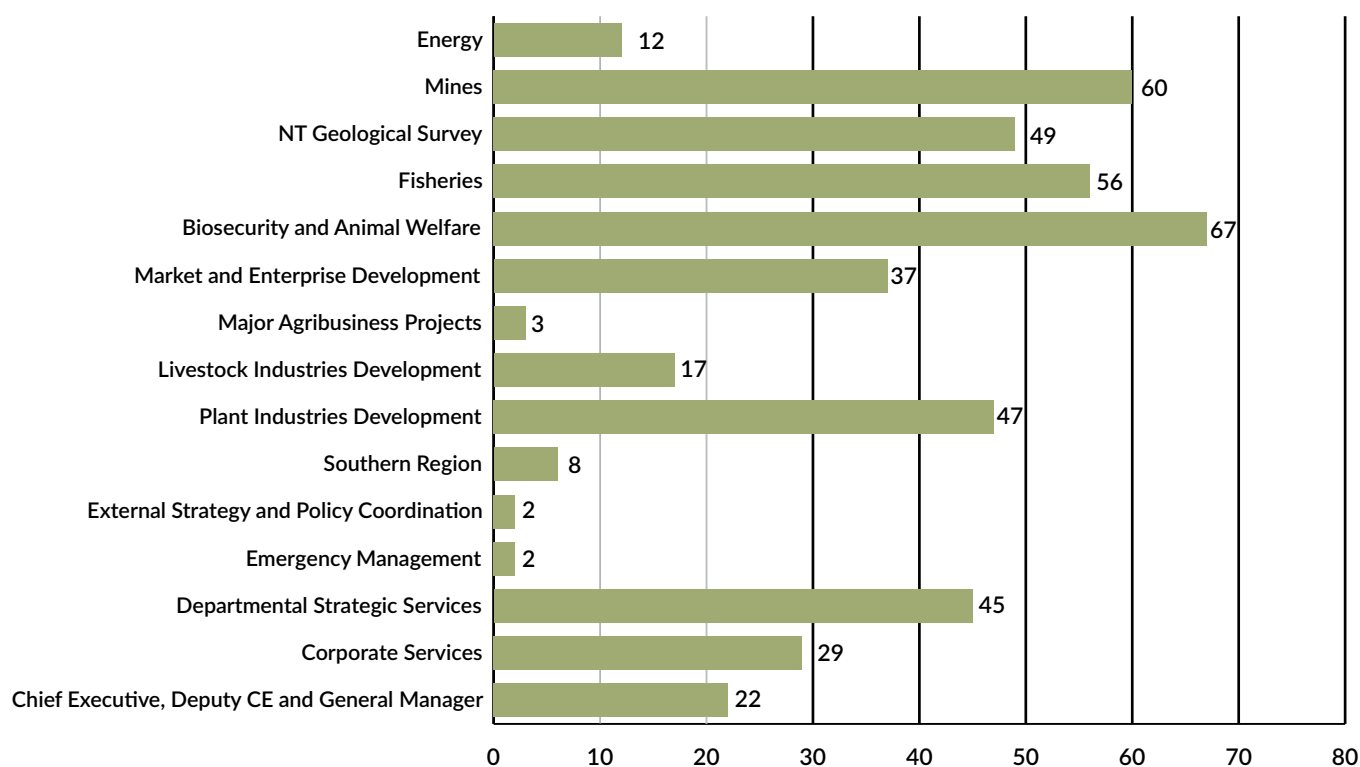


Figure 4.2. FTE by division as at 30 June 2018

Numbers are rounded and are based on full-time equivalent (not individuals), including casual and part-time employees as at 30 June 2018.

## Recruitment, retention and separation

During 2017-2018, 109 employees were recruited to the department, 93 employees separated through retirement or cessation of contracts and 38 employees transferred to other government agencies.

## Gender

As at 30 June 2018, the department had 219 female and 237 male employees. Female employees are more likely to be employed in the administration officer classification and male employees are more likely to be employed in professional or technical classifications. There has been very little change in this distribution between 2017-2018 and the preceding 2016-2017 period.

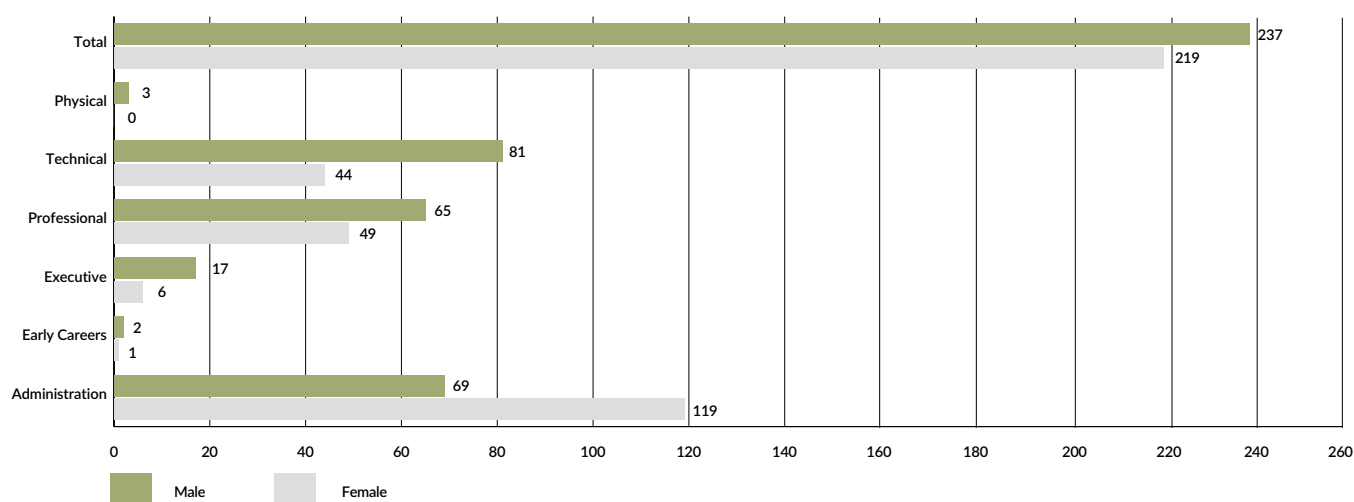


Figure 4.3. Employee classification by gender, 2017-2018, as at 30 June 2018

Numbers are based on full-time equivalent (not individuals), including casual and part-time employees as at 30 June 2018.

## Age

The department's age profile shows peaks in the 50-54 age category corresponding to 14 per cent, or 63 employees. There are 265 employees, or 58 per cent, aged 45 or older of which 139 employees, or 30 per cent, have reached the early retirement age of 55. When compared to 2016-2017 data there has been an increase of four per cent for employees aged 45 or older and an increase of three per cent of employees who have reached age 55.

Females outnumber males between 20 to 44 years of age and in the remaining age brackets there are more males than females.

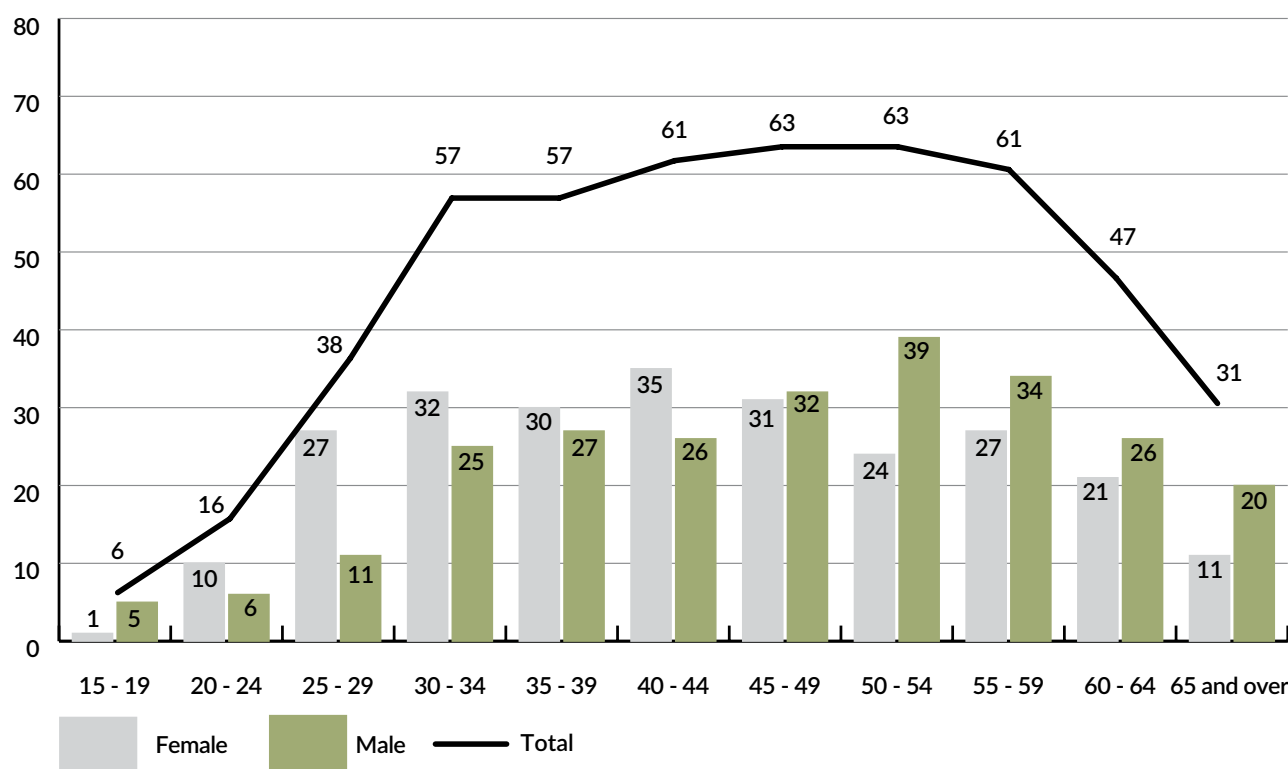


Figure 4.4. Age distribution by percentage, as at 30 June 2018

Numbers are based on actual employees, including casual and part-time employees as at 30 June 2018



# Workforce diversity

## Equal employment opportunity

Under the Northern Territory Government's Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy 2015-2020, the department was working toward the target of 8.4 per cent of Aboriginal employees by 30 June 2018. The department's actual proportion of Aboriginal employment at this time was 7.8 per cent. The trend in other measures is shown below.

In order to provide services to a diverse range of stakeholders, the department must have a gender balanced and diverse workforce from different cultural backgrounds and age groups, which requires equal opportunity in employment. Equal employment opportunity measures are described throughout this section.

**Table 4.2. EEO measures - percentage as at 30 June 2018**

EEO Measure	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	6.8	7.7	7.8
Non-English speaking background	4.6	5.1	5.7
Person with disability	2.2	1.8	1.9

Note: While the department encourages its employees to identify as ATSI, NESB and/or PWD, employees provide this information voluntarily, therefore the data cannot be guaranteed to accurately portray the extent of these measures in the department.

### ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

With Aboriginal employees making up 7.8 per cent of the department's workforce, several initiatives were undertaken to support these employees and improve representation, such as the sector-wide special measures recruitment processes, employment of Aboriginal trainees and developing specific cultural awareness training.

// With Aboriginal employees making up 7.8 per cent of the department's workforce, several initiatives were undertaken to provide employee support and improve representation.

# Managing and developing our people

## Training expenditure

In 2017-2018 the department invested \$430 531 in training and development to update and upskill its employees, averaging \$944 per full-time equivalent employee.

**Table 4.3. Training expenses 2016-2017 and 2017-2018**

Category	2016-2017	2017-2018
Training and other	\$440 813	\$367 655
Conferences	\$80 207	\$62 876
Total	\$521 020	\$430 531
Average per full-time employee (FTE)	\$1109	\$944

Further development programs are described below.

**Table 4.4. Development programs offered in 2017-2018**

Course	Target audience	Number of participants
Four wheel drive and remote, long distance and extended travel workshop	Employees who undertake long distance or remote travel	33
Working in biosecurity emergency response (WINBER)	All	63

## Personal development review (PDR)

The PDR links individual employee roles and responsibilities with the achievement of departmental objectives. The PDR encourages professional performance through planning, continuous training and development, and is designed to provide employees with an opportunity to discuss their achievements, objectives and development needs.

As at June 2018, 29 per cent of employees had formally recorded PDR discussions in the previous 12 months.

## Professional development allowance

The department acknowledges that employees in the professional stream are required to maintain the standards associated with their classification. The professional development allowance is paid on a reimbursement basis to offset professional development costs which a 'professional' classification employee may have incurred.

Under the Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) 2017-2021 Enterprise Agreement, the allowance is paid up to:

- \$572 per annum for one to five years continuous service.
- \$1259 per annum for five years or more continuous service.

## Strengthening our leaders

The department requires strong leaders to enable team excellence, innovation and achievement of outcomes. To achieve this, current and future leaders took advantage of the following development opportunities during 2017-2018.

**Table 4.5. Leadership development opportunities 2017-2018**

DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PARTICIPANTS
<b>External providers</b>		
Australian rural leadership program and agribusiness leadership program. <a href="http://www.rural-leaders.com.au">www.rural-leaders.com.au</a>	These two programs develop leadership, communication and planning skills. Participants gain an understanding of leadership within an economic environment, understanding their own strengths and development needs and the range of issues that need to be considered for successful succession planning.	2
<b>External providers</b>		
Public sector management program.	Designed to enhance the existing knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours of middle and senior managers in order to improve public sector outcomes. A post-graduate qualification offered through the Queensland University of Technology.	1



Figure 4.6. Michelle Skarlato-Simoes takes time out during a Daly River community site visit to ensure the animals are safe and healthy.

## Daly River emergency response

### **The department plays an important role in managing animals in emergency situations and natural disasters throughout the Northern Territory (NT).**

The Emergency Management unit with its First Response Team all work together in emergencies to ensure the Territory is prepared and ready if a situation occurs. The First Response Team comprises of 160 volunteers from all over the department and other supporting agencies.

In January 2018, the Northern Territory experienced significant rainfall, especially in the catchment areas of the Daly River and around the Daly community. This rainfall saw the major flood warning level reached.

The department, working closely with the Public Information Group, NT Emergency Services, Secure NT and other government departments, stood up to manage this situation.

This saw a decision made to evacuate the community, and the Northern Territory Government was involved in a three-week emergency response and recovery operation.

When the community was evacuated to Darwin Showgrounds, Daly River residents were asked to release their animals into the community where they could find higher ground and be safe from the flood waters. Animal welfare teams travelled to the community to provide food and water, and monitor the animals' health. This decision was made by a team of experts who deemed this to be the least stressful and most appropriate way to manage the animals safely.

All those involved in the animal welfare response did an outstanding job in undertaking regular site visits and feeding the animals, which included dogs, cats, turtles and pigs. An animal management contractor provided specialist support and a private vet attended once a week to check the health of all the animals.

By visiting the animals regularly the team were able to ensure they were healthy, in good condition and well-looked after.

This response provided a good opportunity to use the emergency management system MAX (Maximum Disease and Pest Management) for the first time in the field. The MAX mobile app included a customised form to record the activities and observations for the day.

Implementation of MAX has been an important project for the department's Emergency Management team who were pleased with its first operational field performance.

The Daly River response was run over a three week period and involved numerous volunteers from all areas of the department, including Fisheries, Corporate Communications, Primary Industry and Resources.

The animal welfare response was a great success with positive feedback from other participating organisations, staff and the community as a whole.

# An inclusive workplace

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

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

To ensure employees meet future challenges with capability and adaptability, the following initiatives were undertaken during 2017-2018.

## Early careers

The department continues to participate in the Indigenous Apprentice program providing pathways into careers in the department.

**Table 4.6. Cross-sector early careers programs accessed in 2017-2018**

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	PARTICIPATION IN 2017-2018
Indigenous apprenticeship	Provides trainees with employment and structured learning to develop workplace skills to gain a nationally recognised qualification at certificate or diploma level.	Eight Aboriginal trainees took part in a certificate-level qualification in rural operations, laboratory techniques and business.  Six trainees successfully completed their qualification during the reporting period.

## Merit selection training

The merit selection training is provided through the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment and was targeted at employees who participate in recruitment selection processes, but had not attended similar training within the last few years. The course has been redesigned to have a more

practical focus, with specific instruction on using simplified recruitment – and an emphasis on writing good selection outcome advice for all applications. It now includes a section on special measures recruitment.

Eleven staff participated in the training.

## Special measures

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) special measures recruitment plans were introduced to the department in 2016 to give priority preference in assessment and selection to ATSI applicants for

identified positions. The department continues to use special measures to achieve an increase in ATSI recruitment. ATSI employees represent 7.8 per cent of employees in the department.



### Performance management

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

The Personal Development Review process has been reviewed to align with the department's people strategies, which support our people to be productive while feeling valued, respected and safe. Employees can obtain advice and support from the Human Resources branch to resolve any issues regarding their employment.

### Grievances and complaint handling

In 2017-2018, three internal employee complaints were received. All complaints have been finalised.

### Performance/inability

Two formal performance cases were reported this year.

### Discipline

The department had one disciplinary action undertaken during 2017-2018. The matter has been finalised.

### Industrial relations

During 2017-2018 the department had no notice of disputes received.

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

### Employment instructions

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

# Awards and milestones

## STAR Awards

The department continues to encourage and acknowledge outstanding performance by individual employees and teams in the pursuit of government and departmental priorities at its annual STAR Awards. Historically there were two ceremonies held, one for Primary Industry and Fisheries and one for Mines and Energy. Since the machinery of government changes, the two former departments formed the Department of Primary Industry and Resources and there was one STAR Awards ceremony held in 2017.

STAR Awards have several categories:

- Outstanding contribution to work health and safety.
- Service excellence for the department's clients.
- Outstanding contribution to leadership within the department.

- Outstanding professional, scientific, technical, administrative or other contribution to the Territory or region.
- Other contributions in supporting economic development and growth.
- Upholding our values.

Major winners receive \$4000 (\$10 000 for a team) and minor winners receive \$2500 (\$5000 for a team) for personal or professional development. The upholding our values category was a new award introduced in 2017 and is for an individual only with the winner receiving \$2500 for personal or professional development.

Presenting the awards was Hon Ken Vowles MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources.

The presentation was held at Berrimah Farm on 13 September 2017.

## Primary industry and resources

### MAJOR AWARD

The major award winner this year was presented to Emma Muntz, Manager Mining Team 2 of the mines compliance division. Ms Muntz had demonstrated strong and unwavering leadership not only in her own team but across all teams in mining compliance. Ms Muntz's continued work on high risk mining projects, driving strategic direction and commitment to service delivery above and beyond expectations saw her as the deserving major winner.

### MINOR AWARD

The minor award was presented to the Library Services team. Team members included Elizabeth Rose, Margaret Ellis, Lynne Cooke, Rebecca Adams and Kate Bedard.

The Library Services team was nominated for service excellence to the department's clients.



Figure 4.7. Major Award Winner Emma Muntz, Mining Team 2

### UPHOLDING OUR VALUES AWARD

The winner of the new upholding our values award was Jane Jackson, Regional Executive Officer Katherine. It was considered that Ms Jackson (affectionately known as Miss Jane) epitomises the Northern Territory Public Sector values of

commitment to service, ethical practice, respect, accountability, impartiality and diversity, and she has ensured the smooth running of livestock and industries development and the Katherine Research Station.

### STAR Award nominations

In addition to the winners, the following individuals and teams are congratulated for their STAR Award nominations:

- Environmental Monitoring Unit team – Rhys Clarke, Gina Marino, Mark Baboucek and Crystal Whittaker, Darwin
- Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory team – Peter Saville, Sue Fitzpatrick, Lil Stedman, Cindy Dudgeon, Cathy Shilton, Kitman Dyrting, Ayrial Harburn, Lorna Melville and Sue Gillis, Darwin
- Sarah Tsai – Plant Industries Development, Alice Springs
- Cliff Hansen – Plant Industries Development, Darwin
- Action on the Ground team – Mila Bristow, Alan Niscioli, Ali Sarkhosh, Heather Wallace, Kae Wegman, Teagen Alexander and Paige Richter, Darwin
- Russell Copley and Hanah Hunt – Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin
- Michael Ramsey - Northern Territory Geological Survey, Darwin
- Linda Lee and Claire Smallman – Major Economic Projects, Darwin
- Dani Fraser – Energy Division, Darwin
- National Banana Freckle Eradication program team – Judy D’Errico, Bill Whittington, Brian Hennessy, Tyronne Howard-Graetz, Bruce Young-Smith, Leonie Cooper, David Hamilton, Vince D’Errico, Hannah Cooke, Mook Crothers, Rod Freeman, Jose Liberato and Mark Hearnden, Darwin
- National Browsing Ant Eradication program team – Judy D’Errico, Graham Schultz, Andy Lay, Brian Thistleton, Haidee Brown, Michael Neal, Mook Crothers and Rod Freeman, Darwin
- Plant Biosecurity branch – Richard Tucker, Vince D’Errico, Debra Davies, Peter Bidgood, Glen Oliver, David Hamilton, Shane Cross, Leonie Cooper, San Kham Hornby, Zoe Malone and Lee Crothers, Darwin
- Pete Campbell and Ken Satour – Northern Territory Geological Survey, Alice Springs
- Christine Edgoose - Northern Territory Geological Survey, Alice Springs
- Jane Fraser – Finance and Budgets, Darwin

## Service milestones

As part of the STAR Awards, the department recognises the milestones of employees who have worked continuously in the Northern Territory Public Sector for 10 and 20 years. The Minister presented recipients with a certificate or recognition plaques, depending on their length of service.

In 2017-2018, the milestone recipients were:

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Sarah Hanlon
- Jose Liberato
- Kate Bedard
- Rob Wait
- Darren Bowbridge
- Shaun Johnson
- Lucy Tran-Nguyen
- Glen Oliver
- Sharon Kearney
- Mark Grubert
- Grant Johnson

- Rosanna Ciarla
- Angela Kennedy
- Damian Hokin
- Michelle Kassman
- Jo Whelan
- Eloise Beyer

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Frances Perrett
- Hassan Bajhau
- Robin Lawrence
- Ian Scrimgeour

## NORTHERN TERRITORY PUBLIC SECTOR RECOGNITION OF SERVICE MILESTONES

Service milestones of 30, 40 and 50 years of service are recognised at a formal ceremony hosted by the Chief Minister and Commissioner for Public Employment. This year the ceremony was on 12 October 2017 at the Main Hall in Parliament House. Department staff who achieved these milestones were:

### 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Peter Shotton
- Christine Hazel
- Terri Zyka

### 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Richard Weir
- Bryan Gill
- Mark Traynor
- Pat Parry-Jones
- Stephen Tatzenko

### 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

- Barry Conde
- Noelene Elvish

### CHIEF MINISTER'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

The Chief Minister's Awards for Excellence in the Public Sector was held in November 2017.

The Major Agribusiness team was successful in the Developing Northern Australia category with the project *Growing the Territory's food industries with Japanese technology – A Memorandum of Cooperation with Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries*.

The Plant Biosecurity team was the joint category winner, along with the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation for the economic stimulus grant programs, for their consistent work to ensure industry is safeguarded from pests and diseases, protecting profitability and sustainability of horticultural industries in the Territory.



Figure 4.8. Linda Lee accepting award category 'Developing Northern Australia'





Figure 4.9. Aboriginal Fisheries Inspector Aaron Green after being presented with his certificate in Darwin.

## Territory appoints first Aboriginal Fisheries Inspectors

**The department supports the provision of fisheries compliance and enforcement by facilitating and conducting appropriate training and courses, alongside the Australian Maritime Fisheries Academy and the Water Police. This includes offering programs for Aboriginal Marine Rangers to gain powers commensurate with their skills, qualifications and experience.**

Seventeen Aboriginal marine rangers from across the Territory completed their Certificate II in Fisheries Compliance in 2017-18, bringing the total that have successfully completed the course since 2009 to 176 male and female rangers. To date 15 senior Aboriginal marine rangers have completed a Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance.

The Certificate II in Fisheries Compliance training develops and empowers Aboriginal people to manage and protect marine environment's in their respective areas, while also creating jobs and opportunities. This is a two-week course that covers practical methods of gathering, collating and recording information, as well as workplace safety, relevant legislation, and fisheries management practices.

Successful completion of the Certificate III in Fisheries Compliance is a prerequisite to becoming a fisheries inspector. This course was developed to enable the rangers to report on suspicious activities and suspected non-compliance using observable evidence, such as photographs and global positioning system (GPS) readings.

Marine rangers undertake fisheries patrols and provide written reports back to the Fisheries Division and the Water Police.

A number of these patrols and written reports from the marine rangers have directly led to further action and prosecution of non-compliant fishing activity that may have previously been difficult to detect because it occurred in very remote localities.

Rangers identify and report on a variety of issues including environmental threats such as ghost nets, and potential non-compliant activity by commercial or recreational fishers.

Six marine rangers successfully applied for Fisheries Inspector Class 1 powers after completing this training. They were subsequently appointed under the *Fisheries Act*, becoming the Territory's first fisheries inspectors.

Appointed under the *Fisheries Act*, the inspectors report to the Fisheries Division and the Northern Territory Water Police.

Class 1 Fisheries Inspectors have the authority to:

- record evidence
- collect details
- ask to see licences and permits
- inspect fishing gear in use.

The first appointed inspectors are from five communities with which the Northern Territory Government has established long standing partnerships:

- Borroloola
- Daly River
- Groote Eylandt
- Nhulunbuy and
- Tiwi Islands.

This program supports Traditional Owners to be actively involved in the monitoring and management of aquatic resources, ensuring compliance with the *Fisheries Act*.

The department has been running nationally accredited training in fisheries compliance since 2009.

# Work health and safety

## Work health and safety (WHS) governance

The department is committed to providing a safe and healthy working environment while calling on all employees to share responsibility for their own safety. Overarching governance of work health and safety systems in the department is managed by the WHS steering committee, which is a sub-committee of the Board of Management. Workplace committees continue to address local issues by engaging work unit employees to apply

local solutions through their workplace health and safety risk registers. Information on work health and safety document 'Work Health and Safety Management System' can be found in Section 2: Corporate Governance. This structure builds on the significant progress in recent years in developing a work health and safety governance framework and addressing cultural issues.

## Metrics

Table 4.7. WHS incidents by mechanism

Mechanism	2016-2017	2017-2018
Being hit by objects	7	5
Biological factors	1	2
Body stressing	9	7
Chemicals and substances	3	5
Environmental factors	4	3
Hazard		6*
Hitting objects	4	9
Mental factors	3	
Slips, trips and falls	10	8
Vehicle incidents and other	20	15
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>60</b>

Data from WHS003 – Incident details – incident summary report derived from the BOXI-HR system (Department of Corporate and Information Services).

\*report from BOXI for 2017-2018 identified 20 incidents under the mechanism of 'hazard'. On checking, some were from other categories including 10 vehicles, one environmental, one slip and two chemical.

The total incidents reported for the department is similar to the number for the previous year. There was an increase in hitting objects and there was a decrease in vehicle incidents.

## Training

### FOUR WHEEL DRIVE (4WD) AND REMOTE TRAVEL TRAINING

The training addresses the risks involved with long distance travel and the use of 4WD vehicles in the workplace and in helping keep our people safe.

Presented by TrainsafeNT, the training was held over two days and incorporated theoretical and practical learning approaches. The sessions were attended by 26 staff from Darwin and seven from the Alice Springs region.

## Performance

The department recognises that WHS is more than just having the right governance documents, policies and procedures in place. It requires the engagement of all employees in achieving compliance and delivering outcomes.

For this reason, a WHS action plan was developed for the department in 2017-2018. Reporting below is based on this system and other components of an overarching WHS strategic plan.

**Table 4.8. WHS Action Plan 2017-2018 – strategic objectives > key focus areas - actions, evaluation indicators and performance**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES > KEY FOCUS AREAS		
Actions	Evaluation indicators	Performance
<b>Establish a genuine commitment to WHS &gt; WHS management system (MS)</b>		
Update the WHS policy at least annually.	The policy is updated in July annually.	The WHS policy was updated and re-issued on 21 September 2017.
Review WHS MS at least annually.	WHS MS is in place and has been reviewed in the last 12 months.	The 2016-2017 WHS MS was updated in June 2016, approved by WHS steering committee and re-issued as the 2017-2018 WHS MS.
Update the WHS strategic plan and action plan at least annually.	Updated plans are in place by July annually.	The WHS steering committee reviewed the WHS strategic plan and action plan. The drafts were being considered by the WHS steering committee in June 2018.
Maintain risk registers.	All risk registers are updated by November annually or more often.	Risk registers created and uploaded for Energy, Financial Services, Human Resources, IT, Plant Industries, Research Farms and Strategic Services.
WHS divisional quarterly reports and action plans.	All divisions have one year's worth of reports on the WHS intranet site.	Quarterly WHS reports and action plans were uploaded to the WHS intranet page by Fisheries and Aquaculture, Strategic Services, Biosecurity and Animal Welfare, and Research Farms.
<b>Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries &gt; machinery</b>		
Update skills and qualifications register with licence information.	The register is comprehensive, reflecting skills of the workforce.	The research farms have developed and maintain a skills and qualifications register for research farm staff.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES > KEY FOCUS AREAS

Actions	Evaluation indicators	Performance
<b>Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries &gt; vehicles/boats</b>		
Review guidelines/procedures for vehicle and boat usage to ensure compliance with legal requirements and best practice.	Updated guidelines/procedures in place by December annually.	The safety at sea guidelines/procedures and the electrofishing operation manuals guidelines/procedures have been reviewed and updated.
<b>Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries &gt; laboratories</b>		
Laboratory safety plans are audited at least annually.	Divisional self review/audit.	Laboratory safety management systems are in-line with departmental best practice and include consideration of specialist chemicals and laboratory environments.
All new laboratory staff receive safety inductions on day one.	Employee feedback internal hazard/risk inspection checklist process.	Workplace inspections checklists are completed annually and include employee consultation.
<b>Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries &gt; research farms</b>		
Only trained/skilled and competent staff will handle livestock in yards and work under appropriate supervision.	Reduced incidents and injuries reported.	Only staff who have been inducted and demonstrated competence with livestock handling are used in the yards. Activities are overseen by a responsible manager and low stress stock handling principles are applied at all times.
Ensure plant propagation facilities – shade houses, glasshouses – meet safety requirements.	Divisional self review/audit.	Staff using facility to report any damage/faults to infrastructure to be rectified.
All new staff working in above facilities receive safety inductions in the first week.	Employee feedback through internal hazard/risk inspection checklist process.	New staff working in horticultural buildings are inducted.
<b>Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries &gt; hazardous substances</b>		
Ensure hazardous substances registers and signage are up to date for all work sites.	Divisional self review/audit.	The register is maintained via an inventory system in specialist database ChemAlert – software licensing and access is up to date for all users.



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES &gt; KEY FOCUS AREAS

## Actions

## Evaluation indicators

## Performance

## Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries &gt; hazardous substances

Safety data sheet (SDS) information and WHS signage are up to date.

Internal audit and/or internal hazard/risk inspection checklist process.

Safety signage updated on research farms.  
Use of the Chem Alert system to access updated SDS and chemical storage levels and storage parameters have been placed at research farms.

Staff training in the use of hazardous materials.

Spot check through feedback during internal hazard/risk inspection checklist, eg. Chemcert training is current for all staff handling relevant agvet chemicals.

Research farm staff are provided with chemical application training.

Only trained/skilled and competent staff will undertake burning off and bushfire control operations, working under appropriate supervision.

Burning is properly conducted.  
Training needs for all staff have been completed.

Any burning undertaken on research farms is permitted under the *Bushfires Act* and undertaken by staff who have undertaken the appropriate training.

## Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries &gt; firearms

Firearms policy and procedures are updated, taking into account risks associated with use.

Updated guidelines/procedures in place by December annually.

Department's firearms policy and procedure approved by the Chief Executive on 23 June 2017 and uploaded to the Service Centre on 26 July 2017.

## Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries &gt; remote travel

Travel policy and guidelines will be updated to take relevant audit recommendations into account.

Updated guidelines/procedures in place by December annually.

Policy and guidelines reviewed and no requirement to make changes.

## Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries &gt; remote field work

Remote and isolated field work policy and procedures will be updated to take relevant audit recommendations into account.

Updated guidelines/procedures in place by December annually.

Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) policy and procedures have been reviewed and updated.  
Energy Division developed a remote travel and fieldwork procedure.

## Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries &gt; legacy mines

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES > KEY FOCUS AREAS

Actions	Evaluation indicators	Performance
Site visit policy and procedures will be developed/updated.	<p>Updated guidelines/procedures in place by June annually.</p> <p>Risk assessments are undertaken/reviewed for each site visit.</p>	The policy and procedures have been reviewed, risk assessments are undertaken each visit.

### Prevent fatalities/prevent serious injuries > site inspections (resources activity)

Site visit policy and procedures will be developed/updated.	<p>Updated guidelines/procedures in place by June annually.</p> <p>Site WHS inductions are completed on every visit to an operating resources activities site.</p>	<p>Site inductions are mandatory for all staff at any visit to an operating mine site.</p> <p>Energy Division's remote travel and fieldwork procedures cover this.</p> <p>Mines Division policy and procedures have been reviewed and updated.</p>
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### Reduce the impact of injuries and incidents > early hazard intervention

Identified hazards are risk rated and treated within 24 hours.	All hazards assessed and treated locally within 24 hours.	The risk is managed with awareness of the need for task assessment and any hazards identified. Policies and procedures for hazardous tasks in place to support management of activities.
Influenza and other vaccinations for at risk staff are obtained and subsidised.	<p>Annual influenza vaccination program.</p> <p>Other vaccinations obtained as recommended.</p>	Influenza vaccinations for agency staff conducted on 5 and 18 April 2018. Other vaccinations (including Q Fever, rabies, Hepatitis A and Tetanus) were approved for staff through branch heads.
Vaccinations appropriate to overseas travel destination are obtained by staff and subsidised.	Vaccinations obtained as recommended by travel doctor and/or centre for disease control, prior to travel.	NTGS complies with this requirement as does Primary Industry Economic Development Division (livestock, market and enterprise division, plant industries etc).

### Reduce the impact of injuries and incidents > local solutions

Hazard resolution is achieved at the point of identification in most cases.	All hazards treated locally within 24 hours.	Hazards reported are reviewed within 24 hours and resolution has been managed in the majority of incidents.
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### Reduce the impact of injuries and incidents > return to work

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES &gt; KEY FOCUS AREAS

Actions	Evaluation indicators	Performance
Return injured officers to work as early as possible and in accordance with any medical recommendations.	Medical recommendations are followed.	The department works closely with the insurance manager for the Northern Territory, Gallagher Bassett, to develop return to work plans for injured employees, which focus on an early return to work.
Build employee capability > induction		
Revise and improve WHS induction based on feedback received.	Tested through employee feedback. Evidence/records of workplace induction.	Records of workplace inductions have been kept and no feedback received to indicate the need for change.
Build employee capability > WHS workplace committees (WC)		
WHS WC remains active through quarterly meetings and governance requirements are met.	Quarterly meetings are held and minutes are published on the WHS intranet site.	Regional – Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) Marine Safety – Fisheries Division: Two meetings recorded. Research Farms – Market and Enterprise Development Division had four meetings recorded  Biosecurity and Animal Welfare – Meetings held in July, August and November 2017, and February 2018.
Improve engagement > newsletters		
Maintain WHS noticeboards and WHS intranet site with practical WHS information for employees.	WHS noticeboard network system in place by December 2018. List of noticeboards for each division developed and published on WHS intranet site as a point of information for staff by December 2018.	Worksites across the department that have notice boards with a WHS Section are: Paspalis Centerpoint, John England Building first floor, Katherine, AZRI.
Improve engagement > noticeboards		
Evacuation diagrams (emergency and evacuation) to meet minimum requirements specified under current Australian standard.	Updates completed and new evacuation diagrams in workplaces by December 2018.	Media releases, NT WorkSafe bulletins and public notices regarding WHS matters have been distributed to all research farms for display on WHS noticeboards.

# Wellbeing

## Flexible working arrangements

The department aims to be an 'employer of choice' and provides flexible working arrangements for its employees to assist in achieving work-life balance. Flexible working arrangements include job sharing, part-time hours, home-based work and flexible working hours.

Flexible work arrangements were continued in 2017-2018 to allow a better balance between work and family responsibilities, to improve the attraction and retention of employees, and to improve delivery of services.

As at 30 June 2018, 82 employees were working under flexible working arrangements.

## Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

In 2017-2018, the department continued to promote an EAP to employees. EAP provides professional and confidential counselling services for employees for a range of issues including: personal and workplace relationships, health, depression, anxiety disorder, family disintegration, marital problems, alcohol and substance misuse, and gambling and other addictions. Employees can access up to three free sessions across the Territory with any of the six contracted external providers.

In 2017-2018, the program was mainly used for management coaching and employee counselling services. The program was accessed by 83 employees or their family members at a total cost of \$33 903. The department will continue to maintain this program to support employees in their personal and professional challenges during 2018-2019.

## Employee health programs

The flu vaccination program continued in 2017-2018 as an initiative to help employees remain healthy and reduce the impact of seasonal flu in the workplace and community. Employees were offered the opportunity to receive the Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (Flu) vaccination free of charge and 203 took advantage of this offer. A vaccinator attended various workplaces to administer the vaccinations. In Darwin 175 staff took advantage of this offer, 10 in Katherine, and 18 in Alice Springs.

Other health programs subsidised by the department included rabies vaccinations for

three staff working in the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory, annual skin health check consultations offered to the research staff, which three employees took advantage of in 2017-2018, and four staff received electrocardiography tests to detect any potential cardiac issues in relation to their work on the electrofishing boats.

Mines Division employees also participated in the September challenge to raise funds for people living with cerebral palsy.

## Workstation ergonomics

Purchases of 'sit-to-stand' workstations continued in 2017-2018 to enable staff with sitting jobs to improve the ergonomics of their work area and give the health benefits and flexibility to easily switch between sitting and standing.



203 staff received  
flu vaccinations



Figure 4.10. Boulder outcrop of granite approximately 8km north of the community of Baikal and 250km northeast of Alice Springs.

## All in a day's work

**When you work in the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS), the work is diverse and your 'office' can sometimes be pretty remote.**

**The mode of transport is often a 4WD, but for some geological surveys it can even be a helicopter.**

On any given day you could be anywhere from a river bed in the Aileron Province, north of the Plenty Highway, to the McArthur Basin in East Arnhem Land. At other times you're back in the office pouring over seismic data.

The information and data acquired by NTGS through survey work helps demystify the Territory's underlying geoscience, hopefully increasing the Territory's competitiveness as a resources investment destination by providing a better understanding of the Territory's

geological framework and prospectivity.

Here's a snapshot of just a few of the projects the NTGS team was involved in during 2017-2018.

### **NTGS Batten Fault Zone Gravity Survey:**

In late 2017, NTGS acquired the Batten Fault Zone Gravity Survey in collaboration with CSIRO. The survey acquired ground gravity readings at almost 7000 sites using helicopters to move between sites.



Acquiring the ground gravity readings is a non-destructive process where the helicopter lands at each site and an operator gets out and places a gravity meter on the ground. The gravity meter measures for between 30 and 60 seconds.

CSIRO managed the survey on behalf of NTGS as part of a larger collaborative project to understand the geological framework and processes controlling mineralisation and prospectivity in the McArthur Basin.

The Batten Fault Zone in the McArthur Basin hosts world-class zinc deposits at McArthur River and Teena and this new data is being applied to understanding the three dimensional architecture of the region.

Atlas Geophysics was contracted to acquire the survey, and Bowgan Minerals also collaborated on the project to acquire more data over their area of interest. All data has been released and is publicly available.

### **Exploring West Arnhem:**

In August 2017, a group of NTGS geologists travelled to Cameco's King River Camp in West Arnhem Land to get an overview of Cameco's uranium exploration in the Territory, and to see drill core that they had collected at their Angularli Prospect.

Cameco geologists Penny Sinclair and Damien Ewington gave HyLogger Geologist Belinda Smith, Project Geologist Matt McGloin, Senior Geologist Barry Reno, and Director Regional Geoscience Dot Close a detailed

walkthrough of Cameco's drill core, and shared their extensive knowledge of the geology of West Arnhem Land with the NTGS geologists.

"The Cameco geologists have based a lot of their work on the stratigraphy that NTGS defined when we mapped the Howship and Oenpelli map sheets, and this trip provided a fabulous opportunity to chat with some seriously smart industry geologists about their work in West Arnhem," Director Regional Geoscience Dot Close said.

HyLogger Geologist Belinda Smith was particularly excited to discuss the geologic implications of drill core she had HyLogged at the NTGS Core Library in Darwin with the Cameco geologists.

"The visit to Angularli provided a unique opportunity to ground truth observations we had made using the HyLogger, and discuss how Cameco can use NTGS HyLogger data to help them understand the geology in their prospects in West Arnhem," she said.

After examining the drill core, the team had the opportunity to visit some key outcrops in the Angularli area, so they could compare the rocks seen in the drill core to rocks that outcrop at the surface.

Following this trip Belinda Smith and Penny Sinclair are writing an interpretative record, examining the results from HyLogging of over 4500m of drillcore from the Angularli project. The record, and associated HyLogging data will be released publicly in late 2018.

### **Defining the Beetaloo Sub-basin:**

Throughout 2017-2018, NTGS staff worked on a project to redefine the boundary of the Mesoproterozoic Beetaloo Sub-basin, located approximately 300 km south-east of Katherine within the greater McArthur Basin, based on interpretations of new and existing geophysical and drilling data.

Since the 1980s, more than 200 seismic lines have been acquired across the Beetaloo Sub-basin, but these data were of varying quality. Younger sediments overlie the Sub-basin concealing its boundary, which has led to many differing interpretations of the extent of the Beetaloo Sub-basin since it was first defined in the late 1980s.

The project addressed issues with seismic datum, phase, amplitude balancing, and scaling of the different datasets to produce a workspace that could be used for further interpretation. NTGS contracted Frogtech Geoscience to compile these data, which were of varying quality, into a Kingdom format, interpretation-ready seismic project allowing greater accessibility for all clients to this key data.

The redefined sub-basin covers an area of approximately 28 000 km<sup>2</sup> and is based on the interpretation of 96 seismic lines constrained by 26 wells. The new boundary was submitted to the Scientific Inquiry to Hydraulic Fracturing and is available on STRIKE with an accompanying report currently being compiled.

The background image shows a calm waterway, possibly a river or lake, with tall green reeds in the foreground. In the middle ground, a blue boat with a canopy is on the water, with several people on board. The sky is overcast and grey. A large orange triangle is overlaid on the bottom left of the image, containing the table of contents.

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# Fast facts



**15 per cent** reduction in **power use**  
at Berrimah Farm

a total of **nine projects delivered** under  
recreational futures **fishing fund**



**four staff assisted** with the Queensland prawn  
white spot disease **biosecurity response**

Manton dam **restocked** with  
**100 000 barramundi fingerlings**



**4500 golden snapper** fingerlings  
released in Darwin Harbour

**208** delegates attended **AGES 2018**



**\$200 000** provided for  
**Animal Welfare Fund grants**

Over **\$1800 raised** for charity by the  
**AZRI social club**



**90 000 blacklip rock oyster**  
spat delivered to **South Goulburn Island**

# Supporting the community

## Sponsorship

The department continued to support a wide range of community activities through sponsorship, training programs and workshops. Details of the industry and community organisations that benefited from our sponsorship support can be found in Appendix 2.

## 2017 Show circuit

The 2017 show circuit began in June, with dedicated displays at the regional show circuits in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, and Katherine.

Information and displays were tailored for each region highlighting the local extension and on-farm initiatives, key government priority projects, and the economic contributions of local industry.

In Alice Springs, cattle, mining, biosecurity and market access economic contributions to the local economy were highlighted, as well as information about fossicking. Old Man Plains' Droughtmaster Heifers were used by local rural education students during the lead section of show. This was an opportunity to put their training into practice as handle and prepare stock for the show is a unit of their certificate course.

The display at Tennant Creek spoke to local attendees about legacy mines, cattle, mining, fossicking, minerals and the horticultural industry. Biosecurity and market access efforts were also highlighted. The Livestock Industry Development Division organised the cattle section awards with 30 pens in contention.

Katherine displays highlighted the importance of the local mango and horticultural industries, agribusiness, recreational fishing, and aquatic biosecurity as well as information about fossicking. Agricultural section entries were up this year and once again departmental staff did a great job stewarding the event.

## Animal Welfare Fund grants

The Animal Welfare Fund grant program provides \$200 000 in grants annually to support Territory-based not-for-profit organisations whose core business is animal welfare. A list of recipients can be found at Appendix 2.

The 2018 Animal Welfare grants were distributed to 12 organisations. Grants were used by organisations to deliver educational courses for wildlife carers and schools, improve the welfare of housed animals, subsidise veterinary care, improve onsite facilities, build capacity of community members to care for injured wildlife, and deliver school-based wildlife programs.

These grants are recognition of the many social and economic benefits provided by animals in our everyday lives and the need for responsible care and management.

Animal Welfare Fund grants up to \$50 000 are available to assist eligible not-for-profit organisations with projects to improve animal wellbeing, raise community awareness of animal welfare responsibilities, and help promote and improve animal management practices, particularly in remote communities.



## Staff help Queensland respond to biosecurity incursion

Staff from the department spent time in the Brisbane area assisting the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries with their biosecurity response to prawn white spot disease.

Evan Needham, Aquatic Resource Manager; Kitman Dyrting, Veterinary Pathologist; Graham Schultz, Senior Research Officer; and Dave Wilson, Technical Officer Aquatic Biosecurity, each spent time lending

their expertise in planning, laboratory and team field work. Their secondments were organised by Jessica Arnold, Manager Emergency Management.

Reciprocal participation by other jurisdictions is one of the tenets of the national biosecurity response system. The department has a wealth of knowledge on a wide range of subjects and this expertise is vital when faced with biosecurity threats.

## Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) Social Club donation

This year the AZRI Social Club committee raised funds throughout the financial year on behalf of the members and supporters to give to charity.

Together they raised \$1 827.60 with four charities benefitting – The Butterfly Connection,

Royal Flying Doctor Service, Alice Springs Women's Shelter and The Alice Springs Animal Shelter.

Each charity gratefully received a cheque for \$456.90.



Figure 5.1. Azri Social Club committee cheque for charity





Figure 5.2. All Territorians are asked to check their citrus plants for signs of citrus canker

## Citrus canker disease identified in the Northern Territory

The Northern Territory (NT) Chief Plant Health Officer received a report from a Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) scientist in April 2018 noting that lime trees at a Darwin and Palmerston retail outlet were displaying some disease symptoms of citrus canker, a contagious disease caused by the bacteria *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri* which can affect all citrus plants.

With further investigations, samples returned a positive result for citrus canker in the Northern Territory.

A call for the public to check their citrus plants was released, with advice to leave suspected plants in place for inspection and eradication if necessary.

Citrus canker is contagious between citrus trees, resulting in reduction of fruit quality and quantity of the infected trees. It does not affect human health however it does affect production and harvest of fruit, impacting both the Northern Territory and the national citrus industry.

Movement controls and quarantine measures were put in place to contain the disease, with two specialised work groups in place to assist with the national citrus canker response strategy:

- A Response Strategy Working Group, to provide advice on risk-based response activities which forms the basis of the response plan to eradicate citrus canker from Australia.
- A Tracing Working Group, to work on harmonising tracing procedures and analysis being undertaken across jurisdictions. This group is critical to targeting the response activities to areas of disease risk and ultimately will provide the confidence to declare that the disease is no longer present in Australia.

Sarah Corcoran, Northern Territory Executive Director Biosecurity and Animal Welfare, said the citrus canker response will continue to progress throughout 2018.

“At July 2018, surveillance has been conducted on 1206 properties in the Northern Territory, with results showing that infected plants remain limited to those supplied from a single premise in Darwin,” Ms Corcoran said.

“At this stage, there has been no spread from these infected plants to other host plants.

“There are a total of 10 restricted areas declared across the Northern Territory, with the majority in the Greater Darwin control area and one restricted area in the Katherine region. Following detection of citrus canker measures to minimise any risk of spread were taken by interstate trading partners, restricting movement of citrus canker hosts from the Northern Territory.”

An Emergency Operations Centre was also established at Berrimah Farm with specialist staff being seconded from various departments to work on the emergency response.

“The early response of government, industry and the public, the early detection, reporting and not moving plants that are suspected of being infected, proved vital and has given the best chance for eradicating this disease,” Ms Corcoran said.

While investigations and biosecurity measures are still ongoing, positive outcomes have been achieved in the Northern Territory.

# Community engagement

The department undertook a range of community engagement activities in 2017-2018:

## Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar 2018

The 19th Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) event was hosted by the department in Alice Springs from 20-21 March 2018. There were 208 delegates (an increase from 195 in 2016) including 123 industry representatives representing more than 50 exploration companies, plus mining services companies and consultants.

AGES is a technical exploration conference with a range of talks from the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS), its research partners and the exploration industry. It presents a unique opportunity to access the latest fresh exploration ideas and geoscientific data from the NT and to network with colleagues who share an interest in the discovery and development of the Territory's minerals and oil and gas resources.

Some of the key highlights at AGES 2018 included:

- technical updates on successful exploration programs and new discoveries from across the Territory for gold, base metals, battery commodities, oil and gas and more
- major releases of information and updates on major new Geoscience Australia-NTGS collaborative geoscience programs across the Barkly region under the *Exploring for the Future* initiative
- first release of hyperspectral analysis and interpretation of the Angularli uranium deposit in west Arnhem Land
- the latest information and data on basin architecture and zinc mineral systems in the Batten Fault Zone
- release of a new SEEBASE product for the greater McArthur Basin
- new data and concepts for polymetallic mineral systems in Central Australia
- practical information to assist with issues such as land access, titles and accessing geoscience data.

## Networking activities

Maddison Clonan (Plant Industries Division) and Samantha Nowland (Fisheries Division) collaborated to launch a networking group, Researchers in Agriculture for International Development (RAID), to support early to mid-career scientists. Maddison and Samantha are both recipients of Crawford Fund scholarships, which has allowed them to participate in Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

projects relevant to the industries they represent. As a result, they are enthused to support other researchers in the Territory who are interested or currently working in agricultural research projects internationally. The networking group is part of a nationwide organisation supported by the Crawford Fund and ACIAR, which aims to connect, engage and support researchers as they develop their career in this area.

## Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration (CORE) workshop

In early 2018 more than 20 of Australia's leading geoscientists travelled to Darwin for a three-day workshop to discuss the findings of collaborative projects with the Northern Territory Geographic Survey (NTGS) under the government's CORE initiative.

The workshop included senior geoscientists from organisations collaborating with NTGS such as Geoscience Australia, CSIRO, the University of Adelaide and the Geological Surveys of Western Australia and Queensland.

The projects provide critical new information to attract investment in minerals and energy exploration in the Territory and assist industry to make the next generation of resource discoveries in the Territory.

The results of many of these programs were released to industry and the public at AGES 2018.

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## Certificate II in Fisheries Compliance

A two-week Certificate II in Fisheries Compliance course for Aboriginal marine rangers from across the Top End is run twice a year by the Fisheries Division, Australian Maritime Fisheries Academy and the Water Police. The course is held in Batchelor, with practical activities undertaken at nearby Manton Dam and Litchfield National Park.

The training is part of the Territory Government's commitment to help remote Aboriginal communities participate in the fishing industry, help marine rangers progress their career towards Fisheries

Inspector qualifications, and increase the skills and knowledge of Aboriginal rangers.

The training covers different practical methods of gathering, collating and recording information while participating in coastal patrols, as well as workplace safety, relevant legislation, fisheries management practices and aquatic biosecurity awareness.

Courses were run in October 2017 and May 2018 with 32 rangers completing the qualification.

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## Wild oyster spat collection

The Darwin Aquaculture Centre partnered with Aboriginal organisations and marine ranger groups on the Tiwi Islands, South Goulburn Island, Nhulunbuy and Groote Eylandt to trial devices designed to collect wild oysters to propagate oyster farms in remote communities. This involved training to construct and install the collectors during the early wet season, and the monitoring and

identification of marine organisms that settled on their surface. This project saw 23 Aboriginal people, including three women, participate in the project investigating low cost options to support oyster aquaculture in remote communities. The work was supported with funding from Territory Natural Resource Management.

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## Aboriginal Fishing Business Development workshop

In February 2018 the Fisheries Division organised a stakeholder workshop to discuss the opportunities, challenges and actions required to increase the number of self-sufficient, financially viable Aboriginal fishing businesses in the Northern Territory.

Aboriginal community development organisations, Aboriginal Coastal Licence holders, Aboriginal Land Councils, training providers, the seafood industry, researchers and federal and NT Government agencies were invited to participate.

Participants heard firsthand accounts from people operating Aboriginal Coastal Licences and developed a series of recommendations to improve the effectiveness of support and training programs. These recommendations have been adopted by the Fisheries Division and include the development of pictorial standard operating procedures and instructional videos, and supporting access to business planning and grant services.

### Citrus canker awareness at Freds Pass Show and Darwin Botanical Gardens Open Day

The department's citrus canker response team had an important presence at the 2018 Freds Pass Rural Show and the Darwin Botanical Gardens Open Day in May with 10 staff, including surveillance team members, attending.

Attendance at these events was planned to prevent the spread of citrus canker in the Northern Territory by engaging the Darwin community and

educating the public about early detection and reporting.

Both events reported significant inquiries from the public which resulted in more subscriber requests to the citrus canker newsletter.

Six surveillance requests were also established from presence at the Freds Pass Show.

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### North Australian Biosecurity Strategy (NABS) Workshops

A masterclass for 20 private veterinarians from across Northern Australia was held in Townsville on 3-4 February 2018. The training focused on livestock disease investigations, emergency diseases and optimal sample collection and submission. NABS focuses on funding and actioning significant disease investigations and operates with a central veterinary coordinator. It has produced a disease sampling guide and a regular newsletter.

In addition, a calf loss and reproductive disease workshop was held in Alice Springs in March 2018 (attended by private and government veterinarians and researchers). From this meeting a Reproductive Disease Investigation Guide for owners and vets will be produced.





Figure 5.3 Tim Schatz uses a yagi antenna to locate a calf fitted with a very high frequency tag

## Addressing calf loss through the investigation of contemporary technology

**The department strives to build industry capability through the adoption of contemporary technology.**

Two of the department's researchers travelled to Florida in February 2018 to investigate the causes of calf mortality and learn about a new birthing sensor system that remotely monitors calving.

Tim Schatz, Principal Livestock Research Officer, and Dr Kieren McCosker, Beef Production Scientist, spent a week at the University of Florida where they gained an understanding of the technology and considered how it could be applied in the Northern Territory to study calf mortality.

The birthing sensors send a signal to researchers alerting them when calving has occurred. The University is also tagging calves with movement sensors and

tracking devices that allow researchers to identify when calves die, and also find dead calves.

Calf loss is a major source of lost income for northern beef producers and it has been estimated that neonatal calf loss costs north Australian cattle producers in excess of \$53 million annually.

"The large size and remoteness of cattle stations in Northern Australia means it has been difficult to investigate and improve calf loss using traditional methods as calving females and dead calves are difficult to find in large paddocks," Mr Schatz said.

"For the most part, the system developed and used by the University of Florida researchers will be transferable, although some modifications are required due to the larger paddock size

and reduced mobile phone coverage in the NT. We are collaborating with a researcher from the University of Florida to adapt the system for the NT.

"A birthing sensor system that allows calving to be remotely monitored could be a game changer for research into calf loss in Northern Australia and could potentially lead to reduced calf loss and improved incomes for northern beef producers."

Mr Schatz and Dr McCosker did identify that due to the larger paddocks of the NT, birth sensors used in the Territory will require a GPS feature.

The company that produces the birth sensor devices has already added this feature to the next model and is now awaiting approval for their use.

The research trip was funded by Meat and Livestock Australia.

# The environment

The department is committed to supporting environmental sustainability by reducing its carbon footprint and impact on the environment through management and use of resources.

## Energy and water efficiency

The Darwin Aquaculture Centre solar photovoltaic system returned reduced energy billing in the first year of operation and significantly assisted expenditure in 2017-2018 following the installation of high-power consuming algal rooms with 24-hour lighting and temperature control.

At Berrimah Farm the power consumption reduced by 15 per cent due to improved cool room and freezer equipment and the decommissioning of

water supply pumps. Planning and design for new infrastructure under the site redevelopment includes consideration of contemporary building practices, efficient air chilling systems, consolidation of buildings, and operation on a reduced footprint. Replacement and upgrading of essential services such as water reticulation systems will eliminate wasteful leakages that have contributed to high operating costs in recent years.

## Fleet management

Fleet levels have remained relatively constant with operating areas reducing routine usage vehicles and other programs such as biosecurity emergency responses introducing additional items, with fuel costs reflecting this trend.

**Table 5.1 Fleet vehicle statistics**

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Fuel costs (\$)	328 094	303 329	312 352
Lease costs (\$)	1 574 270	1 614 041	1 512 718
Total vehicle fleet	129	119	123
4 Cylinder (%)	88	79	63
V8 (%)	41	40	32
4WD (%)	92	82	67
Diesel (%)	90	91	85

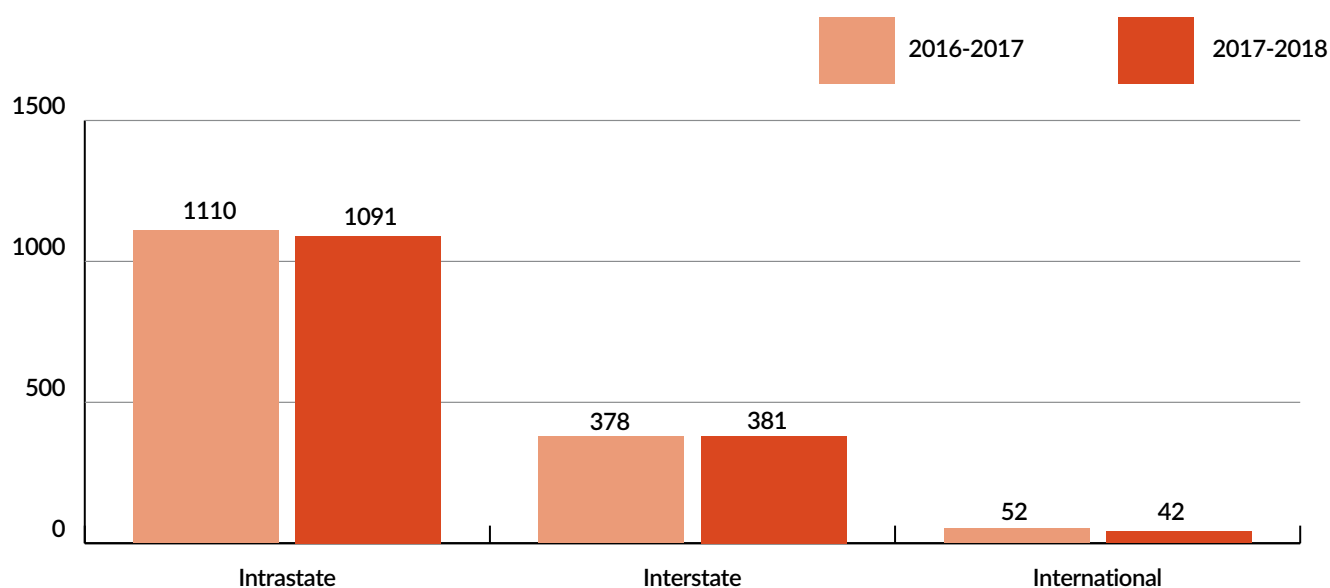
## Travel expenditure

Travel for 2017-2018 was similar to the prior year, with 15 per cent funded through external sources.

Intrastate travel accounted for 72 per cent of total travel and was primarily related to agriculture and fishing research projects, biosecurity programs, mining site inspections, and field work for mapping or mineral prospectivity.

Interstate travel remained steady compared to the previous year.

International travel decreased due to a reduction in attendances at international conferences and workshops.



**Figure 5.4. Travel (number of trips), 2016-2017 and 2017-2018**

Data from TRIPS report TR06: Travel Statistics.



Figure 5.6. GEMCO Manganese mine, Groote Eylandt





## 6. Financial reporting



# Financial statements overview

## For the year ended 30 June 2018

The 2017-2018 financial statements and notes for the Department of Primary Industry and Resources have been prepared on an accrual basis in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards. The department's financial performance in 2017-2018 are reported in four financial statements: the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flow Statement.

### COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT - SUMMARY

	2017-2018	2016-2017	Variation
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Operating income	87 434	97 029	(9595)
Operating expenses	90 101	98 097	(7996)
<b>Net operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(2667)</b>	<b>(1068)</b>	<b>(1599)</b>
Other comprehensive income			
Asset revaluation reserve	3823	(12 039)	15 862
Transfers from reserves	0	(11 008)	11 008
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>	<b>3823</b>	<b>(23 047)</b>	<b>26 870</b>
<b>Comprehensive result</b>	<b>1156</b>	<b>(24 115)</b>	<b>25 271</b>

The Comprehensive Operating Statement details the department's financial performance on income and expenditure for the year by detailing the sources and nature of same. The net deficit for the year is calculated by subtracting the expenses from income.

The operating net deficit of \$2.67 million in 2017-2018, compared to a \$1.07 million net deficit in 2016-2017 is predominantly due to the timing and fluctuation of revenue and expenditure across financial years relating to reimbursements from the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions for responses to pest incursions including banana freckle, citrus canker and browsing ant. In addition to this the department has fluctuating revenue and expenditure across financial years relating to funding from private organisations, the Commonwealth and other state jurisdictions

for agriculture and fisheries research projects along with significant varying funding from the Commonwealth for the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site across financial years.

The significant variation in the department's comprehensive income in 2017-2018 in comparison to 2016-2017 was largely due the transfer of surplus land and buildings to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics in 2016-2017 in addition to the transfer of accumulated funds from the former Department of Mines and Energy (DME) relating to the government restructure in 2016-2017.

In 2017-2018 the buildings on the department's footprint on the Berrimah Farm site were revalued. Further details of land and buildings are set out in note 11 and 12 of the Financial Statements.

## OPERATING INCOME

	2017-2018	2016-2017	Variation
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Current grants and subsidies	923	1880	(957)
Output appropriation	69 486	75 208	(5722)
Commonwealth appropriation	4382	7199	(2817)
Sales of goods and services	5143	5410	(267)
Goods and services received free of charge	3928	4094	(166)
Gain on disposal of assets	0	10	(10)
Other income	3572	3228	344
<b>Total income</b>	<b>87 434</b>	<b>97 029</b>	<b>(9595)</b>

The department's principal source of revenue, sourced through Northern Territory (NT) Parliamentary appropriation and classified as Output Appropriation, was \$69.5 million or 79 per cent of total income in 2017-2018.

In addition to this, \$0.92 million was received through grants and subsidies from Commonwealth agencies for a number of research projects predominantly relating to plant and animal biosecurity along with reimbursements for pest incursions from other jurisdictions under the cost sharing arrangements. A further \$4.38 million was received through Commonwealth Appropriation for National Partnership Agreements for the Rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle Mine site (RRJM) (\$2.22 million) and \$2.16 million as part of the cost sharing arrangements for expenditure incurred by the NT for the National Banana Freckle Eradication program (NBFEP) (\$2.04 million) and National Browsing Ant Eradication program (\$0.12 million).

A further \$5.14 million was generated through the sale of goods and services and fees, including water analysis testing, sale of livestock and produce and mining and petroleum application fees. In addition to this \$3.57 million was received from other state jurisdictions and private research and development corporations/organisations for primary industry and fisheries research projects.

Included in the department's total income is \$3.93 million of notional income for services received free of charge from the Department of Corporate

and Information Services (DCIS), which is fully negated by an offsetting expense classified under administrative expenses. This relates to centralised corporate services for the processing of accounts payable, payroll and property management services so as to project the true cost of the department delivering its programs and services.

The decrease in income in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017 of \$9.6 million, is primarily due to the following:

- A reduction in output appropriation of \$5.54 million relating to one off additional funding in 2016-2017 only for a capital grant of \$4.1 million to the NT Livestock Exporters Association (NTLEA) for the export yards in addition to targeted savings, ongoing from 2017-2018.
- A reduction of \$2.82 million in Commonwealth Appropriation primarily due to the winding down of the NBFEP offset by an increase for the RRJM.
- A reduction in grants and subsidies is largely due to the winding down of the NBFEP in relation to reimbursements from other jurisdictions under the cost sharing arrangements. Grants from other Commonwealth agencies fluctuate across financial years.
- A decrease in the sale of goods and services primarily relating to cattle sales and biosecurity fees.

- A decrease in goods and services received free of charge due to a reduction in the use of those services.
- An increase in other income is primarily due to an increase in miscellaneous revenue. This income includes the receipt of one off revenue and fluctuates from one financial year to the next.

Details of department's income from sales of goods and services and other income can be found in note 6 of the Financial Statements.

## OPERATING EXPENSES

	2017-2018	2016-2017	Variation
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Employee expenses	51 311	54 633	(3 322)
<b>Administrative expenses</b>			
Purchase of goods and services	22 354	24 462	(2108)
Repairs and maintenance	5112	3452	1660
Depreciation and amortisation	4199	4372	(173)
Goods and services free of charge	3928	4094	(166)
Other administrative expenses	37	161	(124)
<b>Grants and subsidies expenses</b>			
Current grants	1932	2823	(891)
Capital grants	1228	4100	(2872)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>90 101</b>	<b>98 097</b>	<b>(7996)</b>

In 2017-2018 employee expenses accounted for 57 per cent of the department's total expenditure and purchases of goods and services accounted for 25 per cent. Payments for repairs and maintenance, non-cash expenses relating to depreciation and notional DCIS charges are the other major expenses incurred by the department, making up the balance is expenditure on current and capital grants.

## EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

The decrease in employee expenses in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017, is primarily a result of recruitment delays, vacant positions due to unexpected resignations, non-backfilling of staff on long service leave (\$1.5 million) and the winding down of the NBFEP and fluctuations across other externally funded programs (\$0.9 million). In addition to this the reconciliation of employee provisions reduced by \$0.86 million in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017.

## PURCHASE OF GOODS AND SERVICES

The decrease in the purchase of goods and services in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017 is largely due to timing of expenditure on geological surveys (\$1 million). In addition to this, in 2016-2017, there was one-off expenditure on hydraulic fracturing consultancies and community engagement and the gas to liquids consultancy relating to previous Government decisions of \$0.64 million. Expenditure was also higher in 2016-2017 on the Business Transformation project, water analysis and property management (\$0.57 million), as well as higher expenditure in the Mining Division of \$0.64 million related to staff training, consultancies and water sampling.

There was also an increase in expenditure in the Market and Enterprise Development Division in 2016-2017 predominantly relating to the purchase of stock for research purposes (\$0.38 million).

This was offset by higher expenditure in 2017-2018 on the Commonwealth funded RRJM (\$0.68 million) and expenditure on the response to the citrus canker (\$0.38 million).

## GRANTS

The decrease in the current grants in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017 is largely due to timing of payments for primary industries strategic grants program (\$0.51 million) and one off grant payments relating to this in 2016-2017.

The decrease in capital grants in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017 relates to a one-off payment in 2016-2017 of \$4.1 million to the NTLEA. This was offset by a further one off payment in 2017-2018 of \$0.78 million to the NTLEA and payments under the Recreational Fishing Infrastructure program.

## REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The increase in repairs and maintenance expenditure in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017 is due to additional one-off funding relating to the NT Government stimulus package.

## BALANCE SHEET - SUMMARY

	2017-2018	2016-2017	Variation
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Assets	150 968	130 567	20 401
Liabilities	75 795	59 410	16 385
Equity	75 173	71 157	4 016

The balance sheet details the department's financial position on assets, liabilities and equity at balance date.

## ASSETS

Of the department's total assets in 2017-2018 \$84.25 million, or 56 per cent, relates to its holding on property, plant and equipment and \$58.2 million or 39 per cent relates to cash and deposits comprising of cash held in the Accountable Officers Trust Account (AOTA) for Mining Securities, the Securities Levy and Aboriginal Land Rents. A further \$5.33 million relates to the NT Farm Finance Concessional Loan Scheme (NTFFCLS) with remaining assets comprising of receivables and repayments.

The increase in total assets in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017 is primarily due to a \$16.8 million increase in cash and deposits and predominantly relates to increase in cash held in the AOTA for mining securities and the securities levy.

There was also an increase of \$2.83 million in property, plant and equipment in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017 relating to the revaluation of buildings on DPIR's footprint on the Berrimah Farm which was offset by depreciation.

Further details on assets can be found in notes 9, 10, 11 and 12 with details on the AOTA in note 24.

## LIABILITIES

Of the department's total liabilities in 2016-2017 \$56.86 million or 75 per cent relates to deposits held in the AOTA predominantly relating to Mining Securities, the Securities Levy and Aboriginal Land Rents. A further \$5.33 million relates to borrowings for NTFFCLS with the remaining liabilities comprising of unearned revenue and accounts payable.

Further details on liabilities can be found in notes 13, 14, 15 and 16.

The increase in total liabilities in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017 is primarily due to an increase in cash and deposits and predominantly relates to increase in cash held in the AOTA for mining securities and the securities levy.

A positive equity position indicates that the department has sufficient assets to cover liabilities.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY - SUMMARY

	2017-2018	2016-2017	Variation
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Balance of equity at 1 July 2017	71 157	85 226	
Net equity injections	2861	10 046	
Asset revaluation reserve	3823	(12 039)	
Accumulated funds	(2667)	(12 076)	
<b>Balance of equity at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>75 173</b>	<b>71 157</b>	<b>4016</b>

The Statement of Changes in Equity reflects movements in equity balances during the year.

The increase in equity from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018 of \$4.02 million was a result of the following movements:

- The purchase of plant and equipment of \$0.52 million.

- The capitalisation of minor new works of \$2.34 million.
- Revaluations of buildings of \$3.82 million.
- A net operating deficit of \$2.67 million.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW - SUMMARY

	2017-2018	2016-2017	Variation
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Cash at 1 July 2017	41 407	2159	39 248
Receipts	85 822	95 453	(9631)
Payments	(84 471)	(89 302)	4 831
Proceeds from the sale of assets	0	5	(5)
Purchase of assets	(488)	(605)	117
Net deposits received	15 425	39 370	(23 945)
Repayment of advances	0	1000	(1000)
Repayment of borrowings	0	(1000)	1000
Advances payments	(16)	0	(16)
Proceeds of borrowings	16	0	16
Finance lease payments	(17)	0	(17)
Net equity injections/(withdrawals)	521	(5 673)	6194
<b>Cash at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>58 199</b>	<b>41 407</b>	<b>16 792</b>

The Cash Flow Statement provides information on the movement of cash in and out of the department during the year. The cash balance of \$58.2 million at year end predominantly relates to cash held in the AOTA for mining securities, the securities levy and Aboriginal land rents.

The significant variation in cash at 1 July and net deposits received in 2017-2018 compared to 2016-2017 relates to the creation of DPIR and the transfer of cash held in the AOTA in the former DME.

Further details on the AOTA can be found at note 24.

Figures in the Cash Flow Statement vary from those in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as the Cash Flow Statement includes only cash transactions including cash movements relating to accrued expenses and accounts payable.

The Operating Statement includes non-cash items such as depreciation, annual non-cash adjustments to employee entitlements and services received free of charge from DCIS.

Further details on the Cash Flow Statement can be found in note 19.



# Certification of the financial statements

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

We further state that the information set out in the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to and forming part of the financial statements, presents fairly the financial performance and cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2018 and the financial position on that date.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



**Alister Trier**

Chief Executive

31 August 2018



**Karen Simpson**

Chief Finance Officer

31 August 2018

## Comprehensive operating statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$000	2017 \$000
<b>Income</b>			
Grants and subsidies revenue			
Current		923	1880
Appropriation			
Output		69 486	75 208
Commonwealth		4382	7199
Sales of goods and services	6	5143	5410
Goods and services received free of charge	4	3928	4094
Gain on disposal of assets	5	0	10
Other income	6	3572	3228
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>87 434</b>	<b>97 029</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee expenses		51 311	54 633
Administrative expenses			
Purchases of goods and services	7	22 354	24 462
Repairs and maintenance		5112	3452
Depreciation and amortisation	11, 12	4199	4372
Goods and services received free of charge		3928	4094
Other administrative expenses		37	161
Grants and subsidies expenses			
Current		1932	2823
Capital		1228	4100
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>90 101</b>	<b>98 097</b>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>		<b>(2667)</b>	<b>(1068)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit			
Asset revaluation reserve	18	3823	(12 039)
Transfers from reserves		0	(11 008)
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>3823</b>	<b>(23 047)</b>
<b>Comprehensive result</b>		<b>1156</b>	<b>(24 115)</b>

The Comprehensive Operating Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

## Balance sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$000	2017 \$000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	9	58 199	41 407
Receivables	10	2720	1853
Advances and investments	14	5332	5317
Prepayments		470	571
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>66 721</b>	<b>49 148</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	11, 12	84 247	81 419
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>84 247</b>	<b>81 419</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>150 968</b>	<b>130 567</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Deposits held	24	56 863	41 439
Payables	13	2247	1996
Borrowings and advances	14	5338	5317
Provisions	15	7665	7958
Other liabilities	16	3318	2700
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>75 431</b>	<b>59 410</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Borrowings and advances	14	364	0
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>364</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>75 795</b>	<b>59 410</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>75 173</b>	<b>71 157</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Capital		85 437	82 576
Reserves	18	44 058	40 235
Accumulated funds		(54 322)	(51 654)
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>75 173</b>	<b>71 157</b>

The Balance Sheet is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

## Statement of changes in equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	Equity at 1 July	Comprehensive result	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	Equity at 30 June
2017-2018		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Accumulated funds</b>					
Accumulated funds		43 060	2667	0	45 728
Transfers from reserves		8594	0	0	8594
<b>Total accumulated funds</b>		<b>51 654</b>	<b>2667</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54 322</b>
<b>Reserves</b>					
Asset revaluation reserve	18	(40 235)	(3823)	0	(44 058)
<b>Total reserves</b>		<b>(40 235)</b>	<b>(3823)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(44 058)</b>
<b>Capital – transactions with owners</b>					
<b>Equity injections</b>					
Capital appropriation		(15 930)	0	(521)	(16 451)
Equity transfers in		(109 097)	0	(2 340)	(111 437)
Other equity injections		(38 666)	0	0	(38 666)
<b>Total equity injections</b>		<b>(163 693)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2861)</b>	<b>(166 554)</b>
<b>Equity withdrawals</b>					
Capital withdrawals		56 810	0	0	56 810
Equity transfers out		24 308	0	0	24 308
<b>Total equity withdrawals</b>		<b>81 117</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81 117</b>
<b>Total capital</b>		<b>(82 576)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2861)</b>	<b>(85 437)</b>
<b>Total equity at end of financial year</b>		<b>(71 157)</b>	<b>(1156)</b>	<b>(2861)</b>	<b>(75 173)</b>

	Note	Equity at 1 July	Comprehensive result	Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	Equity at 30 June
2016-2017		\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Accumulated funds</b>					
Accumulated funds		41 992	1068	0	43 060
Transfers from reserves		(2414)	11 008	0	8594
<b>Total accumulated funds</b>		<b>39 578</b>	<b>12 076</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51 654</b>
<b>Reserves</b>					
Asset revaluation reserve		(52 274)	12 039	0	(40 235)
<b>Total reserves</b>	18	<b>(52 274)</b>	<b>12 039</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(40 235)</b>
<b>Capital – transactions with owners</b>					
<b>Equity injections</b>					
Capital appropriation		(15 223)	0	(707)	(15 930)
Equity transfers in		(85 583)	0	(23 514)	(109 097)
Other equity injections		(11 165)	0	(27 501)	(38 666)
<b>Total equity injections</b>		<b>(111 971)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(51 722)</b>	<b>(163 693)</b>
<b>Equity withdrawals</b>					
Capital withdrawals		22 928	0	33 881	56 810
Equity transfers out		16 513	0	7795	24 308
<b>Total equity withdrawals</b>		<b>39 441</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41 676</b>	<b>81 117</b>
<b>Total capital</b>		<b>(72 530)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(10 046)</b>	<b>(82 576)</b>
<b>Total equity at end of financial year</b>		<b>(85 226)</b>	<b>24 115</b>	<b>(10 046)</b>	<b>(71 157)</b>

The statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.



## Cash flow statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Note	2018 \$000	2017 \$000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Operating receipts</b>			
Grants and subsidies received			
Current		923	1880
Appropriation			
Output		69 486	75 208
Commonwealth		4382	7199
Other receipts			
Operating		11 031	11 166
<b>Total operating receipts</b>		<b>85 822</b>	<b>95 453</b>
<b>Operating payments</b>			
Payments to employees		(51 614)	(52 099)
Payments for goods and services		(29 697)	(30 280)
Grants and subsidies paid			
Current		(1932)	(2823)
Capital		(1228)	(4100)
<b>Total operating payments</b>		<b>(84 471)</b>	<b>(89 302)</b>
<b>Net cash from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1351</b>	<b>6151</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
<b>Investing receipts</b>			
Proceeds from asset sales	5	0	5
Repayment of advances		0	1000
<b>Total investing receipts</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1005</b>
<b>Investing payments</b>			
Purchases of assets		(488)	(605)
Advances and investments payments		(16)	0
<b>Total investing payments</b>		<b>(503)</b>	<b>(605)</b>
<b>Net cash from/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(503)</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
<b>Financing receipts</b>			
Proceeds of borrowings		16	0
Deposits received		15 425	39 370
Equity injections			
Capital appropriation		521	707
Other equity injections		0	27 501
<b>Total financing receipts</b>		<b>15 961</b>	<b>67 578</b>
<b>Financing payments</b>			
Repayment of borrowings		0	(1000)
Finance lease payments		(17)	0
Equity withdrawals		0	(33 881)
<b>Total financing payments</b>		<b>(17)</b>	<b>(34 881)</b>
<b>Net cash from/(used in) financing activities</b>		<b>15 944</b>	<b>32 697</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>16 792</b>	<b>39 248</b>
<b>Cash at beginning of financial year</b>		<b>41 407</b>	<b>2159</b>
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>58 199</b>	<b>41 407</b>

The Cash Flow Statement is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

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## 1. Objectives and funding

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources plays an integral role in developing our agricultural, fishery, mineral and energy resources and enhancing their significant contribution to the Northern Territory (NT) economy. The department works in partnership with industry sectors to deliver a broad range of research, extension, market development and investment attraction activities.

The department also has broad regulatory responsibilities for plant, animal and aquatic biosecurity, animal welfare, agricultural and veterinary chemicals, mineral and energy activities, and ensuring the sustainable management and the licensing of fishing activities.

Additional information in relation to the department and its principal activities can be found in section one of the Annual Report.

The department is predominantly funded by, and is dependent on, the receipt of Parliamentary appropriations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the department controls resources to carry on its functions and deliver outputs. For reporting purposes, outputs delivered by the department are summarised into several output groups. Note 3 provides summarised financial information in the form of a Comprehensive Operating Statement by output groups.

### OUTPUT GROUPS/OUTPUTS:

#### Primary Industry Economic Development

- Market and Enterprise Development
- Plant Industries Development
- Livestock Industries Development
- Major Economic Projects

#### Biosecurity and Animal Welfare

- Biosecurity and Animal Welfare

#### Fisheries

- Fisheries

#### Resource Industry Development

- Geological Survey and Industry Development Services

#### Mining Services

- Mineral Titles Management
- Mining Operations Management
- Legacy Mines

#### Energy Services

- Energy Management

#### Corporate and Governance

- Corporate Governance
- Shared Services Received

## 2. Statement of significant accounting policies

### A) STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Financial Management Act* and related Treasurer's Directions. The *Financial Management Act* requires the department to prepare financial statements for the year ended 30 June based on the form determined by the Treasurer. The form of department's financial statements should include:

- (i) a certification of the financial statements
- (ii) a comprehensive operating statement
- (iii) a balance sheet
- (iv) a statement of changes in equity
- (v) a cash flow statement, and
- (vi) applicable explanatory notes to the financial statements.

### B) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which recognises the effect of financial transactions and events when they occur, rather than when cash is paid out or received. As part of the preparation of the financial statements, all intra-department transactions and balances have been eliminated.

Except where stated, the financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

The form of the department's financial statements is also consistent with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards. The effects of all relevant new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are effective for the current annual reporting period have been evaluated.

Standards and interpretations effective from 2017-2018.

The following new and revised accounting standards and interpretations were effective for the first time in 2017-2018:

AASB 2016-2 amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – disclosure initiative:

#### Amendments to AASB 107

This standard applies to the not-for-profit sector for the first time in 2017-2018. The accounting amendment AASB 2016-2 requires the disclosure of information that enable users of financial statements to evaluate changes in liabilities arising from financing activities. This disclosure is illustrated in note 19(b).

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to the current reporting periods, but are considered to have no impact on public sector reporting.

**Standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective.**

On the date of authorisation of the financial statements, the following standards and interpretations were in issue but are not yet effective and are expected to have a potential impact on future reporting periods:

#### AASB 16 Leases

AASB 16 Leases is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 and will be reported in these financial statements for the first time in 2019-2020. When the standard is effective it will supersede AASB 117 Leases and requires the majority of leases to be recognised on the balance sheet.

For lessees with operating leases, a right-of-use asset will now be included in the balance sheet together with a lease liability for all leases with a term of 12 months or more, unless the underlying assets are of low value. The comprehensive operating statement will no longer report operating lease rental payments. Instead a depreciation expense will be recognised relating to the right-to-use asset and interest expense relating to the lease liability.

For lessors, the finance and operating lease distinction remains largely unchanged. For finance leases, the lessor recognises a receivable equal to the net investment in the lease. Lease receipts from

operating leases are recognised as income either on a straight-line basis or another systematic basis where appropriate.

Operating lease commitments will be required to be recognised in the balance sheet through a lease liability and corresponding right to use asset from 2019-2020 in accordance with AASB 16 Leases. In the comprehensive income statement, the operating lease expense will be replaced with a depreciation expense, relating to the right to use asset and interest expense, relating to the lease liability. These cannot be quantified at this time.

### AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities and AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities and AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers are effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 and will be reported in these financial statements for the first time in 2019-2020.

Under the new AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities, revenue from grants and donations will be recognised when any associated performance obligation to provide goods or services is satisfied, and not immediately upon receipt as currently occurs. Consequently, more liabilities will be recognised in the balance sheet after adoption of this standard.

AASB 1058 clarifies and simplifies income-recognition requirements that apply to not-for-profit entities in conjunction with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers.

While the full impacts are yet to be determined, potential impacts identified include the following:

- Grants received to construct or acquire a non-financial asset will be recognised as a liability, and subsequently recognised as revenue as the performance obligations under the grant are satisfied. At present, such grants are recognised as revenue on receipt.
- Grants with an enforceable agreement and sufficiently specific performance obligations will be recognised as revenue progressively as the associated performance obligations are satisfied. At present, such grants are recognised as revenue on receipt.

- Grants that have an enforceable agreement but no specific performance obligations but have restrictions on the timing of expenditure will also continue to be recognised on receipt as time restriction on the use of funds is not sufficiently specific to create a performance obligation.
- Grants that are not enforceable and/or not sufficiently specific will not qualify for deferral, and continue to be recognised as revenue as soon as they are controlled.

### AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors

AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019 and will be reported in these financial statements for the first time in 2019-2020.

AASB 1059 addresses the accounting for arrangements that involve an operator providing public services related to a service concession asset on behalf of a public sector grantor for a specified period of time and managing at least some of those services.

Where a transaction meets the definition of a service concession arrangement, a service concession asset and liability will be recognised on the balance sheet and valued in accordance with the new standard.

The Territory's public-private partnership arrangements are currently under review to determine the applicability of AASB 1059 and the full impact of the new standard.

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods, but are considered to have limited impact on future financial reporting.

### C) REPORTING ENTITY

The financial statements cover the department as an individual reporting entity.

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources is a Northern Territory (NT) department established under the *Interpretation Act Administrative Arrangements Order*.



The principal place of business of the department is: Berrimah Farm on Makagon Road, Berrimah NT 0828 and the Centrepont Building, Smith Street Mall.

#### **D) DEPARTMENT AND TERRITORY ITEMS**

The financial statements of the department include income, expenses, assets, liabilities and equity over which the department has control (department items). Certain items, while managed by the department, are controlled and recorded by the Territory rather than the department (Territory items). Territory items are recognised and recorded in the Central Holding Authority as discussed below.

##### **Central Holding Authority**

The Central Holding Authority (CHA) is the 'parent body' that represents the Northern Territory Government's (NTG) ownership interest in NTG-controlled entities.

The CHA also records all Territory items, such as income, expenses, assets and liabilities controlled by the NTG and managed by departments on behalf of the government. The main Territory item is Territory income, which includes taxation and royalty revenue, Commonwealth general purpose funding (such as GST revenue), fines, and statutory fees and charges.

The CHA also holds certain Territory assets not assigned to departments as well as certain Territory liabilities that are not practical or effective to assign to individual agencies such as unfunded superannuation and long service leave.

The CHA recognises and records all Territory items, and as such, these items are not included in the department's financial statements. However, as the department is accountable for certain Territory items managed on behalf of government, these items have been separately disclosed in Note 25 – schedule of administered Territory items.

#### **E) COMPARATIVES**

Where necessary, comparative information for the 2017-2018 financial year has been reclassified to provide consistency with current year disclosures.

#### **F) PRESENTATION AND ROUNDING OF AMOUNTS**

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, with amounts of \$500 or less being rounded down to zero. Figures in the financial statements and notes may not equate due to rounding.

#### **G) CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous year except for the recognition of assets on aboriginal land. The land upon which the Victoria River Research Station is situated on is granted as Aboriginal Land. The department enjoys statutory entitlement under section 14 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act* to continue to use the land for as long as the department requires the land for this purpose. A finance lease liability was deemed to be required to be recognised in accordance with AASB 117 leases. A corresponding asset, and associated amortization and interest was recognised in relation to the finance lease.

#### **H) ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS AND ESTIMATES**

The preparation of the financial report requires the making of judgments and estimates that affect the recognised amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments and estimates that have significant effects on the financial statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

### I) GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred on a purchase of goods and services is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are included in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable or payable unless otherwise specified.

### J) CONTRIBUTIONS BY AND DISTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNMENT

The department may receive contributions from the government where the government is acting as owner of the department. Conversely, the department may make distributions to government. In accordance with the *Financial Management Act* and Treasurer's Directions, certain types of contributions and distributions, including those relating to administrative restructures, have been designated as contributions by, and distributions to, government. These designated contributions and distributions are treated by the department as adjustments to equity.

The statement of changes in equity provides additional information in relation to contributions by, and distributions to, government.

### 3. Comprehensive operating statement by output group

	Primary Industry Development		Biosecurity and Animal Welfare		Fisheries		Resource Industry Development		Mining Services		Energy Services		Corporate and Governance		Total	
Note	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Income</b>																
Grants and subsidies revenue																
Current	0	648	796	1207	127	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	923	1880
Appropriation																
Output	19 112	24 355	7454	7735	10 972	10 349	11 139	11 422	9 278	8326	2242	3670	9289	9350	69 486	75 208
Commonwealth	0	0	2166	5202	0	0	0	0	2216	1997	0	0	0	0	4382	7199
Sales of goods and services	6	1514	1720	2138	2252	393	390	87	885	854	100	76	26	31	5143	5410
Goods and services received free of charge	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3928	4094	3928	4094
Gain on disposal of assets	5	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Other income	6	2185	2149	348	299	557	264	1	209	443	176	0	2	38	129	3228
<b>Total income</b>	<b>22 811</b>	<b>28 874</b>	<b>12 902</b>	<b>16 695</b>	<b>12 049</b>	<b>11 036</b>	<b>11 227</b>	<b>11 718</b>	<b>12 822</b>	<b>11 353</b>	<b>2342</b>	<b>3748</b>	<b>13 281</b>	<b>13 604</b>	<b>87 434</b>	<b>97 029</b>
<b>Expenses</b>																
Employee expenses	13 006	14 154	7813	8977	6585	6309	6226	6393	8619	8416	2150	2311	6912	8073	51 311	54 633
Administrative expenses																
Purchases of goods and services	7	6170	6577	3216	3489	3402	3466	3257	4294	3916	3871	203	443	2190	2322	22 354
Repairs and maintenance		3414	2394	694	468	693	468	138	11	0	0	0	173	111	5112	3452
Depreciation and amortisation	11, 12	2375	2464	484	499	545	567	153	186	508	518	0	134	138	4199	4372
Goods and services received free of charge		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3928	4094	3928	4094
Other administrative expenses		2	26	1	15	0	12	0	10	26	14	0	3	8	37	161
Grants and subsidies expenses																
Current	391	1354	203	203	672	705	577	551	0	0	0	0	89	10	1932	2823
Capital	777	4100	0	0	451	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1228	4100
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>26 135</b>	<b>31 069</b>	<b>12 411</b>	<b>13 651</b>	<b>12 348</b>	<b>11 527</b>	<b>10 351</b>	<b>11 445</b>	<b>13 069</b>	<b>12 819</b>	<b>2353</b>	<b>2757</b>	<b>13 434</b>	<b>14 829</b>	<b>90 101</b>	<b>98 097</b>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(3324)</b>	<b>(2195)</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>3044</b>	<b>(299)</b>	<b>(491)</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>(247)</b>	<b>(1466)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>(153)</b>	<b>(1225)</b>	<b>(2667)</b>	<b>(1068)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>																
Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit																
Asset revaluation reserve	2447	(6181)	574	(4284)	572	(4027)	0	2973	0	1100	0	0	230	(1620)	3823	(12 039)
Transfer from reserves	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(3932)	0	(5398)	0	(1058)	0	(619)	0	(11 008)
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>	<b>2447</b>	<b>(6181)</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>(4284)</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>(4027)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(959)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(4298)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1058)</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>(2239)</b>	<b>3 823</b>	<b>(23 047)</b>
<b>Comprehensive result</b>	<b>(877)</b>	<b>(8376)</b>	<b>1086</b>	<b>(1240)</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>(4518)</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>(686)</b>	<b>(247)</b>	<b>(5764)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(67)</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>(3464)</b>	<b>1156</b>	<b>(24 115)</b>

This comprehensive operating statement by output group is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

### Income

Income encompasses both revenue and gains.

Income is recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, exclusive of the amount of GST. Exchanges of goods or services of the same nature and value without any cash consideration being exchanged are not recognised as income.

### Grants and other contributions

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions are recognised as revenue when the department obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control is normally obtained upon receipt.

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

### Appropriation

Output appropriation is the operating payment to each department for the outputs they provide and is calculated as the net cost of department's outputs after taking into account funding from department income. It does not include any allowance for major non-cash costs such as depreciation.

Commonwealth appropriation follows from the intergovernmental agreement on federal financial relations, resulting in Specific Purpose Payments 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 the Department of Treasury and Finance on behalf of the CHA and then passed on to the relevant agencies as Commonwealth appropriation.

Revenue in respect of appropriations is recognised in the period in which the department gains control of the funds.

### Sale of goods

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised (net of returns, discounts and allowances) when:

- the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer
- the department retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold
- the amount of revenue can be reliably measured
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the department
- 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
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

#### 4. Goods and services received free of charge

	2018	2017
	\$000	\$000
Inter-department notional service revenue/charge (Department of Corporate and Information Services)	3928	4094
	3928	4094

#### 5. Gain on disposal of assets

Net proceeds from the disposal of non-current assets	0	5
Less: Carrying value of non-current assets disposed	0	(1)
<b>Gain on the disposal of non-current assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
Proceeds from sale of minor assets	0	6
<b>Total gain on disposal of assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>

#### 6. Sales of goods and services and other income

The net surplus/(deficit) has been arrived at after receiving the following income:

##### Sales of goods and services:

Water analysis testing	1868	1858
Research farms - sales of livestock and produce	1377	1541
Darwin Aquaculture Centre revenue	170	194
Fisheries licence fees	195	151
Livestock export and diagnostic testing	106	89
Cadets, apprentices and graduates program	17	32
Annual Geoscience Exploration seminar	70	81
Advertising (licences/titles)	115	138
Employee housing and property rentals	32	65
Other charges	146	219
	<b>4096</b>	<b>4368</b>

##### Fees from regulatory services

Biosecurity fees	180	262
Application and dealing fees (licence/titles)	867	780
<b>Total sales of goods and services</b>	<b>5143</b>	<b>5410</b>

##### Other income

Private research and development organisations	2411	2718
General provisions	720	335
Independent Monitoring Mining Resource Management	441	175
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>3572</b>	<b>3228</b>



## 7. Purchases of goods and services

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

	2018	2017
	\$000	\$000
<b>Purchases of goods and services expenses:</b>		
Consultants <sup>1</sup>	1580	3163
Advertising <sup>2</sup>	179	134
Marketing and promotion <sup>3</sup>	144	519
Document production	58	108
Legal expenses <sup>4</sup>	113	78
Recruitment <sup>5</sup>	31	53
Training and study	431	521
Travel expenses <sup>6</sup>	1659	1568
Motor vehicle expenses	2011	2230
Property management	2812	2807
It expenses	3319	3296
Laboratory expenses	1400	2064
Other equipment	901	842
Survey, drafting and drilling	1232	520
Other expenses	6484	6559
	<b>22 354</b>	<b>24 462</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes marketing, promotion and IT consultants

<sup>2</sup> Does not include recruitment advertising or marketing and promotion

<sup>3</sup> Includes advertising for marketing and promotion but excludes marketing and promotion consultants' expenses, which are incorporated in the consultants' category.

<sup>4</sup> Includes legal fees, claim and settlement costs

<sup>5</sup> Includes recruitment related advertising costs

<sup>6</sup> Includes accommodation, official duty fares and travel allowances

### Repairs and maintenance expense

Funding is received for repairs and maintenance works associated with the department's assets as part of output appropriation. Costs associated with repairs and maintenance works on the department's assets are expensed as incurred.

## 8. Write-offs, postponements, waivers, gifts and ex gratia payments

Department items				Territory items			
2018	No. of Trans.	2017	No. of Trans.	2018	No. of Trans.	2017	No. of Trans.
\$000		\$000		\$000		\$000	

### Write-offs, postponements and waivers under the *Financial Management Act*

Represented by:

*Amounts written off, postponed and waived by delegates*

Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or a department written off	4	5	8	8	0	0	0	0
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public property written off	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total written off, postponed and waived by delegates</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

*Amounts written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer*

Irrecoverable amounts payable to the Territory or a department written off	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Losses or deficiencies of money written off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public property written off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waiver or postponement of right to receive or recover money or property	0	0	7	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total written off, postponed and waived by the Treasurer</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

	10	6	15	10	0	0	0	0
<b>Write-offs, postponements and waivers authorised under other legislation</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Gifts under the <i>Financial Management Act</i></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Gifts authorised under other legislation</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Ex gratia payments under the <i>Financial Management Act</i></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 9. Cash and deposits

	2018	2017
	\$000	\$000
Cash on hand	23	19
Cash at bank	58 176	41 388
	58 199	41 407

For the purposes of the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are highly liquid short-term investments that are readily convertible to cash. Cash at bank includes monies

held in the Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA) that are ultimately payable to the beneficial owner – refer also to note 24.

## 10. Receivables

### CURRENT

Accounts receivable	1738	1366
Less: allowance for impairment losses	(222)	(194)
GST receivables	360	340
Other receivables	844	341
<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>2720</b>	<b>1853</b>

Receivables include accounts receivable and other receivables and are recognised at fair value less any allowance for impairment losses.

The allowance for impairment losses represents the amount of receivables the department estimates are likely to be uncollectible and are considered doubtful. Analyses of the age of the receivables that are past due as at the reporting date are disclosed in an aging schedule under credit risk in Note 20 Financial Instruments. Reconciliation of changes in the allowance accounts is also presented.

Accounts receivable are generally settled within 90 days.

### Prepayments

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods and services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

## 11. Property, plant and equipment

	2018	2017
	\$000	\$000
<b>Land</b>		
At fair value	<b>21 761</b>	<b>21 761</b>
<b>Buildings</b>		
At fair value	134 696	136 386
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(79 452)	(84 216)
	<b>55 244</b>	<b>52 170</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
At fair value	7423	7373
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(4120)	(3677)
	<b>3303</b>	<b>3696</b>
<b>Construction (work in progress)</b>		
At capitalised cost	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
At fair value	9989	9845
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(7364)	(6974)
	<b>2625</b>	<b>2871</b>
<b>Computer hardware</b>		
At fair value	349	251
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(268)	(240)
	<b>81</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Transport equipment</b>		
At fair value	3638	3556
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(2801)	(2666)
	<b>837</b>	<b>890</b>
<b>Leased land</b>		
At capitalised cost	386	0
Less: accumulated depreciation	(10)	(0)
	<b>376</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>84 247</b>	<b>81 419</b>

## 11. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

### 2018 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT RECONCILIATIONS

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2017-2018 is set out below:

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Construction (work in progress)	Plant and equipment	Computer hardware	Transport equipment	Leased land	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying amount as at 1 July 2017	21 761	52 170	3 696	20	2 871	11	890	0	81 419
Additions	0	2 279	50	0	245	162	82	386	3 204
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation	0	(3 028)	(443)	0	(554)	(29)	(135)	(10)	(4 199)
Additions/disposals from administrative restructuring	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Additions/disposals from asset transfers	0	0	0	0	63	(63)	0	0	0
Revaluation increments/ decrements	0	3 823	0	0	0	0	0	0	3 823
Carrying amount as at 30 June 2018	21 761	55 244	3 303	20	2 625	81	837	376	84 247



## 11. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

### 2017 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT RECONCILIATIONS

A reconciliation of the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of 2016-2017 is set out below:

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Construction (work in progress)	Plant and equipment	Computer hardware	Transport equipment	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Carrying amount as at 1 July 2016	34 680	54 202	420	1	2499	10	705	92 517
Additions	0	1 146	0	19	291	0	313	1769
Disposals	0	0	0	0	(12)	0	0	(12)
Depreciation	0	(3 254)	(441)	0	(532)	(17)	(128)	(4372)
Additions/disposals from administrative restructuring	1490	2354	3717	0	625	18	0	8204
Additions/disposals from asset transfers	(18 900)	(2278)	0	0	0	0	0	(21 176)
Revaluation increments/ decrements	4491	0	0	0	0	0	0	4491
Carrying amount as at 30 June 2017	21 761	52 170	3696	20	2871	11	890	81 419

### Acquisitions

All items of property, plant and equipment with a cost, or other value, equal to or greater than \$10 000 are recognised in the year of acquisition and depreciated as outlined below. Items of property, plant and equipment below the \$10 000 threshold are expensed in the year of acquisition.

The construction cost of property, plant and equipment includes the cost of materials and direct labour, and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

### Complex assets

Major items of plant and equipment comprising a number of components that have different useful lives, are accounted for as separate assets. The components may be replaced during the useful life of the complex asset.

### Subsequent additional costs

Costs incurred on property, plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the department in future years. Where these costs represent separate components of a complex asset, they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their expected useful lives.

### Construction (work in progress)

As part of the financial management framework, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL) is responsible for managing general government capital works projects on a whole of government basis. Therefore appropriation for all department's capital works is provided directly to DIPL and the cost of construction work in progress is recognised as an asset of that department. Once completed, capital works assets are transferred to the department.

### 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.

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

The latest revaluations as at 30 June 2018 were independently conducted by the Territory Property Consultants Pty Ltd. Refer to Note 12 for additional disclosures.

### Impairment of assets

An asset is said to be impaired when the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Non-current physical and intangible department's assets are assessed for indicators of impairment on an annual basis or whenever there is indication of impairment. If an indicator of impairment exists, the department determines the asset's recoverable amount. The asset's recoverable amount is determined as the higher of the asset's current replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Any amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount is recorded as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are recognised in the comprehensive operating statement. They are disclosed as an expense unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount. Where the asset is measured at a revalued amount, the impairment loss is offset against the asset revaluation surplus for that class of asset to the extent that an available balance exists in the asset revaluation surplus.

In certain situations, an impairment loss may subsequently be reversed. Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement as income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment reversal results in an increase in the asset revaluation surplus. Note 18 provides additional information in relation to the asset revaluation surplus. The department's property, plant and equipment assets were assessed for impairment as at 30 June 2018. No impairment adjustments were required as a result of this review.

### Depreciation and amortisation expense

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings but excluding land, have limited useful lives and are depreciated or amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.

Amortisation applies in relation to intangible non-current assets with limited useful lives and is calculated and accounted for in a similar manner to depreciation.

The estimated useful lives for each class of asset are in accordance with the Treasurer's Directions and are determined as follows:

	2018	2017
Buildings	50 years	50 years
Infrastructure Assets	16-25 years	16-25 years
Plant and Equipment	10 years	10 years
Leased property, plant and equipment	40 years	0 years

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

### Leased assets

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

### Finance leases

Finance leases are capitalised. A lease asset and lease liability equal to the lower of the fair value of the leased property and present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease, are recognised.

Lease payments are allocated between the principal component of the lease liability and the interest expense.

### Operating leases

Operating lease payments made at regular intervals throughout the term are expensed when the payments are due, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased property. Lease incentives under an operating lease of a building or office space is recognised as an integral part of the consideration for the use of the leased asset. Lease incentives should be recognised as a deduction of the lease expenses over the term of the lease.

## 12. Fair value measurement of non-financial assets

### a) Fair value hierarchy

Fair values of non-financial assets categorised by levels of inputs used to compute fair value are:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total fair value
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2017-2018 asset classes</b>				
Land (note 11)	0	3760	18 001	21 761
Leased land (note 11)	0	0	376	376
Buildings (note 11)	0	2147	53 098	55 245
Infrastructure (note 11)	0	0	3303	3303
Plant and equipment (note 11)	0	0	3563	3563
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5907</b>	<b>78 341</b>	<b>84 248</b>

### 2016-17 asset classes

Land (note 11)	0	3760	18 001	21 761
Leased land (note 11)	0	0	0	0
Buildings (note 11)	0	2250	49 920	52 170
Infrastructure (note 11)	0	0	3696	3696
Plant and equipment (note 11)	0	0	3792	3792
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6010</b>	<b>75 409</b>	<b>81 419</b>

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Levels 2 or 3 during 2017-2018.

### b) Valuation techniques and inputs

Valuation techniques used to measure fair value in 2017-2018 are:

	Level 2 techniques	Level 3 techniques
<b>Asset classes</b>		
Land	Market	Market
Leased land	-	Cost
Buildings	Cost	Cost
Infrastructure	-	Cost
Plant and equipment	-	Cost

There were no changes in valuation techniques from 2016-2017 to 2017-2018.

Level 2 fair values of land were based on active market comparison approach which seeks to determine the current value of an asset by reference to recent comparable transactions involving sale of similar assets.

Level 3 fair values of land were based on active market comparison approach which seeks to determine the current value of an asset by reference to recent comparable transactions involving sale of similar assets.

Level 3 fair values of specialised buildings, infrastructure and plant and equipment were determined by computing their depreciated

replacement costs because an active market does not exist for such facilities. The depreciated replacement cost was based on a combination of internal records of the historical cost of the facilities, adjusted for contemporary technology

and construction approaches. Significant judgement was also used in assessing the remaining service potential of the facilities, given local environmental conditions, projected usage, and records of the current condition of the facilities.

### c) Additional information for level 3 fair value measurements

#### (i) Reconciliation of recurring level 3 fair value measurements

	Land	Leased land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant and equipment	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
2017-2018						
Fair value as at 1 July 2017	18 001	0	49 920	3696	3792	75 409
Additions	0	386	2279	50	489	3204
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers from Level 2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers to Level 2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation/amortisation	0	(10)	(2924)	(443)	(718)	(4095)
Gains/losses recognised in net surplus/deficit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gains/losses recognised in other comprehensive income	0	0	3823	0	0	3823
Fair value as at 30 June 2018	18 001	376	53 098	3303	3563	78 341
	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure	Plant and Equipment	Total	
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	
2016-2017						
Fair value as at 1 July 2016	34 680	54 201	420	3216	92 517	
Additions	0	1146	3717	1268	6131	
Disposals	(5517)	1574	0	(19)	(3962)	
Transfers from Level 2	0	0	0	0	0	
Transfers to Level 2	0	0	0	0	0	
Depreciation	0	(3151)	(441)	(677)	(4269)	
Gains/losses recognised in net surplus/deficit	0	0	0	4	4	
Gains/losses recognised in other comprehensive income	(11 162)	(3850)	0	0	(15 012)	
Fair value as at 30 June 2017	18 001	49 920	3696	3792	75 409	



## (ii) Sensitivity analysis

Unobservable inputs used in computing the fair value of buildings include the historical cost and the consumed economic benefit for each building. Given the large number of department's buildings, it is not practical to compute a relevant summary measure for the unobservable inputs. In respect of sensitivity of fair value to changes in input value, a higher historical cost results in a higher fair value and greater consumption of economic benefit lowers fair value.

## 13. Payables

	2018	2017
	\$000	\$000
Accounts payable	1750	1632
Accrued expenses	497	364
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>2247</b>	<b>1996</b>

Liabilities for accounts payable and other amounts payable are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the department. Accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

## 14. Borrowings and advances

## Current Asset

Commonwealth Concessional Loan Scheme (NT) – Farm Finance	5332	5317
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>5332</b>	<b>5317</b>

## Current Liability

Commonwealth Concessional Loan Scheme (NT) – Farm Finance	5332	5317
Finance lease	5	0
	<b>5338</b>	<b>5317</b>

## Non-current liability

Finance lease	364	0
	<b>364</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>5702</b>	<b>5317</b>

## 15. Provisions

	2018	2017
<b>Current</b>		
<b>Employee benefits</b>		
Recreation leave	5933	6145
Leave loading	793	851
Airfares	56	83
Other employee benefits	66	92
On-Cost	817	788
<b>Total provisions</b>	<b>7665</b>	<b>7958</b>

The department employed 456 employees as at 30 June 2018 (470 employees as at 30 June 2017).

### Employee benefits

Provision is made for employee benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering services up to the reporting date. These benefits include wages and salaries and recreation leave. Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, recreation leave and other employee benefit liabilities that fall due within twelve months of reporting date are classified as current liabilities and are measured at amounts expected to be paid. Non-current employee benefit liabilities that fall due after 12 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 (CHA) assumes the long service leave liabilities of government agencies, including the department and as such no long service leave liability is recognised in the department's financial statements.

### Superannuation

Employees' superannuation entitlements are provided through the:

- Northern Territory Government and Public Authorities Superannuation Scheme
- Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), or
- non-government employee nominated schemes for those employees commencing on or after 10 August 1999.

The department makes superannuation contributions on behalf of its employees to the CHA or non-government employee-nominated schemes. Superannuation liabilities related to government superannuation schemes are held by the CHA and as such are not recognised in department's financial statements.

## 16. Other liabilities

	2018	2017
	\$000	\$000
<b>Current</b>		
Unearned revenue	3318	2700
<b>Total other liabilities</b>	<b>3318</b>	<b>2700</b>

## 17. Commitments

### (i) Capital expenditure commitments

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

	2018		2017	
	Internal	External	Internal	External
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Within one year	0	1904	0	142
	0	1904	0	142

### (ii) Operating lease commitments

The department leases property under non-cancellable operating leases expiring at various dates. Leases generally provide the department with a right of renewal at which time all lease terms are renegotiated. The department also leases items of plant and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases. Future operating lease commitments not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

Within one year	1079	4	1104	6
Later than one year and not later than five years	1237	8	1533	7
Later than five years	430	0	497	0
	2746	12	3134	13

### (iii) Other expenditure commitments

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

Within one year	15	6551	15	2966
Later than one year and not later than five years	60	0	60	68
Later than five years	0	0	15	17
	75	6551	90	3051

## 18. Reserves

### Asset revaluation surplus

#### (i) Nature and purpose of the asset revaluation surplus

The asset revaluation surplus includes the net revaluation increments and decrements arising from the revaluation of non-current assets. Impairment adjustments may also be recognised in the asset revaluation surplus.

#### (ii) Movements in the asset revaluation surplus

	2018	2017
	\$000	\$000
<b>Balance as at 1 July</b>	<b>40 235</b>	<b>52 274</b>
Increment/(decrement) – land	0	(8189)
Increment/(decrement) – buildings	3823	(3850)
<b>Balance as at 30 June</b>	<b>44 058</b>	<b>40 235</b>

## 19. Notes to the cash flow statement

### a) Reconciliation of cash

The total of department's cash and deposits of \$58.199 million recorded in the Balance Sheet is consistent with that recorded as 'Cash' in the Cash Flow Statement.

#### Reconciliation of net surplus/(deficit) to net cash from operating activities

<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(2667)</b>	<b>(1068)</b>
<i>Non-cash items:</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	4199	4372
Asset donations/gifts	0	1
Gain/loss on disposal of assets	0	(4)
Repairs and maintenance – minor new works	10	1
<i>Changes in assets and liabilities:</i>		
Decrease/increase in receivables	(992)	(4126)
Decrease/increase in prepayments	101	(544)
Decrease/increase in payables	251	1293
Decrease/increase in provision for employee benefits	(298)	2057
Decrease/increase in other provisions	4	262
Decrease/increase in other liabilities	743	3907
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>1351</b>	<b>6151</b>

## b) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

Cash flows		Non-cash									
1 July	Loans and advances	Deposits received	Appropriation	Equity injection/ (withdrawal)	Finance lease payments	Total cash flows	Lease acquisitions	Other liability related changes	Other equity related changes	Total non-cash	30 June
\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Deposits held	41 439	0	15 425	0	0	0	15 425	0	0	0	56 864
Borrowings and advances	5317	16	0	0	0	(17)	(1)	386	0	0	5702
Provisions	7958	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(293)	0	7665
Equity injections/ withdrawals	0	0	0	521	0	0	521	0	2340	2340	2861
<b>Total</b>	<b>54 714</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15 425</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(17)</b>	<b>15 945</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>(293)</b>	<b>2340</b>	<b>73 092</b>

## (c) Non-cash financing and investing activities

## Finance lease transactions

During the financial year the department recognised leased land asset with a fair value of \$386k.



## 20. Financial instruments

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

Financial assets and liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the department becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. The department's financial instruments include cash and deposits, receivables, advances, investments loan and placements, payables, advances received, borrowings and derivatives.

Due to the nature of operating activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statutory obligations rather than a contract. Such financial assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments as per AASB 132

Financial Instruments Presentation. These include statutory receivables arising from taxes including GST and penalties.

Exposure to interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, credit risk, price risk and liquidity risk arise in the normal course of activities. The department's investments, loans and placements, and borrowings are predominantly managed through the NTTC adopting strategies to minimise the risk. Derivative financial arrangements are also utilised to manage financial risks inherent in the management of these financial instruments. These arrangements include swaps, forward interest rate agreements and other hedging instruments to manage fluctuations in interest or exchange rates.

### a) Categorisation of financial instruments

The carrying amounts of the department's financial assets and liabilities by category are disclosed in the table below.

#### 2017-2018 categorisation of financial instruments

	Fair value through profit or loss						
	Held for trading	Designated at fair value	Held to maturity investments	Financial assets - loans and receivables	Financial assets - available for sale	Financial liabilities - amortised cost	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Cash and deposits	0	58 199	0	0	0	0	58 199
Receivables <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	1516	0	0	1516
Advances paid	0	0	0	5332	0	0	5332
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58 199</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6848</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65 047</b>
Payables <sup>1</sup>	0	1750	0	0	0	0	1750
Advances received	0	0	0	0	0	5332	5332
Financial lease liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	369	369
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5701</b>	<b>7541</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts

## 2016-2017 categorisation of financial instruments

	Fair value through profit or loss		Held to maturity investments	Financial assets - loans and receivables	Financial assets - available for sale	Financial liabilities - amortised cost	Total
	Held for trading	Designated at fair value					
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Cash and deposits	0	41 407	0	0	0	0	41 407
Receivables <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0	1171	0	0	1171
Advances paid	0	0	0	5317	0	0	5317
Financial leased assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41 407</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6488</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47 895</b>
Payables <sup>1</sup>	0	1632	0	0	0	0	1632
Advances received	0	0	0	0	0	5317	5317
Financial lease liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5317</b>	<b>6949</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts

### Classification of financial instruments

AASB 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures requires financial instruments to be classified and disclosed within specific categories depending on their nature and purpose.

Financial assets are classified into the following categories:

- Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss.
- Held-to-maturity investments.
- Loans and receivables.
- Available-for-sale financial assets.

Financial liabilities are classified into the following categories:

- Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).
- Financial liabilities at amortised cost.

### Financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

Financial instruments are classified as at FVTPL when the instrument is either held for trading or is designated as at FVTPL.

An instrument is classified as held for trading if it is:

- acquired or incurred principally for the purpose of selling or repurchasing it in the near term with an intention of making a profit
- part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that are managed together and for which there is evidence of a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking or
- a derivative that is not a financial guarantee contract or a designated and effective hedging instrument.

A financial instrument may be designated as at FVTPL upon initial recognition if:

- such designation eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise
- the instrument forms part of a group of financial instruments, which is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy, and information about the grouping is provided internally on that basis, or
- it forms part of a contract containing one or more embedded derivatives, and AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and measurement permits the contract to be designated as at FVTPL.

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss include deposits held and accounts payable excluding statutory deposits and accrued expenses. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss include short-term securities and bonds.

## Receivables

Receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. A reconciliation and aging analysis of receivables is presented below.

Internal receivables	Aging of receivables	Aging of impaired receivables	Net receivables
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2017-2018</b>			
Not overdue	147	0	147
Overdue for less than 30 days	100	0	100
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	0	0	0
Overdue for more than 60 days	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>247</b>
<b>Reconciliation of the allowance for impairment losses</b>			
Opening		0	
Written off during the year		0	
Recovered during the year		0	
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss		0	
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	

## Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all advances received, finance lease liabilities and borrowings. Amortised cost is calculated using the effective interest method.

### b) Credit risk

The department has limited credit risk exposure (risk of default). In respect of any dealings with organisations external to government, the department has adopted a policy of only dealing with credit worthy organisations and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the department's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

Internal receivables	Aging of receivables	Aging of impaired receivables	Net receivables
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2016-2017</b>			
Not overdue	145	0	145
Overdue for less than 30 days	0	0	0
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	0	0	0
Overdue for more than 60 days	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>145</b>

#### Reconciliation of the allowance for impairment losses

Opening	0
Written off during the year	0
Recovered during the year	0
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

External receivables	Aging of Receivables	Aging of Impaired Receivables	Net Receivables
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2017-2018</b>			
Not overdue	1149	0	1149
Overdue for less than 30 days	52	0	52
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	6	(6)	0
Overdue for more than 60 days	285	(216)	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>1492</b>	<b>(222)</b>	<b>1270</b>

#### Reconciliation of the allowance for impairment losses

Opening	194
Written off during the year	(10)
Recovered during the year	(37)
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>

External receivables	Aging of Receivables	Aging of Impaired Receivables	Net Receivables
	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>2016-2017</b>			
Not overdue	1005	0	1005
Overdue for less than 30 days	17	0	17
Overdue for 30 to 60 days	3	0	3
Overdue for more than 60 days	196	(194)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1221</b>	<b>(194)</b>	<b>1027</b>
<b>Reconciliation of the allowance for impairment losses</b>			
Opening		21	
Written off during the year		8	
Recovered during the year		83	
Increase/(decrease) in allowance recognised in profit or loss		82	
<b>Total</b>		<b>194</b>	

### c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the department will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The department's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

The following tables detail the department's remaining contractual maturity for its financial assets and liabilities.

## 2018 maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities

	Variable interest rate			Fixed interest rate			Non Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average
	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years			
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
<b>Assets</b>									
Cash and deposits	0	0	0	0	0	0	58 199	58 199	
Receivables	0	0	0	0	0	0	1516	1516	
Advances paid	0	0	0	0	0	0	5332	5332	
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65 047</b>	<b>65 047</b>	

**Liabilities**

Payables	0	0	0	0	0	0	1750	1750	
Advances received	0	0	0	0	0	0	5332	5332	
Financial leased liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	369	369	
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7451</b>	<b>7451</b>	

## 2017 maturity analysis for financial assets and liabilities

	Variable interest rate			Fixed interest rate			Non Interest Bearing	Total	Weighted Average
	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years	Less than a Year	1 to 5 Years	More than 5 Years			
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	%
<b>Assets</b>									
Cash and deposits	0	0	0	0	0	0	41 407	41 407	
Receivables	0	0	0	0	0	0	1171	1171	
Advances paid	0	0	0	0	0	0	5317	5317	
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47 895</b>	<b>47 895</b>	

**Liabilities**

Payables	0	0	0	0	0	0	1632	1632	
Advances received	0	0	0	0	0	0	5317	5317	
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6949</b>	<b>6949</b>	



#### d) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. It comprises interest rate risk, price risk and currency risk.

##### (i) Interest rate risk

The department is not exposed to interest rate risk as department's financial assets and financial liabilities are non interest bearing.

##### (ii) Price risk

The department is not exposed to price risk as department does not hold units in unit trusts.

##### (iii) Currency risk

The department is not exposed to currency risk as the department does not hold borrowings denominated in foreign currencies or transactional currency exposures arising from purchases in a foreign currency.

#### e) Net fair value

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The highest and best use takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible and financially feasible.

When measuring fair value, the valuation techniques used maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs are used to the extent that sufficient relevant and reliable observable inputs are not available for similar assets/liabilities.

Observable inputs are publicly available data that are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Observable inputs used by the department include, but are not limited to, published sales data for land and general office buildings.

Unobservable inputs are data, assumptions and judgments that are not available publicly, but are relevant to the characteristics of the assets/liabilities being valued. Such inputs include internal department adjustments to observable data to take account of particular and potentially unique characteristics/functionality of assets/liabilities and assessments of physical condition and remaining useful life.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the following fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used:

- Level 1 – inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 – inputs are inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – inputs are unobservable.
- The fair value of financial instruments is determined on the following basis:
  - The fair value of cash, deposits, advances, receivables and payables approximates their carrying amount, which is also their amortised cost.
  - The fair value of derivative financial instruments are derived using current market yields and exchange rates appropriate to the instrument.
  - The fair value of other monetary financial assets and liabilities is based on discounting to present value the expected future cash flows by applying current market interest rates for assets and liabilities with similar risk profiles.

For financial instruments measured and disclosed at fair value, the following table groups the instruments based on the level of inputs used.

2018	Total carrying amount	Net fair value level 1	Net fair value level 2	Net fair value level 3	Net fair value total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	58 199	58 199	0	0	58 199
Receivables	1516	1516	0	0	1516
Advances paid	5332	5332	0	0	5332
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>65 047</b>	<b>65 047</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65 047</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	1750	1750	0	0	1750
Advances received	5332	5332	0	0	5332
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>7082</b>	<b>7082</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7082</b>

2017	Total carrying amount	Net fair value level 1	Net fair value level 2	Net fair value level 3	Net fair value total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	41 407	41 407	0	0	41 407
Receivables	1171	1171	0	0	1171
Advances paid	5317	5317	0	0	5317
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>47 895</b>	<b>47 895</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47 895</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	1632	1632	0	0	1632
Advances received	5317	5317	0	0	5317
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>6949</b>	<b>6949</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6949</b>

The net fair value of cash, deposits, receivables, advances and payables are based on market value. There were no changes in valuation techniques during the period.

## 21. Related parties

### (i) Related parties

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources is a government administrative entity and is wholly owned and controlled by the Northern Territory Government. Related parties of the department include:

- The portfolio minister and key management personnel (KMP) because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the department directly.
- Spouses, children and dependants who are close family members of the portfolio minister or KMP.
- All public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole-of-government financial statements.
- Any entities controlled or jointly controlled by KMPs or the portfolio minister or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

**(ii) Key Management Personnel (KMP)**

Key management personnel of the department are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the department. These include the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Board of Management.

**(iii) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel**

The details below excludes the salaries and other benefits of the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources as the Minister's remunerations and allowances are payable by the department of the Legislative Assembly and consequently disclosed within the Treasurer's annual financial statements.

The aggregate compensation of key management personnel of the department is set out below:

	2017-2018	2016-2017
	\$000	\$000
Short-term benefits	1426	1474
Post-employment benefits	135	132
Termination benefits	0	247
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1561</b>	<b>1853</b>

**iv) Related party transactions: transactions with Northern Territory Government controlled entities**

The department's primary ongoing source of funding is received from the CHA in the form of output and capital appropriation and on-passed Commonwealth national partnership and specific purpose payments.

The following table provides quantitative information about related party transactions entered into during the year with all other Northern Territory Government controlled entities.

Related party	Revenue from related parties	Payments to related parties	Amounts owed by related parties	Amounts owed to related parties
	2017-2018	2017-2018	2017-2018	2017-2018
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
All NT Government departments	5460	8714	107	470
Associates	0	0	0	0
Subsidiaries	0	0	0	0

Related party	Revenue from related parties	Payments to related parties	Amounts owed by related parties	Amounts owed to related parties
	2016-2017	2016-2017	2016-2017	2016-2017
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
All NT Government departments	6003	13 769	144	484
Associates	0	0	0	0
Subsidiaries	0	0	0	0

The department's transactions with other government entities are not individually significant.

#### Other related party transactions are as follows:

Given the breadth and depth of Northern Territory Government activities, related parties will transact with the Northern Territory Public Sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public including paying stamp duty and other government fees and charges and therefore these transactions have not been disclosed. There were no related party transactions in excess of \$10 000.

## 22. Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

The department had no contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2018.

## 23. Events subsequent to balance date

No events have arisen between the end of the financial year and the date of this report that require adjustment to or disclosure in these financial statements.

## 24. Accountable officer's trust account

In accordance with section 7 of the *Financial Management Act*, an Accountable Officer's Trust Account has been established for the receipt of money to be held in trust. A summary of activity is shown below:

Nature of trust money	Opening balance 1 July 2017	Receipts	Payments	Closing balance 30 June 2018
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Aboriginal land rents	3683	2887	(2801)	3769
Cash securities	20 622	7950	(1153)	27 419
Mining remediation	15 046	8678	(280)	23 444
NT Fishing Industry Research and Development Funds	1859	4840	(4907)	1792
Employee award scheme	61	14	(21)	54
NT Seafood Council	121	204	(189)	136
Miscellaneous	47	0	(7)	40
Deposits held other*	0	209	0	209
<b>Total</b>	<b>41 439</b>	<b>24 782</b>	<b>(9358)</b>	<b>56 863</b>

\*relates to unpaid invoices for Mining Security Levy.

## 25. Schedule of administered territory items

The following Territory items are managed by the department on behalf of the government and are recorded in the Central Holding Authority (refer Note 2(d)).

	2018	2017
	\$000	\$000
<b>Territory income and expenses</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Grants and subsidies revenue		
Capital	1500	500
Fees from regulatory services	8410	9547
Royalties and rents	4844	4773
Other income	0	10
<b>Total income</b>	<b>14 754</b>	<b>14 830</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
CHA income transferred	14 754	14 830
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>14 754</b>	<b>14 830</b>
<b>Territory income less expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Territory assets and liabilities</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
CHA receivables	3450	3325
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>3450</b>	<b>3325</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Unearned CHA income	3450	3325
Total liabilities	3450	3225
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



## 26. Budgetary information

	2017-2018	2017-2018		
Comprehensive operating statement	Actual	Original budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Grants and subsidies revenue</b>				
Current	923	587	336	1
<b>Appropriation</b>				
Output	69 486	69 078	408	2
Commonwealth	4382	8336	(3954)	3
Sales of goods and services	5143	5753	(610)	4
Goods and services received free of charge	3928	3781	147	
Other income	3572	1602	1970	5
<b>Total income</b>	<b>87 434</b>	<b>89 137</b>	<b>(1703)</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee expenses	51 311	49 186	2125	6
<b>Administrative expenses</b>				
Purchases of goods and services	22 354	26 455	(4101)	7
Repairs and maintenance	5112	6314	(1202)	8
Depreciation and amortisation	4199	4363	(164)	
Goods and services received free of charge	3928	3781	147	
Other administrative expenses	37	0	37	
<b>Grants and subsidies expenses</b>				
Current	1932	2580	(648)	9
Capital	1228	0	1228	10
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>90 101</b>	<b>92 679</b>	<b>(2578)</b>	
<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(2667)</b>	<b>(3542)</b>	<b>875</b>	
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>				
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to net surplus/deficit</b>				
Asset revaluation reserve	3823	0	3823	11
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>	<b>3823</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3823</b>	
<b>Comprehensive result</b>	<b>1156</b>	<b>(3542)</b>	<b>4698</b>	

**Notes:**

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.5 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred.

1. The final estimate for current grants received was \$1.43 million due to a number of additional grants being received from the Commonwealth and other state jurisdictions and research organisations including funding for the National Plant Health Surveillance program, Northern Australian Biosecurity Surveillance program (NABS) and Aquatic Biosecurity Enhancement Grant. The variance of \$0.51 million against the revised estimate predominantly relates to timing of payments from the Cotton Research Development Corporation (CRDC) Nitrogen Mango Project and timing of reimbursements for the National Browsing Ant Eradication program (NBAEP).
2. Output Appropriation increased by \$0.41 million largely due to the additional funding for the Recreation Fishing Futures Project (\$0.67 million) and additional funding for the Primary Industry Strategic Grants program (\$0.51 million). This was offset by the transfer of Output Appropriation to Capital Works/Appropriation (\$0.77 million) for the replacement of the chiller, boiler and ducting system at the Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) and the purchase of other equipment.
3. Commonwealth appropriation decreased by \$3.95 million largely due to timing of revenue for the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle Mine site.
4. Receipts for the sale of goods and services was revised down to \$5.5 million during the financial year. The variation of \$0.36 million against the revised estimate was predominantly due to an underachievement against the sale of livestock (\$0.23 million), and under achievement of a number of other charges across the department including mining and energy administration fees and laboratory charges.
5. The increase in other income of \$1.97 million largely reflects additional funding from external research organisations where projects and agreements were finalised and estimates incorporated into the budget after the 2017-2018 original budget was published. The final estimate for 2017-2018 was \$3.57 million.
6. The budget for employee expenses was revised up to \$54.32 million during the financial year due to transfers between categories of cost and additional funding from external organisations, such as the Commonwealth, other state jurisdictions and private research organisations. The variance of \$3 million against the revised estimate related to recruitment delays, vacant positions due to unexpected resignations and non-backfilling staff on long service leave.
7. The final estimate for the purchase of goods and services was revised down to \$25.6 million during the financial year which was the net effect of transfers between categories of cost and additional funding from external organisations, such as the Commonwealth, other state jurisdictions and private research organisations. The variation of \$3.26 million against the revised estimate relates to timing of \$4.4 million expenses against externally funded projects predominantly relating to the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle Mine site (\$3.6 million) offset by non-discretionary unfunded expenses against appropriated funds which were covered from within the department's total appropriated budget.
8. The decrease in repairs and maintenance of \$1.2 million largely reflects the capitalisation of a building project and the purchase of capital equipment (\$0.69 million) with the balance relating to timing of expenses for repairs and maintenance projects.
9. The decrease in current grants of \$0.65 million predominantly related to timing of payments for the Primary Industry Strategic Grants program (\$0.51M) and the Geological Survey Industry Collaboration Grants (\$0.13M).
10. The estimate for capital grants was revised up to \$0.47 million during the financial year due to additional funding received for the recreational fishing futures project. The variation of \$0.76 million against the revised estimate predominantly relates to the payment of \$0.78 million to the NT Livestock Export Association (NTLEA) for the livestock export yards.
11. The variation of \$3.8 million relates to the revaluation of buildings on the department's footprint on the Berrimah Farm site.

	2017-2018	2017-2018		
Balance Sheet	Actual	Original budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current assets				
Cash and deposits	58 199	30 911	27 288	1
Receivables	2720	1992	728	2
Advances and investments	5332	6317	(985)	3
Prepayments	469	298	171	4
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>66 721</b>	<b>39 518</b>	<b>27 203</b>	
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	84 247	96 335	(12 088)	5
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>84 247</b>	<b>96 335</b>	<b>(12 088)</b>	
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>150 968</b>	<b>135 853</b>	<b>15 115</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Current liabilities				
Deposits held	56 863	28 137	28 726	6
Payables	2247	1598	649	7
Borrowings and advances	5338	6317	(979)	8
Provisions	7665	7883	(218)	9
Other liabilities	3318	2117	1201	10
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>75 431</b>	<b>46 052</b>	<b>29 379</b>	
Non-current liabilities				
Borrowings and advances	364	0	364	11
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>364</b>	
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>75 795</b>	<b>46 052</b>	<b>29 743</b>	
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>75 173</b>	<b>89 801</b>	<b>(14 628)</b>	
<b>Equity</b>				
Capital	85 437	88 743	(3307)	12,13
Reserves	44 058	55 247	(11 189)	14
Accumulated funds	(54 322)	(54 189)	(133)	15
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>75 173</b>	<b>89 801</b>	<b>(14 628)</b>	

### Notes:

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.5 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred.

1. The estimate for cash and deposits was revised up to \$41.07 million during the financial year. The variation of \$17.13 million against the revised estimate is largely the result of higher than anticipated cash received into the AOTA relating to mining securities, securities levy and Aboriginal land rents and timing of payments against committed initiatives carried over into 2018-2019.
2. The estimate for receivables was revised down to \$1.85 million during the financial year. The variation \$0.87 million against the revised estimate is predominantly due to an increase in accounts receivable (\$0.34 million) and accrued revenue relating to externally funded projects (\$0.5 million).
3. The estimate for advances and investments relating to the NT Farm Finance Concessional Loan Scheme (NTFFCLS) was revised down to \$5.32 million during the financial year. The variation against the revised estimate relates to unbudgeted repayments.
4. The estimate for prepayments was revised up to \$0.57 million during the financial year. The variation of \$0.1 million relates to a reduction in subscriptions, software licences and maintenance.
5. The estimate for property plant and equipment was adjusted to \$81.42 million during the financial year to reflect the 2016-2017 closing balance. The variation of \$2.45 million against the revised estimate relates to the transfer in of work in progress for capital works (\$2.34 million), the revaluation of the Berrimah Research Farm buildings (\$3.82 million) and the purchase of capital equipment (\$0.49 million) offset by depreciation of \$4.19 million.
6. The estimate for deposits held was revised up to \$41.44 million during the financial year. The variation of \$15.42 million against the revised estimate is largely the result of higher than anticipated cash received into the AOTA relating to mining securities, mining cash securities and Aboriginal land rents.
7. The estimate for payables was revised up to \$2 million during the financial year. The variation of \$0.25 million against the revised estimate relates to an increase in accrued expenses and accounts payable as at 30 June 2018.
8. The estimate for advances and investments was revised down to \$5.32 million during the financial year. The variation against the revised estimate is due to unbudgeted repayments relating to the NTFFCLS.
9. The estimate for provisions was revised up to \$7.96 million during the financial year. The variation of \$0.29 million against the revised estimate largely relates to a decrease in the provision of recreation leave and associated leave loading and the provision for fringe benefits tax.
10. The estimate for other liabilities was revised up to \$2.7 million during the financial year. The variation of \$0.62 million against the revised estimate was due to higher than anticipated unearned revenue from external funding bodies for research projects.
11. The variation of \$0.36 million against borrowings and advances relates to the recognition of a long term Aboriginal land lease.
12. The estimate for the opening balance for capital was adjusted to \$82.58 million during the financial year to reflect the 2016-2017 closing balance.
13. The estimate for equity injections was revised up to \$2.04 million during the financial year to more accurately reflect anticipated actuals. The variance of \$0.82 million against the revised estimate is largely due to higher than anticipated transfer in of work in progress for capital works.
14. The estimate for reserves was adjusted to \$40.24 million during the financial year to reflect the 2016-2017 closing balance. The variance of \$3.82 million against the revised estimate related to the revaluation of buildings on the department's footprint on the Berrimah Farm site.
15. The estimate for accumulated funds was revised up to \$56.08 million during the financial year to reflect the 2016-2017 closing balance and anticipated deficit of \$4.43 million. The variance of a \$1.77 million decrease against the revised deficit is largely due to timing of expenses for externally funded projects and other significant initiatives committed in 2018-19. This was offset by an unfunded capital grant to the NTLEA.

	2017-2018	2017-2018		
Cash flow statement	Actual	Original budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
<b>Operating receipts</b>				
Grants and subsidies received				
Current	923	587	336	1
Appropriation				
Output	69 486	69 078	408	2
Commonwealth	4382	8336	(3954)	3
Receipts from sales of goods and services	11 031	7355	3676	4
<b>Total operating receipts</b>	<b>85 822</b>	<b>85 356</b>	<b>466</b>	
<b>Operating payments</b>				
Payments to employees	(51 614)	(49 186)	(2428)	5
Payments for goods and services	(29 697)	(32 769)	3072	6
Grants and subsidies paid				
Current	(1932)	(2580)	(648)	7
Capital	(1228)	0	(1228)	8
<b>Total operating payments</b>	<b>(84 471)</b>	<b>(84 535)</b>	<b>(64)</b>	
<b>Net cash from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>1351</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>530</b>	
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
<b>Investing receipts</b>				
Proceeds from asset sales	0	6	(6)	
Repayment of advances	0	0	0	
<b>Total investing receipts</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>(6)</b>	
<b>Investing payments</b>				
Purchases of assets	(488)	(251)	(237)	9
Advances and investments payments	(16)	0	(16)	10
<b>Total investing payments</b>	<b>(503)</b>	<b>(251)</b>	<b>(253)</b>	
<b>Net cash from/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(503)</b>	<b>(245)</b>	<b>(258)</b>	
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>				
<b>Financing receipts</b>				
Proceeds of borrowings	16		16	
Deposits received	15 425	0	15 425	11
Equity injections				
Capital appropriation	521	251	270	12
Other equity injections	0	1000	(1000)	13
<b>Total financing receipts</b>	<b>15 961</b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>14 710</b>	
<b>Financing payments</b>				
Repayment of borrowings	0	0	0	
Finance lease payments	(17)	0	(17)	14
<b>Equity withdrawals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total investing payments</b>	<b>(17)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(17)</b>	
<b>Net cash from/(used in) financing activities</b>	<b>15 944</b>	<b>1 251</b>	<b>14 693</b>	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	16 792	1827	14 965	
Cash at beginning of financial year	41 407	29 084	12 323	15
Cash at end of financial year	58 199	30 911	27 288	

### Notes:

The following note descriptions relate to variances greater than 10 per cent or \$0.5 million, or where multiple significant variances have occurred:

1. The final estimate for current grants received was \$1.43 million due to a number of additional grants being received from the Commonwealth and other state jurisdictions and research organisations including funding for the National Plant Health Surveillance program, Northern Australian Biosecurity Surveillance program and Aquatic Biosecurity Enhancement Grant. The variance of \$0.51 million against the revised estimate predominantly relates to timing of payments from the Cotton Research and Development Corporation nitrogen mango project and timing of reimbursements for the National Browsing Ant Eradication program.
2. Output appropriation increased by \$0.41 million largely due to the additional funding for the Recreation Fishing Futures project (\$0.67 million) and additional funding for the Primary Industry Strategic Grants program (\$0.51 million). This was offset by the transfer of output appropriation to capital works/appropriation (\$0.77 million) for the replacement of the chiller, boiler and ducting system at AZRI and the purchase of other equipment.
3. Commonwealth appropriation decreased by \$3.95 million largely due to timing of revenue for the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site.
4. Receipts for the sale of goods and services was revised up to \$9.08 million during the financial year due to additional funding from external research organisations where projects and agreements were finalised and estimates incorporated into the budget after the 2017-2018 original budget was published. The variation of \$0.63 million against the revised estimate was predominantly due to an underachievement against the sale of livestock (\$0.23 million), and under achievement of a number of other charges across the department including mining and energy administration fees and laboratory charges. In addition to this, the movement in the balance sheet relating to accrued revenue, unearned revenue and accounts receivable has also increased the variance.
5. The budget for employee expenses was revised up to \$54.32 million during the financial year due to transfers between categories of cost and additional funding from external organisations, such as the Commonwealth, other state jurisdictions and private research organisations. The variance of \$3 million against the revised estimate related to recruitment delays, vacant positions due to unexpected resignations and non-backfilling staff on long service leave.
6. The final estimate for the purchase of goods and services was revised down to \$25.6 million during the financial year which was the net effect of transfers between categories of cost and additional funding from external organisations, such as the Commonwealth, other state jurisdictions and private research organisations. The variation of \$4.12 million against the revised estimate relates to timing of \$4.4 million expenses against externally funded projects predominantly relating to the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site (\$3.6 million), timing of expenses against repairs and maintenance projects and movement in the balance sheet for accrued expenses, accounts payable and unprocessed purchase orders. This is offset by non-discretionary unfunded expenses against appropriated funds which were covered from within the department's total appropriated budget.
7. The decrease in current grants of \$0.65 million predominantly related to timing of payments for the Primary Industry Strategic Grants program (\$0.51M) and the Geological Survey Industry Collaboration Grants (\$0.13M).
8. The estimate for capital grants was revised up to \$0.47 million during the financial year due to additional funding received for the Recreation Fishing Futures project. The variation of \$0.76 million against the revised estimate predominantly relates to the payment of \$0.78 million to the NTLEA for the livestock export yards.



9. The estimate for the purchase of assets was revised up to \$0.71 million during the financial year due to the transfer of output appropriation to capital appropriation and the transfer of revenue relating to externally funded research projects for the purchase of capital equipment (\$0.46 million). The variation of \$0.23 million against the revised estimate relates to timing of planned purchases.
10. The variation against proceeds from borrowings relates to unbudgeted repayments against the NTFFCLS.
11. The variation of \$15.42 million against deposits received is the result of higher than anticipated cash received into the AOTA relating to mining securities, mining cash securities and Aboriginal land rents.
12. The estimate for capital appropriation was revised up to \$0.52 million during the financial year as a result of transfers from output appropriation to cover the purchase of plant and equipment.
13. The \$1 million variation relates to a journal to correct a previous error.
14. The \$17k variation relates to the recognition of a long term Aboriginal land lease.
15. The estimate for cash at the end of the financial year was revised up to \$41.07 million during the financial year in line with the closing balance and the revised estimate for net increase in cash held. The variance of \$17.13 million against the revised estimate is largely the result of higher than anticipated cash received into the AOTA relating to mining securities, securities levy and Aboriginal land rents and timing of payments against committed initiatives carried over into 2018-2019.

## 27. Budgetary information: administered territory items

In addition to the specific departmental operations which are included in the financial statements, the department administers or manages other activities and resources on behalf of the Territory such as gas/oil pipeline and mineral exploration licences, mining securities levy and mining and petroleum rents.

The department does not gain control over assets arising from these collections, consequently no income is recognised in the department's financial statements. The transactions relating to these activities are reported as administered items in this note.

	2017-2018	2017-2018		
Administered territory items	Actual	Original budget	Variance	Note
	\$000	\$000	\$000	
<b>Territory income and expenses</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Grants and subsidies revenue				
Capital	1500	0	1500	1
Fees from regulatory services	8410	11 000	(2590)	2
Royalties and rents	4843	4000	843	3
Other income	0	65	(65)	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>14 753</b>	<b>15 065</b>	<b>(312)</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
CHA income transferred	14 753	15 065	(312)	4
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>14 753</b>	<b>15 065</b>	<b>(312)</b>	
<b>Territory income less expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Territory assets and liabilities</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Royalties and rent receivable	0	284	(284)	4
Other receivables	3450	4235	(785)	5
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>3450</b>	<b>4519</b>	<b>(1069)</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>				
CHA income payable	0	338	(338)	6
Unearned CHA income	3450	4181	(731)	7
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3450</b>	<b>4519</b>	<b>(1069)</b>	
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

#### Notes:

1. The budget was revised up to \$1.5 million during the financial year as a result of capital grant funding received from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for the North Australian Shared Biosecurity Diagnostic Facility. Funds are on passed via the CHA to Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.
2. The budget was revised down to \$8.61 million during the financial year due to the receipt of fees for mineral exploration licences being lower than anticipated.
3. The increase of \$0.84 million against budget is predominantly due to higher than anticipated rent from mining, petroleum and pipelines activities.
4. As at the 30 June 2018 there were no fees for petroleum rents, onshore permits or production licences outstanding.
5. The decrease in other receivables of \$0.79 million is due to lower than estimated mining rents and mineral exploration licences recognised from unearned revenue.
6. As at the 30 June 2018 there were no rent for pipeline licences and petroleum rents outstanding.
7. The decrease in unearned CHA income is due to lower than estimated mining rents and exploration licences paid in advance.



Figure 6.1. Beeboom Crossing







## 7. Appendices

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# Appendix 1 - employment instructions

**Table 7.1. Employment instructions and departmental achievements 2017-2018**

Employment instruction - number and description	Achievements 2017-2018
<p><b>1 – Filling vacancies</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Officers must develop a procedure to fill vacancies consistent with the <i>Public Sector Employment and Management Act</i> (the Act), its subordinate legislation and any relevant award or enterprise agreement. Subsection 28(2)(c) of the Act requires the Chief Executive Officer to report annually on the number of employees of each designation and any variations in numbers since the last report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 112 vacancies advertised</li> <li>• 109 new recruits – commenced or transferred in</li> <li>• 132 separations or employees transferred out</li> </ul> <p>No promotion appeal and grievances relating to recruitment processes were lodged.</p>
<p><b>2 – Probation</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Officers must develop a probation procedure consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation and any relevant award or enterprise agreement.</p>	<p>The department's online induction system was improved to provide updated information on probation procedures.</p> <p>The department's probation procedure, available from the intranet online service centre, was updated.</p> <p>Directors are reminded when probation reports fall due.</p>
<p><b>3 – Natural justice</b></p> <p>The principles of natural justice are to be observed in all dealings with employees.</p>	<p>The principles of natural justice are considered to be fundamental in all dealings with employees and reflected in communications, consultation processes and internal policies and procedures. A person who may be adversely affected by a decision must be afforded natural justice before a final decision is made.</p>
<p><b>4 – Employee performance management and development systems</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Officers must develop and implement an employee performance management and development procedure consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation and any relevant award or enterprise agreement.</p>	<p>The department's Personal Development Review (PDR) system, described in this section, is consistent with the Act. As at 30 June 2018, 29 per cent of employees were recorded as having PDR discussions in the previous 12 months. Completion rates were discussed at the executive management group and with individual directors.</p>



Employment instruction - number and description	Achievements 2017-2018
<p><b>5 – Medical examinations</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Officers may engage a health practitioner in accordance with the Act and Employment Instruction Number 3.</p>	<p>In 2017-2018, one employee was required to attend an examination by an approved medical health practitioner.</p>
<p><b>6 – Employee performance and inability</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Officers may develop employee performance and inability procedures consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation and any relevant or enterprise agreement. Subsection 18(2) of the Act requires the Commissioner to report annually on the extent to which the inability procedures have been invoked in the public sector.</p> <p>Chief Executive Officers shall provide to the Commissioner the information necessary for the Commissioner to comply with the reporting requirement.</p>	<p>Performance management is an ongoing process. Human Resources (HR) staff provide advisory services to managers and other employees to assist in resolution of any performance management issues.</p> <p>The department dealt with two performance cases in 2017-2018.</p>
<p><b>7 – Discipline</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Officers may develop discipline procedures consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation and any relevant award or enterprise agreement.</p> <p>Subsection 18(2) of the Act requires the Commissioner to report annually on the extent to which the inability procedures have been invoked in the Public Sector. Chief Executive Officers shall provide the information necessary for the Commissioner to comply with the reporting requirement.</p>	<p>Required information has been provided to the Commissioner for Public Employment.</p> <p>This year the department had one discipline matter, which has been finalised.</p>
<p><b>8 – Internal agency complaints and Section 59 Review of grievances</b></p> <p>Agency must develop an internal employee grievance-handling policy and procedure consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation and any relevant award or enterprise agreement.</p>	<p>HR provides advisory services to all employees and managers in relation to grievances and internal agency complaints. Three internal employee complaints were lodged in 2017-2018. All complaints have been finalised.</p>

Employment instruction - number and description	Achievements 2017-2018
<p><b>9 – Employment records</b></p> <p>The department has responsibility for keeping employees' employment records. The department must comply with the requirements of the <i>Information Act</i> regarding correction, collecting and handling of personal information contained on an employee's employment record.</p>	<p>The Department of Corporate and Information Services keeps all personnel files for the department. The department keeps individual files on Personal Development Review discussions which have restricted access to the individual employee and their manager.</p>
<p><b>10 – Equality of employment opportunity programs</b></p> <p>The department must develop an equality of employment opportunity program consistent with the Act, its subordinate legislation, the <i>Anti-Discrimination Act</i> and any relevant award or enterprise agreement.</p>	<p>Special measures recruitment processes were applied to relevant positions during the year.</p> <p>This year the department continued the early careers programs aimed at growing our own Aboriginal employees with relevant skills, experience and qualifications.</p> <p>Details of the department's Aboriginal employment and career development initiatives are reported elsewhere in this document.</p>
<p><b>11 – Occupational health and safety standards and programs</b></p> <p>The department must develop programs and procedures to ensure employees are consulted in the development and implementation of work health and safety (WHS) policies and other governance documents.</p> <p>The department must provide WHS information in the annual report in relation to the department's occupational health and safety programs.</p>	<p>The department adheres to the Model Code of Practice for WHS Consultation.</p> <p>A description of WHS governance is included in Section 2: Corporate Governance, and WHS programs are described in Section 4: Our People.</p>
<p><b>12 – Code of conduct</b></p> <p>The code of conduct stipulates the basic level of conduct expected of public sector officers as defined in the Act.</p> <p>The agency may issue an agency-specific code of conduct that is consistent with the Act.</p>	<p>The code of conduct is provided to new employees upon commencement through the online induction process. This was reviewed during the year. The department does not have its own code of conduct.</p>
<p><b>13 – Appropriate workplace behaviour</b></p> <p>The department must develop an agency policy and procedure to foster appropriate workplace behaviour and a culture of respect, and to deal effectively with inappropriate workplace behaviour and bullying.</p>	<p>The department has appropriate workplace behaviour procedures.</p> <p>One formal complaint was made in relation to inappropriate workplace behaviour this year.</p>

Employment instruction - number and description	Achievements 2017-2018
<p><b>14 – Redeployment and redundancy procedures</b></p> <p>Assists the department and employees in understanding their rights and obligations in a redeployment or redundancy situation.</p>	<p>The department provides advice to managers and employees on the procedures.</p> <p>No employee was declared as a redeployee during the year.</p>
<p><b>15 – Special measures</b></p> <p>Stipulates the requirements for special measure programs, plans or arrangements.</p>	<p>The department continued its Special Measures Plan approved by the Commissioner for Public Employment, which allowed Aboriginal applicants to be given consideration before other applicants for all vacancies, in line with the Indigenous Employment and Career Development Strategy 2015-2020.</p>

# Appendix 2 - funding

Table 7.2. 2017-2018 grants, sponsorships and programs

Grants program recipient	Expenditure \$
<b>Animal welfare fund</b>	
Animal Management In Rural & Remote Indigenous Communities incorporated	25 708
Ark Aid incorporated	20 587
Kunapa Kari Aboriginal Corporation	30 000
Nhulunbuy Pets And Wildlife Shelter incorporated	6609
Top End Rehoming Group incorporated	10 000
Wildcare Incorporated	2550
Austurtle	23 733
Darwin Wildlife Sanctuary	15 000
Friends Of Nina's Ark incorporated	6143
Greyhound Rehoming Association NT Incorporated	10 000
RSPCA Darwin Regional Branch Incorporated	49 670
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200 000</b>

Industry development grants	Expenditure \$
Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT	185 000
NT Farmers Association Incorporated	233 636
NT Livestock Exporters Association	75 000
NT Seafood Council (Accountable Officer's Trust Account (AOTA))*	180 000
NT Guided Fishing Industry Association Incorporated (AOTA)*	60 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>733 636</b>

\*Does not reconcile to Grant Payments in financial statements as paid from AOTA

Aboriginal marine ranger grants	Expenditure \$
Northern Land Council	120 000
Anindilyakwa Land Council	60 000
Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation	60 000
Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation	60 000
Marthakal Homeland Resource Centre	60 000
Thamarrurr Development Corporation Ltd	60 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>420 000</b>

Resources grants	Expenditure \$
Geophysics and Drilling Collaboration program	556 510
<b>Total</b>	<b>556 510</b>

Other grants	Expenditure \$
NT Buffalo Industry Council Incorporated** - Strategic Plan / Industry Code of Practice	35 000
NT Cattlemen's Association Incorporated - Strategic Plan	13 636
Darwin Game Fishing Club Incorporated - NT Recreational Fishing Grant Scheme	50 000
Amateur Fishermen's Association of the NT - NT Recreational Fishing Grant Scheme	7500
Darwin Game Fishing Club Incorporated - NT Junior Barra Classic	5000
Department of Tourism and Culture NT - Wild North Contribution	50 000
Department of Trade, Business and Innovation - Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia	50 000
Palmerston Game Fishing Club Incorporated - Buddy Boats Day 2018	5500
<b>Total</b>	<b>216 636</b>

\*\*Does not reconcile to Grant Payments in financial statements due to expense coding error

CAPITAL GRANTS	Expenditure \$
Nhulunbuy Regional Sports Fishing Club Incorporated - upgrade Melville Bay boat ramp	451 800
NT Livestock Exporters Association - Berrimah Export Yard Development Fund	776 540
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 228 340</b>

Sponsorship	Expenditure \$
Centralian Beef Breeders Association - Alice Springs Show	2100
Charles Darwin University Foundation - Prize Sponsorship	500
Freds Pass Rural Community Show Incorporated - Rural Young Achievers	3000
Minerals Council of Australia (NT) - Northern Australia Emergency Response Competition Sponsorship	10 000
NT Cattlemen's Association - Conference Sponsorship	10 000
NT Farmers Association Incorporated - Food Futures Conference	10 000
Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory Incorporated - 2018 Darwin Show	1020
The Douglas Daly Community Development Association Incorporated - Daly Campdraft Sponsorship	1000
Nuffield Australia - 2018 Partial Scholarship	8000
<b>Total</b>	<b>45 620</b>

Earth sciences/mining/petroleum scholarships	Expenditure \$
Lucas Frichot	12 000
Adam Johnston	4000
Jason O'meara	4000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 000</b>

# Appendix 3 - Strategic Plan

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY  
INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES

## Strategic Plan 2018-2022

The Northern Territory's  
primary industries and  
resources drive  
economic growth.

*Use regulation of our industries  
and resources as a foundation for  
appropriate economic development*

- ▶ Transparent and consistent operating environment
- ▶ Early detection and rapid response to incidents and threats
- ▶ Regulatory effort is focused on the greatest risk



*Support our people to be  
productive while feeling  
valued, respected, supported  
and safe*

- ▶ A safe place to work
- ▶ Diversity and a positive workplace
- ▶ An agile, skilled and resilient workforce



*Collaborate and strengthen  
relationships with our stakeholders  
and the community*

- ▶ Strong local, national and global partnerships
- ▶ Improved stakeholder capability
- ▶ Engagement and trust established with the general community



*Promote and facilitate the  
development of our primary  
industries and resources*

- ▶ Our industries are growing and sustainable
- ▶ Aboriginal business growth and employment opportunity
- ▶ Key regional economies are transformed
- ▶ Industries are more profitable and sustainable and innovation is adopted



*Build capability, adopt  
contemporary technology and  
improve service delivery*

- ▶ Workforce is integrated and structure aligned with strategy
- ▶ Business, governance and administrative systems and processes that are robust, easy to use and fast
- ▶ Our data is used and shared to full capacity and we are using the best technology for our work



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