



Australian Government
Director of National Parks

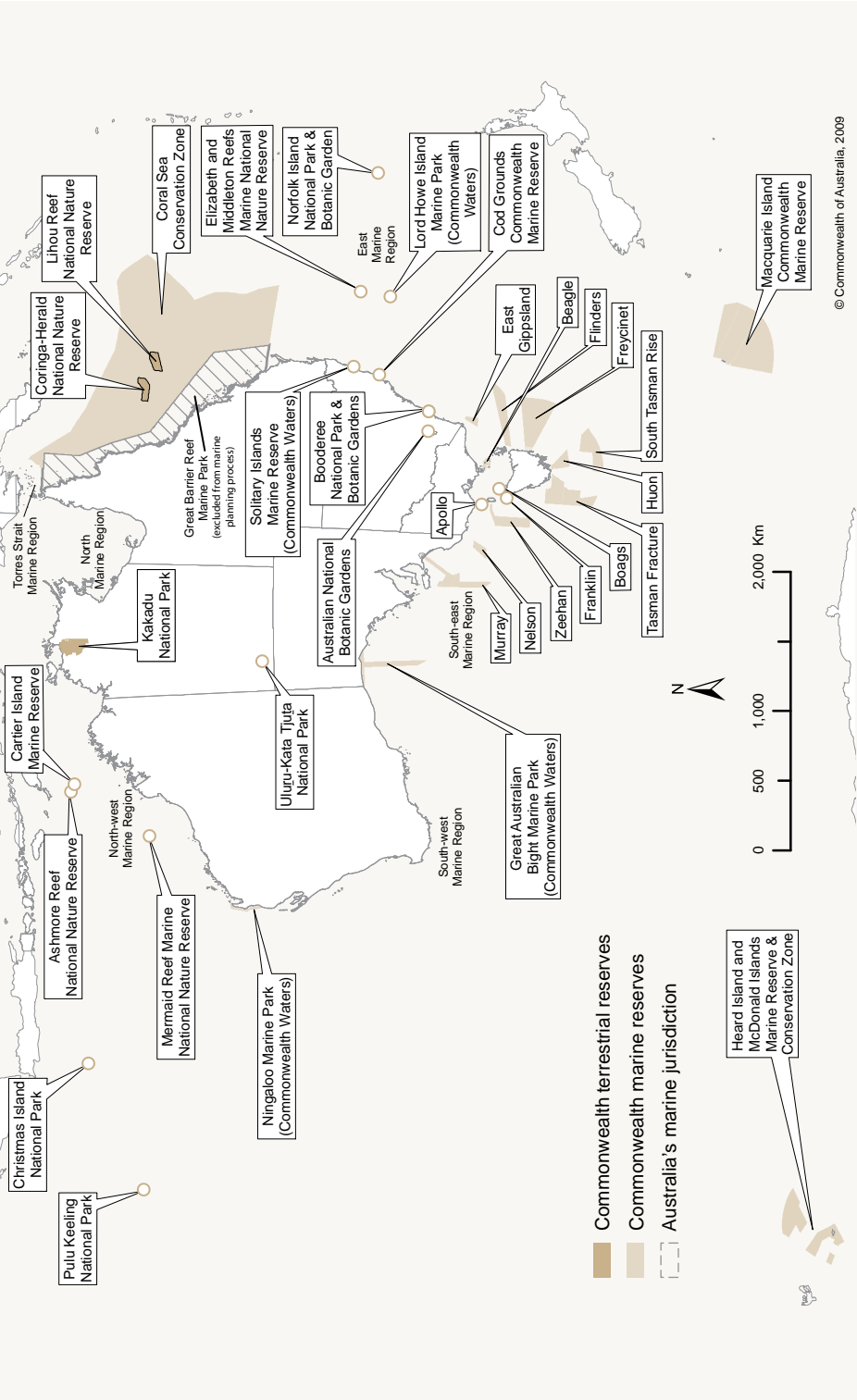


Director of National Parks

Annual Report 2008-09

*Managing the Australian
Government's protected areas*

Figure 1: Locations of Commonwealth parks and reserves managed by the Director of National Parks in 2008–09



Contents

Our mission	ii
Our values and approaches	ii
An organisational snapshot	1
Key highlights and issues for 2008–09	1

1	Director’s review	3
	The Director’s overview of the year	

2	Corporate overview and financial summary	9
	The Director’s legal basis and responsibilities	
	Income, expenditure and system information at a glance	
	Information on the work undertaken by the agency	

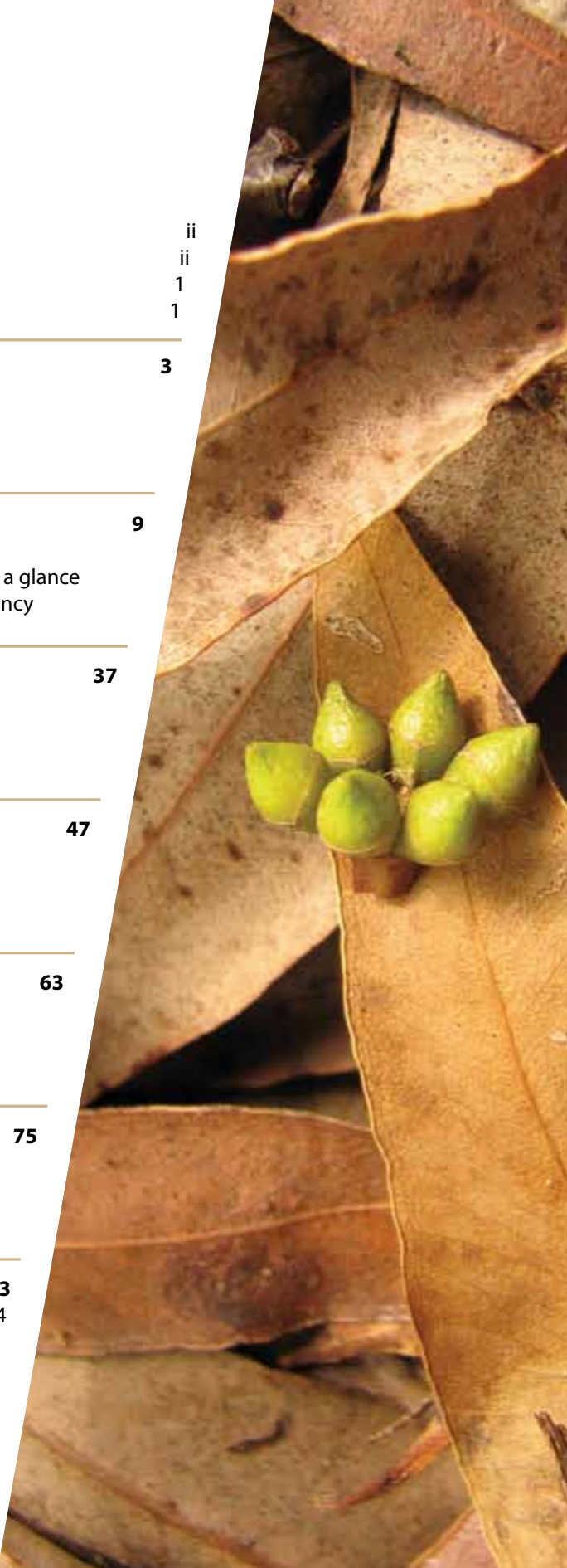
3	Organisational structure	37
	Key management	
	Membership of statutory boards	
	Our staff	

4	Planning, reporting and performance	47
	Planning, operating and reporting frameworks and strategies	
	How the agency performed during 2008–09	

5	Management and accountability	63
	Key corporate governance arrangements including compliance and enforcement and agency safety statistics	

	Financial statements	75
	Audited 2008–09 financial statements	

7	Appendices	113
	A Agency Resourcing Statement 2008–09	114
	B Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance	115
	C Freedom of information statement	123
	D Compliance index	125
	Index	126



Our mission

To assist the Minister and the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts in the conservation and appreciation of Australia's biological diversity and associated cultural heritage through leadership and cooperation in the management of Australia's protected areas, building knowledge of Australia's biodiversity and working with Indigenous Australians.

Our values and approaches

As part of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio, Parks Australia commits to professionalism as a major public service institution serving the Government and Minister in accordance with the values of the Australian Public Service and specific departmental values:

- caring for the environment
- respecting and responding to the values of Indigenous landowners and other partners
- engaging with and responding to stakeholders
- providing leadership and being active team contributors
- committing to learning and development
- committing to excellence in our operations
- accepting responsibility and being accountable
- acting with integrity and achieving results.

Objectives are achieved by:

- basing our work on the best available information and analysis
- working in partnerships to improve environmental, cultural and heritage outcomes
- communicating and influencing effectively
- valuing and investing in our people to develop their capabilities
- effectively managing risks
- developing and delivering high quality policies and programs
- managing change in a strategic and flexible manner
- monitoring and managing performance to ensure cost-effective outcomes are delivered.





Managing the Australian Government's protected areas

An organisational snapshot

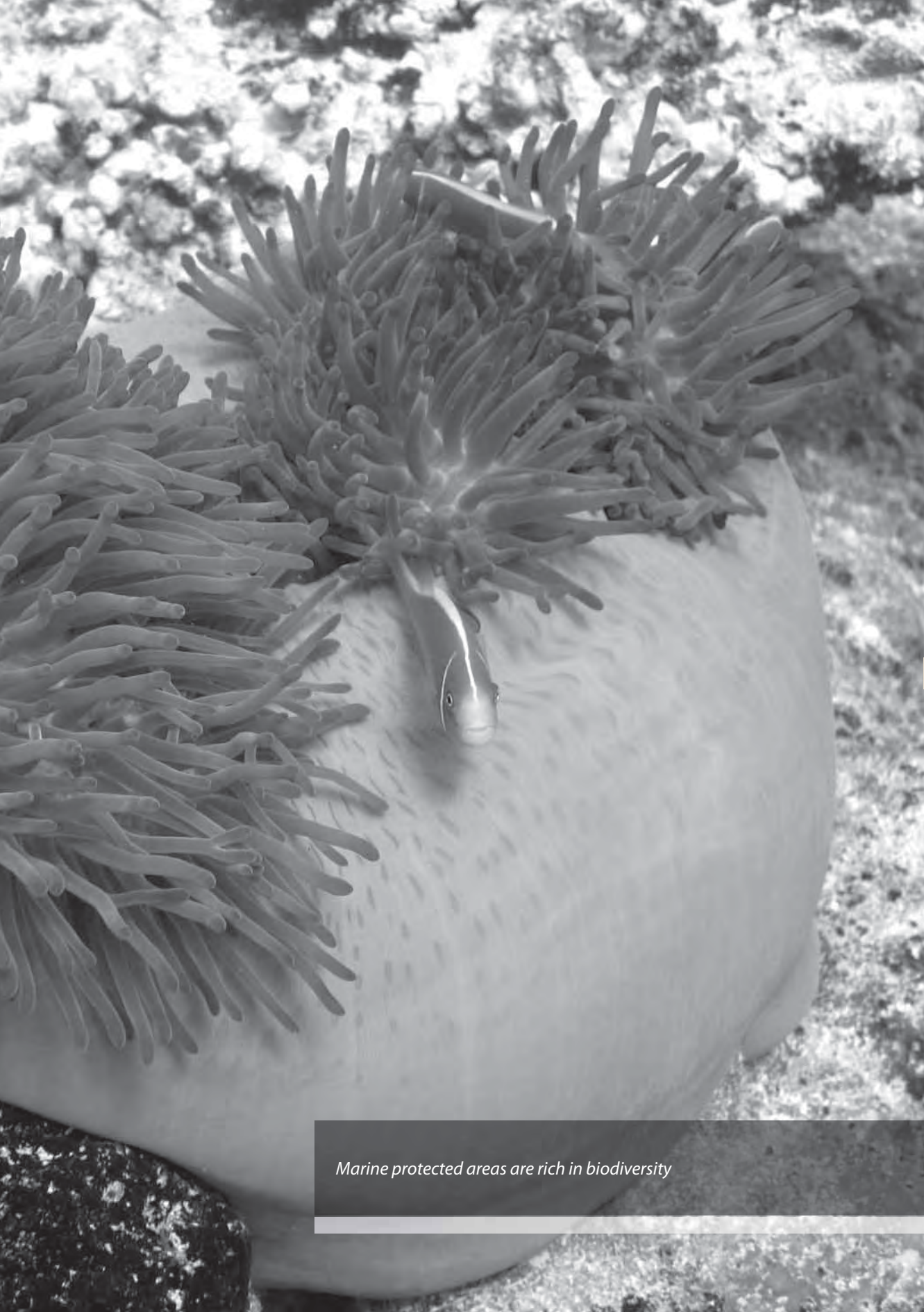
The Director of National Parks is the statutory agency responsible for the Australian Government's protected area estate, both terrestrial and marine. The Director is assisted by Parks Australia, a division of the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, in carrying out the Director's responsibilities for management of terrestrial reserves. Management of marine reserves is undertaken by the Department's Marine Division and the Australian Antarctic Division.

In 2008–09, the Director of National Parks:

- managed seven terrestrial reserves comprising six national parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens
- through the Marine Division and the Australian Antarctic Division of the Department, managed 26 marine reserves and two conservation zones
- managed Calperum and Taylorville Stations via a contract with the Australian Landscape Trust
- employed 293 full-time equivalent staff around Australia
- recorded a total price of outputs of \$61.177 million.

Key highlights and issues for 2008–09

- Improved financial outlook through an increased budget appropriation
- Prepared draft management plan for Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park which received vigorous media interest and public submissions on proposed closure of Uluru climb
- Declaration of nearly one million square kilometre Coral Sea Conservation Zone for assessment of conservation values
- Accelerated national interest and regional engagement in the National Landscapes program
- Scientific report identified chronic state of Christmas Island ecosystem and likely extinction of the endemic pipistrelle bat due to unknown cause(s)
- Kakadu fauna surveys identified continued decline in small mammals



Marine protected areas are rich in biodiversity

1 Director's review



Director's review

The year in review

Significant developments

Financial matters

Our people

Looking ahead

Certification

Director's review



*Peter Cochrane
Director of National Parks*

The 2008–09 year has produced mixed results with strong performance on many fronts, but some disappointing trends in several areas.

At Booderee National Park, continuing fox control has paved the way for the reintroduction of several species of medium-sized mammals vulnerable to predation and long extinct from the park. In contrast, surveys in Kakadu National Park confirmed a serious decline in the abundance of small mammals (mirroring the decline recorded across much of northern Australia) although, encouragingly, good numbers were recorded at several known biodiversity 'hotspots'. The causes of the decline are unclear and may involve introduced predators and/or disease.

Biodiversity loss at Christmas Island National Park has triggered a wide-ranging review of environmental management, sparked by the critical decline of the endemic pipistrelle microbat. Other elements of the island's unique biodiversity are also in decline, largely in response to the impact of yellow crazy ants and the long legacy of other invasive species. In February 2009 the Minister established an Expert Working Group to review threats to biodiversity across the island. The working group assessed the situation first-hand in April and released an Interim Report in July, confirming that the island faces pervasive, chronic and increasing conservation problems. The report identified the need for an integrated approach to management of the island's biodiversity (such as enhanced quarantine measures) as well as management actions to prevent immediate biodiversity loss.

The Government has allocated additional funding to protect Christmas Island's migrating red crabs from yellow crazy ants. Aerial baiting of ant supercolonies will resume later this year, while research into biological control measures for scale insects (on which the ants depend) is underway. Efforts to capture the remaining pipistrelles have been unsuccessful, however the capture effort on two endemic skink species for captive breeding is promising more positive results.

There are similarly mixed outcomes on weeds and feral animals across our other reserves. Work to control bitou bush in Booderee continued and high density

infestations are now much reduced, although the weed remains a serious problem. Weed control in Norfolk Island National Park remains a major management challenge. At Kakadu, rising numbers of feral animals (especially pigs and buffalo) have required a renewed focus on control efforts.

Our performance on Indigenous employment fell short of expectations this year and a number of measures are in place or being developed to improve outcomes in the future.

Progress on major infrastructure projects in our reserves has been very good. Stage 2 of Talinguru Nyakunytjaku, the new Uluru viewing area, was completed in September 2009, providing wonderful vistas from a series of elevated walkways and platforms. Its opening on 8 October 2009 marked an achievement of which our staff and contractors can be particularly proud. Roadworks to improve access to the popular Captain Cook monument in Norfolk Island National Park were also completed and visitor facilities at Booderee were upgraded. The major rehabilitation of the old uranium mine sites in the south of Kakadu continued to proceed smoothly.

Planning for new water infrastructure at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) progressed and, when complete, should ensure a secure water supply. Rising water costs and the continuing drought have severely affected the ANBG's operations for some years.

Our partnerships with the tourism industry strengthened. The National Landscapes partnership with Tourism Australia continued its success with an additional site, Kangaroo Island, joining the original eight sites launched in July 2008. Kakadu's rebrand emphasising its Aboriginal ownership (launched in July 2008) continues to be well received. A clutch of tourism awards during the year for Kakadu tour operators and for Booderee as the best New South Wales Indigenous tourism experience recognised our increasingly important role in Indigenous tourism. Visitor surveys continued to record high levels of satisfaction at our heavily visited reserves.

Management planning for some of our reserves was delayed by other priorities. The draft plan for Uluru-Kata Tjuta was released for public comment in July 2009, with considerable media coverage on the proposed closure of the Uluru climb. The public comment period closed in September and a decision on the final plan is expected by the end of 2009. New plans for Booderee, Christmas Island, the ANBG and the Commonwealth South-east Marine Reserve Network are well underway.

A Parks Australia climate change strategy was finalised and more detailed plans are being developed for our terrestrial reserves. Strategies for Kakadu, Booderee and the Australian National Botanic Gardens identify further measures to reduce our carbon footprint. The ANBG also played a leading role in the development of a national climate change strategy for Australia's botanic gardens. The national strategy includes priorities for seed bank collections and coordinated national education and was released by the Minister in November 2008.



Systematic assessment of each of Australia's marine bioregions in the south-west, north-west, north and east continued through the Marine Division of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. New Commonwealth marine reserve proposals are expected to be identified through the planning process which should be completed in 2010.

A major development was the proclamation in May 2009 of the Coral Sea Conservation Zone covering some 972,000 square kilometres of Australian waters and seabed east of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Coral Sea Conservation Zone will protect this environmentally significant area from increasing pressures while it is being assessed for more permanent protection through the marine bioregional planning process for the East Marine Region. At the time of writing this report a motion in the Senate to disallow the proclamation was still being debated, creating some uncertainty over this initiative.

Financial matters

The Government announced in the May 2009 budget supplementary funding of \$26 million over the next four years for management of Commonwealth reserves. The additional funding will help to address issues arising from longstanding funding pressures, allowing us to repair and upgrade infrastructure and enhance our work in conserving biodiversity in our reserves.

This supplementary funding complements the additional revenue that will be generated when park use fees are reinstated at Kakadu from April 2010. The Minister announced in October 2008 that he had accepted my recommendation to reintroduce fees, bringing Kakadu back into line with Booderee and Uluru where fees are accepted as an appropriate contribution to the costs of management. Northern Territory residents will be exempt.

This year we recorded a small surplus, largely arising from slight delays in several major projects that will be completed in 2009–10. Our financial control framework remains sound and continues to be well regarded by internal and external auditors.

Our people

Our staff continue to be our most significant and valuable resource and I greatly appreciate their dedication beyond what might be reasonably expected – especially the efforts of those who work in remote and sometimes dangerous places.

A number of senior staffing changes are worthy of mention. Peter Taylor was appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary of Parks Australia South in November 2008; he brings a wealth of experience in protected area management, including in the important area of engaging Indigenous communities in nature conservation. The ranks of senior women in Parks Australia swelled with the appointment of Coral Rowston as manager of Norfolk Island National Park and the transfer of Robyn

Bromley together with the responsibility for coordinating Australia's involvement in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Booderee manager Scott Suridge took up a 12-month position as Government Business Manager at the Nauiya (Daly River) community in the Northern Territory and his position has been ably filled by Martin Fortescue during his absence. Other staff members also stepped up to higher level positions during periods of staff absence and I wish to record here my appreciation for their efforts.



The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP presenting Jeff Claussen with his Australia Day Award on Christmas Island

Several senior staff left Parks Australia to pursue other challenges. Special mention must be made of Sam Ceravolo who, during his period as head of the Business Management Section, significantly improved our financial control framework and budget management.

Formal recognition of outstanding staff occurred through Australia Day Awards to Paul Minogue, who has provided outstanding legal advice to Parks Australia for more than ten years, and to Jeff Claussen who has managed the Christmas Island Mine Site to Forest Rehabilitation program since 2000, making a significant contribution to the conservation of the island's biodiversity.



Looking ahead

While the Government's budget announcement of additional funding has eased some of our financial pressures, major pressures nevertheless remain. The additional funding has been mainly directed to infrastructure and assets and our operational funding remains very tight.

The task of effectively managing the biodiversity of our reserves has become more challenging in the face of increasing pressures from invasive weeds, introduced animals and other threats.

The Christmas Island issues provide a good illustration of the wider difficulties currently facing conservation of biodiversity across Australia. Establishing reserves such as national parks is only the first step – ongoing effective management is required if their biodiversity values are to be maintained and enhanced.

The increasing pressures posed by climate change will need greater attention. We will build on this year's individual park-based climate change strategies, continuing to reduce our emissions and adapting our approaches to manage anticipated climate change impacts.



Heightened feral animal control in Kakadu led to a slight increase in our overall energy use, although as a case study suggests, this produced a net greenhouse positive outcome (see page 19).

Public support for our national parks is crucial to their successful management. We will continue our efforts to improve visitor facilities in our reserves and to further develop partnerships with the tourism industry. Providing enhanced training and employment opportunities for the traditional owners of our three large national parks remains a major priority.

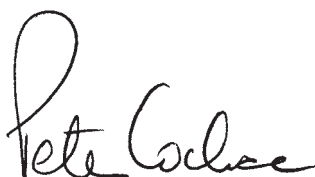
To meet these challenges, we will need to increase our efforts to grow and diversify our revenue base, to become ever more efficient in our use of resources and to continue building the skills and capabilities of our staff.

Certification

This annual report was prepared in accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, Finance Minister's Orders under that Act and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The Director's review and the rest of this annual report, except the financial statements for the Australian National Parks Fund and the Auditor-General's report on those financial statements, constitutes the Director of National Parks' report of operations.

The holder of the office of the Director of National Parks is responsible under section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* for the preparation and content of the report of operations in accordance with Finance Minister's Orders.



Peter Cochrane
Director of National Parks
13 October 2009

2 Corporate overview and financial summary



The Minister

The Director of National Parks

Statutory functions

Non-statutory functions

Financial summary

Overview of the Director of National Parks' responsibilities

Joint management of nationally significant protected areas

Case study: Feral buffalo in Kakadu

Protecting unique island ecosystems

Case study: Christmas Island – a new ecosystem approach to biodiversity

Conserving Australia's biodiversity through a National Reserve System

Protecting the marine environment

Understanding and studying Australia's biodiversity

Case study: Taxonomy – an important tool in environmental weed management

Tourism and the National Landscapes program

Case study: Australia's Red Centre

The Minister

During 2008–09 the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP continued as Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, with responsibility for the Director of National Parks.

The Minister's responsibilities in relation to the Director include assessing proposals for establishment of Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones under the EPBC Act; approving management plans for Commonwealth reserves; establishing and appointing members to boards of management for Commonwealth reserves jointly managed with Aboriginal owners; resolving disputes between the Director and boards of management; and approving Commonwealth reserve use fees and other charges.

During 2008–09 the Minister made official visits to Kakadu, Booderee and Christmas Island National Parks. The Minister launched the Kakadu brand, met with traditional owners at Kakadu and Booderee and inspected threats to Christmas Island's biodiversity. His visits enabled him to meet with park staff and stakeholders and to assess the condition of all three parks.

The Minister is keen to make a difference at the landscape scale, to ensure funding goes to areas and projects across the nation that best meet the ecological challenges Australia faces. With regard to protected areas, he has been instrumental in the allocation of a substantial increase in federal funding for the extension of Australia's National Reserve System and the Indigenous Protected Areas program and for the upgrade and repair of national park infrastructure.



The Minister holding a rescued Abbott's booby during his visit to Christmas Island

The Director of National Parks

The Director of National Parks is a corporation sole established under Division 5 of Part 19 of the EPBC Act, and a Commonwealth authority for the purposes of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act). The corporation has a single director – the person appointed to the office named the Director of National Parks.

The current office holder is Peter Cochrane, who was first appointed as Director in October 1999 and was reappointed to the position by the Governor-General on 12 December 2008 for a period of five years.

The EPBC Act requires the Director to perform functions and exercise powers in accordance with any directions given by the Minister, unless the Act provides otherwise. The Minister responsible for the CAC Act may via a General Policy Order also notify the Director under the CAC Act of general government policies that are to apply to the Director. No General Policy Orders were issued to the Director in 2008–09.

The EPBC Act provides for the proclamation and management of Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones. The term ‘Commonwealth reserve’ includes all the areas proclaimed under the EPBC Act with names such as national parks, marine parks, national nature reserves, marine national nature reserves, marine reserves and botanic gardens. This report generally uses the term ‘reserves’ to encompass all parks and reserves under the EPBC Act.

The Director of National Parks is responsible under the EPBC Act for the administration, management and control of Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones. The Director is assisted by staff of Parks Australia, a division of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. In this report, reference to Parks Australia refers to the Director of National Parks and Parks Australia staff members.

Statutory functions

The Director is responsible for the administration of Divisions 4 and 5 of Part 15 of the EPBC Act (Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones) and Regulations made for the purposes of those divisions. The functions of the Director as set out in subsection 514B(1) of the EPBC Act are:

- to administer, manage and control Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones
- to protect, conserve and manage biodiversity and heritage in Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones
- to contribute to the protection, conservation and management of biodiversity and heritage in areas outside Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones
- to cooperate with any country in matters relating to the establishment and management of national parks and nature reserves in that country
- to provide, and assist in the provision of, training in the knowledge and skills relevant to the establishment and management of national parks and nature reserves
- to carry out alone or in cooperation with other institutions and persons, and to arrange for any other institution or person to carry out, research and investigations relevant to the establishment and management of Commonwealth reserves



- to make recommendations to the Minister in relation to the establishment and management of Commonwealth reserves
- to administer the Australian National Parks Fund
- any other functions conferred on the Director under the EPBC Act or any other Act
- to do anything incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the functions mentioned above.

As at 30 June 2009, seven Commonwealth terrestrial reserves (national parks, botanic gardens) and 26 Commonwealth marine reserves (marine parks, marine reserves, marine nature reserves) were declared under the EPBC Act and were the responsibility of the Director (see Figure 1).

There are two conservation zones declared under the Act. The Coral Sea Conservation Zone was declared in May 2009 covering an area of nearly one million square kilometres. The scientific assessment of the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Conservation Zone has been finalised.

Terrestrial reserves are managed by staff of Parks Australia which assists the Director in carrying out the Director's responsibilities. In 2008–09, under delegation from the Director, staff of the Australian Antarctic Division of the Department managed the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve while staff of the Marine Division managed the remaining 25 Commonwealth marine reserves. The locations of the Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones are shown at Figure 1.

In addition to management of Commonwealth reserves, the Director is engaged in a partnership with Tourism Australia to identify and promote National Landscapes (see page 33) which capture the essence of Australia and offer distinctive natural and cultural experiences. Parks Australia's interest in the program is to enhance and promote the role of protected areas in the social and economic well-being of regional Australia.

Non-statutory functions

The Director has also been delegated functions and powers by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts and the Secretary of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for programs that complement the Director's statutory functions. Under these delegations, the Director administers the National Reserve System program and the Indigenous Protected Areas program, both of which are significant components of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative which began on 1 July 2008 (see page 24). The Director also manages the Australian Biological Resources Study and the development of Australian Government policy on management of Australia's genetic resources including regulating access to such resources in Commonwealth areas (see page 31), and provides coordination and leadership in meeting Australia's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (see page 31).

The outputs of these non-statutory functions are reported in the Department's annual report. A more detailed overview of the Director's responsibilities and outcomes for the year completes this chapter.

Financial summary

A surplus result was achieved for 2008–09 due largely to delays in work scheduled for the Kakadu mine rehabilitation and asbestos removal, compounded by lower than expected depreciation expenditure, caused by delays in major capital works.

Overall, income for 2008–09 was slightly higher against budget and total expenditure was lower by four per cent against budget. An analysis of the variances is in Table 1.

Table 2 and Figure 2 summarise income and expenses information for the Director of National Parks. Audited financial statements are in Chapter 6 of this report.

Management of marine protected areas is undertaken by the Marine Division and the Australian Antarctic Division under delegation from the Director, is funded separately and is excluded from this financial summary.

Table 3 shows a five-year overview of financial, staffing and area information for Commonwealth terrestrial and marine reserves and Table 4 provides an overview of individual reserves for 2008–09.

An Agency Resourcing Statement was introduced to Portfolio Budget Statements for government departments in 2008–09 to provide information about the various funding sources that CAC Act agencies draw upon during the year. An Agency Resourcing Statement that reconciles to cash reserves in the financial statements for the Director of National Parks is provided at Appendix A.

Table 1: Analysis of variance against budget 2008–09

Business area	Income	Expenses
Jointly managed parks	Down \$0.577 million primarily due to the delay in obtaining approvals to remove asbestos in Kakadu.	Down \$3.116 million due to delays in the work schedule for Kakadu mine rehabilitation and asbestos removal, compounded by reduced depreciation expenses across Parks Australia as a result of reduced capacity to deliver capital projects.
Other parks and reserves	Up \$0.370 million mainly due to insurance recoveries relating to ANBG storm damage in the prior financial year and staff recoveries relating to workers' compensation and sale of services.	Down \$0.104 million due to underspends at Christmas Island as a result of delays in the arrival of aircraft and yellow crazy ant bait, which was offset by increased water and electricity costs at ANBG.
Governance, corporate services and executive	Up \$0.552 million due to greater than expected interest revenue primarily from delays in operating expenditure and capital works.	Up \$0.316 million due to increased employee and information technology expenses, additional research and evaluation projects, graduate corporate contribution and conference sponsorship.

Table 2: Overview of financial results 2008–09

		2008 Actuals \$000s	2009 Actuals \$000s	2009 Budget \$000s	2009 Variance \$000s
Jointly managed parks ^(a)	Income	38,550	39,284	39,861	(577)
	Expenses	(39,497)	(37,824)	(40,940)	3,116
	Surplus/(Deficit)	(947)	1,460	(1,079)	2,539
Other terrestrial parks and reserves ^(b)	Income	16,381	16,259	15,890	369
	Expenses	(15,220)	(15,791)	(15,895)	104
	Surplus/(Deficit)	1,161	468	5	473
Total for terrestrial parks and reserves	Income	54,931	55,543	55,751	(208)
	Expenses	(54,717)	(53,615)	(56,835)	3,220
	Surplus/(Deficit)	214	1,928	(1,084)	3,012
Governance, corporate services and executive ^(c)	Income	8,097	7,013	6,461	552
	Expenses	(7,329)	(7,562)	(7,246)	(316)
	Surplus/(Deficit)	768	(549)	(785)	236
Total for Director of National Parks	Income	63,028	62,556	62,212	344
	Expenses	(62,046)	(61,177)	(64,081)	2,904
	Surplus/(Deficit)	982	1,379	(1,869)	3,248

(a) Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Booderee National Parks.

(b) Includes Calperum and Taylorville Stations which are not formal reserves.

(c) Governance, corporate services and executive includes administration for Parks Australia North and Parks Australia South, finance, legal, insurance, planning, interest income and bank charges.

Figure 2: Income and expenses 2008–09



Table 3: Five-year overview of terrestrial and marine Commonwealth reserves

	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Staffing resources (full-time equivalents)					
Management of terrestrial reserves	263.8	274.5	270.6	274.0	293.0
Management of marine reserves	12.6	15.3	17.5	16.3	16.0
Area of Commonwealth reserves (hectares)					
Terrestrial reserves area (number of reserves)	2,131,407 (7)	2,131,407 (7)	2,130,774 (7)	2,130,774 (7)	2,130,774 (7)
Marine reserves area (number of reserves)	24,245,378 (13)	27,245,378 (13)	27,245,678 (14)	49,844,075 (26)	49,844,075 (26)
Visitors to Commonwealth terrestrial reserves					
Number of visitors	1,394,087	1,430,515	1,485,727	1,466,560	1,410,021
Safety incidents recorded (including staff and visitors etc.)					
Minor injury or near miss	163	156	157	141	101
Moderate injury	58	68	47	63	52
Major injury	16	12	3	6	8
Death	1	1	0	1	4
Compliance and enforcement					
EPBC Act incidents detected	371	243	372	197	126
Warnings and cautions issued	252	195	287	131	56
Infringement notices issued	4	9	38	59	20
Cases taken to court	13	7	17	3	0
Court convictions	3	5	13	3	1
Court cases pending at year end	10	2	4	2	1
Financial summary – terrestrial reserves (\$ millions)					
Operations					
Total operating expenditure ^(a)	58.69	56.85	59.29	62.05	61.18
Total operating revenue ^(b)	58.53	59.02	62.99	63.03	62.56
Financial position					
Current assets	10.84	21.80	19.51	28.50	29.30
Non-current assets	137.20	138.90	139.11	149.33	151.04
Current liabilities	10.21	15.38	9.47	9.77	10.91
Non-current liabilities	1.19	0.45	0.58	0.64	0.49
Total equity	136.63	144.87	148.57	167.42	168.95
Financial summary – marine reserves (\$ millions)					
Operations					
Total operating expenditure	2.53	3.58	5.53	4.51	4.55
Total operating revenue	2.53	3.58	5.53	4.51	4.55

(a) Also includes governance, corporate services, executive and the management contract for Calperum and Taylorville Stations which are not Commonwealth reserves.

(b) Includes revenue from all sources including appropriations and externally raised revenue.

Table 4: Overview of individual reserves in 2008–09

Reserve name	Area (hectares)	Year declared	IUCN category ^(a)	Operating cost (\$000s)	Capital expenditure (\$000s)	External revenue ^(b) (\$000s)	Payment to traditional owners (\$000s)
Jointly managed national parks							
Booderee National Park	6,379	1992	II	6,772	701	1,247	577
Kakadu National Park	1,979,767	1979	II	19,645	2,293	1,052	1,636
Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park	132,566	1977	II	11,408	5,411	7,159	1,837
Other Commonwealth terrestrial reserves							
Australian National Botanic Gardens	85	1991	IV	9,562	567	825	
Christmas Island National Park	8,719	1980	II	4,126	618	1,801	
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	656	1986	II	1,029	106	3	
Pulu Keeling National Park	2,602	1995	II	458	0	6	
Commonwealth marine reserves ^(c)							
Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve	58,337	1983	Ia	348			
Cartier Island Marine Reserve	17,238	2000	Ia	0			
Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve	314	2007	Ia	188			
Coringa–Herald National Nature Reserve	885,249	1982	Ia	211			
Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve	187,726	1987	Ia	100			
Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	1,937,162	1998	VI	259			
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve	6,465,845	2002	Ia	620			
Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve	843,670	1982	Ia	0			
Lord Howe Island Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	300,287	2000	IV	152			
Macquarie Island Marine Park	16,189,466	1999	IV	103			
Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve	53,987	1991	Ia	132			
Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	243,513	1987	II	148			
Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters)	15,233	1993	VI	232			
South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network	22,646,048	2007	VI	825			

(a) The IUCN protected area classification system comprises seven management categories, not all of which have been applied to reserves declared under the EPBC Act. Sections of some reserves are zoned a different IUCN category from the reserve as a whole, to reflect the management strategy for those sections.

(b) External revenue represents total revenue from the income statement less revenue from government.

(c) In addition to the operating costs for each reserve, \$1,231,529 was spent across the 25 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, permits and performance assessment systems, training, communications, workshops and conference attendance, surveillance and enforcement activities.

Overview of the Director of National Parks' responsibilities

Joint management of nationally significant protected areas

Parks Australia is a leader in working with Indigenous Australians in the joint management of protected areas. The Director, together with traditional owners, jointly manages three national parks: Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks in the Northern Territory, both World Heritage listed, and Booderee National Park in the Jervis Bay Territory.

Traditional owners maintain strong links to their country in these parks, links that are demonstrated through their cultural and spiritual beliefs and traditional use and management of their country. Parks Australia supports traditional owners in maintaining their living culture and incorporates traditional land management practices in park management.

Kakadu National Park is an Aboriginal living cultural landscape. A strong relationship exists between Bininj and their country, ongoing traditions, cultural practices, beliefs and knowledge. An estimated 15,000 rock art sites and innumerable artefacts and sites of cultural, archaeological and historic significance in the Kakadu region contribute to archaeological evidence indicating that people have lived continuously in the region for at least 50,000 years.

Kakadu contains almost an entire major tropical river catchment (the South Alligator River catchment) and large representative examples of the wet-dry tropical ecosystems of northern Australia. The park is ecologically and biologically diverse, encompassing the sandstone plateau and escarpment, monsoon forests and extensive areas of savanna woodlands as well as riverine environments such as billabongs and floodplains. Large areas of the park are listed as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention and many species that occur in the park are protected under international agreements.



Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is the physical and metaphoric heart of Australia. This living cultural landscape is a world class visitor destination, a key part of Australia's iconic Red Centre and, along with Kakadu, was one of the first areas to be identified as part of a National Landscape (see page 33). Parks Australia works together with the Anangu traditional owners to protect, conserve and document the cultural and natural heritage of the park using Tjukurpa (traditional law and culture) as a guiding influence.

Located in the Greater Sandy Desert bioregion which includes parts of the Northern Territory and Western Australia, the park plays a significant role in contributing to long-term biodiversity conservation in the region. The park has a particularly rich and diverse suite of arid environment species and supports populations of a number of relict and endemic species.

Booderee National Park at Jervis Bay is of great significance to its traditional owners, the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community, who are increasingly involved through a unique and evolving joint management model in running and servicing the park. Jervis Bay is one of the major biogeographic nodes in Australia and contains a variety of relatively undisturbed marine and terrestrial habitats. The park protects most of the Bherwerre Peninsula, the bay's southern peninsula, Bowen Island and the waters and seabed in the southern part of the bay.

Booderee staff work cooperatively with the adjoining New South Wales Jervis Bay National Park and Jervis Bay Marine Park to protect the region's biodiversity. Intensive control of foxes and other invasive species has led to recovery of species such as the endangered eastern bristlebird and has paved the way for the planned reintroduction of several species of small mammals long extinct in the area covered by the park.

Our relationship with Indigenous communities in our jointly managed parks continues to develop. We are building strong business models and providing opportunities for Indigenous employment and enterprises in these parks, moving towards self-management by the traditional owners. In improving our knowledge-based approach to management, we also need to continue to ensure that traditional knowledge is utilised and contributes effectively to our management efforts.

Parks Australia works with the Northern Territory Government and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in implementing the Australian Government's Northern Territory Emergency Response and the Closing the Gap initiative. The jointly managed parks in particular strive to provide Indigenous training and employment opportunities, support Indigenous enterprises and work closely with their respective Indigenous communities and residents.

More information on Commonwealth jointly managed reserves, including performance results for 2008–09, can be found in the State of the Parks report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08–09.

Case Study: Feral buffalo in Kakadu

Since their introduction to northern Australia over 150 years ago feral Asian water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) have done a great deal of damage to the natural systems of Kakadu National Park.

Buffalo have overgrazed the vegetation, their wallows have allowed salt water into the freshwater wetlands and their heavy hooves have killed countless turtles and plants in the swamps.

However, in the mid-1980s feral buffalo were all but removed from Kakadu as part of the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign and a slow recovery began. But it has not lasted. In the last quarter of a century buffalo numbers have gradually increased. If we are not careful to instigate and maintain vigorous control programs for buffalo, the rehabilitation benefits are likely to be lost. This is one reason investment in feral animal control has increased in Kakadu over recent years.

While such control effort has major local benefits, it also makes a surprising contribution to the reduction in greenhouse gas production. The reason is that buffaloes burp. In fact, according to the standards used by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, an average buffalo burps 45 kilograms of methane each year. As methane is 23 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, in a year each buffalo will produce greenhouse gases that are equivalent to a tonne of carbon dioxide.

The prospect of a price being placed on production of greenhouse gases raises some intriguing possibilities for feral animal control. The most effective way to cull buffalo is to shoot them from a helicopter. Helicopter use produces greenhouse gases. However, a buffalo will produce the same amount of greenhouse gas in a year that a helicopter will produce in ten hours of flying time – that is, culling at this rate would be greenhouse neutral. The actual average cull rate in Kakadu National Park in 2008–09 was 7.7 buffaloes per ten hours flying time. If a buffalo's lifespan was ten years, the greenhouse benefits of culling would be an order of magnitude greater. Additional feral animals such as horses, donkeys and pigs were also culled during these exercises within the same flying time, which potentially increases the carbon benefit

Such trade is currently speculative – markets for such carbon would require much more science and careful consideration. Given the environmental benefits for Kakadu, greenhouse gas reduction is a bonus that makes feral buffalo control even more essential.



A campaign to reduce the number of water buffalo in Kakadu National Park took place in 2008–09 to ease pressures on native species. The culling of feral buffalo also has the potential to reduce methane emissions from within the park



Protecting unique island ecosystems



2

Parks Australia manages three national parks located in Australia's ocean territories. Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Indian Ocean and Norfolk Island in the Pacific Ocean are home to unique and fragile endemic flora and fauna that have evolved for a long period in isolation. These remote island parks have immense scientific, educational and conservation value and Parks Australia is working to develop more holistic models for their management.

Christmas Island supports a wide range of unusual species and habitats, some found only on the island, and is of great international conservation and scientific interest. Although the island has been mined for phosphates since the late 1890s, most of its rainforest ecosystem remains intact and Christmas Island National Park now protects about two-thirds of the island environment, including two wetlands recognised as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention.

The island has an extraordinary diversity and abundance of land crabs, especially red crabs which are the island's 'keystone' species as they influence the structure and species composition of the island's rainforest. Red crabs are renowned for their annual wet season migration, when up to an estimated 50 million march to the sea to spawn. The island also provides the last remaining nesting habitat for two threatened seabirds (Abbott's booby and the Christmas Island frigatebird) and supports many endemic plant and animal species.

The island's geology, unique rainforest and spectacular views are well represented in the park. The establishment of the park has not however prevented the continuing incursion of exotic species, disrupting the functioning of the island's natural ecological processes. Foremost are yellow crazy ants which have severely reduced numbers of red crabs and pose a significant threat to many other species. A major control program is in place and is being accelerated following the interim report of an expert working group appointed in February 2009 to review threats to biodiversity across the island. Measures to promote a more integrated approach to management of the island's biodiversity (such as enhanced quarantine measures) were also recommended by the expert working group and are being pursued.

North Keeling Island is an isolated coral atoll in the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and its relatively untouched environment is a valuable biological resource. It is one of the few tropical islands in the Indian Ocean to have largely escaped the damaging effects of human settlement.

Pulu Keeling National Park comprises North Keeling Island and its marine area extending to 1.5 kilometres from the shore. The park is listed as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It is an internationally recognised seabird rookery and in particular supports one of the world's largest remaining populations of the red-footed booby. Pulu Keeling's forests and other flora are examples of the original vegetation of the region and include a number of species not now found elsewhere in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands while the park's waters are one of the last areas of pristine reef systems in the world.

Norfolk Island National Park is jointly proclaimed under Commonwealth and Norfolk Island legislation. Set in the south-west Pacific Ocean, the Norfolk Island Territory provides a link between tropical and temperate oceanic island environments and is home to unique assemblages of flora and fauna.

The park covers 13 per cent of Norfolk Island and comprises remnant areas of subtropical rainforest and viney hardwood forest that once covered the island prior to human settlement; the park is habitat for a range of threatened plants, birds and other species. Neighbouring Phillip Island, which is included in the park in its entirety, is free of damaging introduced species such as cats and rats and is home to large numbers of nesting seabirds.

Management of Norfolk Island National Park has a strong focus on habitat restoration through controlling invasive species, planting native vegetation and controlling erosion. The park and adjacent Norfolk Island Botanic Garden also provide educational, scientific, cultural and recreational opportunities for Norfolk Island residents and visitors and are a valuable resource for the Norfolk Island tourism industry.

More information on the management of Commonwealth island national parks, including performance results for 2008–09, can be found in the State of the Parks report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08–09.



Case Study:

Christmas Island – a new ecosystem approach to biodiversity



Red crab populations have been impacted by invasive species and climatic events which affect spawning and juvenile return rates

In late January 2009 two scientists sounded a loud warning bell on the fate of the tiny Christmas Island pipistrelle bat (*Pipistrellus murrayi*). In a report to the Director of National Parks, Dr Lindy Lumsden and Martin Schulz called for a captive breeding program to avert the bat's imminent extinction.

Like all oceanic islands, Christmas Island has a vulnerable ecosystem – open to invasion and with low resilience to exotic species. Over the past century invasive yellow crazy ants, the giant African snail, the giant centipede, rats and feral cats have taken hold in the forest. Now the pipistrelle and two forest skinks are on the verge of extinction.

In early February Minister Garrett commissioned an expert working group to consider not only options for the bat but broader conservation threats on the entire island. The chair of the Threatened Species Scientific Committee Associate Professor Bob Beeton led a team of environmental scientists comprising Mr Norm Mackenzie, Dr John Woinarski, Dr Andrew Burbidge, Dr Ric Howe, and Dr Gordon Grigg.

The working group found that the whole of Christmas Island's fragile ecosystem is under threat from a complex range of interacting factors, including invasions of non-native species and human activity. They have suggested a possible ecological cascade—the impact of one change affecting others in unexpected ways. For example, while the removal of yellow crazy ants from parts of the forest is an achievement, the absence of red crabs in those same areas of forest has allowed an explosion of giant centipedes and the giant African snail.

It is time they say, to move away from the piecemeal approach of recovery plans for individual species and action to combat individual feral pests. The pipistrelle's pathway to extinction illustrates the need to manage the health of the whole ecosystem if we are to halt biodiversity decline.

The group's key recommendations are:

- protect the integrity of the island with improved quarantine systems and environmental governance.
- manage the island's ecological processes to prevent further biodiversity loss, taking action to better understand and control invasive species and protect the island's iconic keystone species, the red crab.
- prevent immediate biodiversity loss, with enforced feral cat control and efforts to undertake captive breeding of the pipistrelle bat and endangered reptiles.
- list Christmas Island as an ecological community under the EPBC Act.

The lessons from Christmas Island have broad implications for conservation of Australia's islands and the continent as a whole. With the EPBC Act now under review, it is timely to think about national environment law adopting a regional and ecosystem focus for environment protection and conservation management.



Conserving Australia's biodiversity through a National Reserve System

The National Reserve System is Australia's network of protected areas and aims to conserve examples of the full range of Australia's terrestrial ecosystems. It represents the collective conservation effort of Australian, state, territory and local governments, non-government organisations, the business sector, private and Indigenous landholders, and catchment and natural resource management bodies to formally protect biodiversity in perpetuity.

Parks Australia manages the National Reserve System element of the Caring for our Country initiative. The program supports the acquisition and covenanting of properties to establish protected areas to be managed for nature conservation as part of the National Reserve System, targeting under-represented and vulnerable areas for inclusion.

In 2008–09 the National Reserve System program contributed over \$24 million towards the purchase of 16 properties covering 147,000 hectares. It also contributed just over \$1.1 million to strategic projects for the establishment of protected areas on private lands (through perpetual covenants). In May 2009, the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council approved Australia's Strategy for the National Reserve System 2009–2030 which will guide the ongoing development and management of Australia's protected area estate.



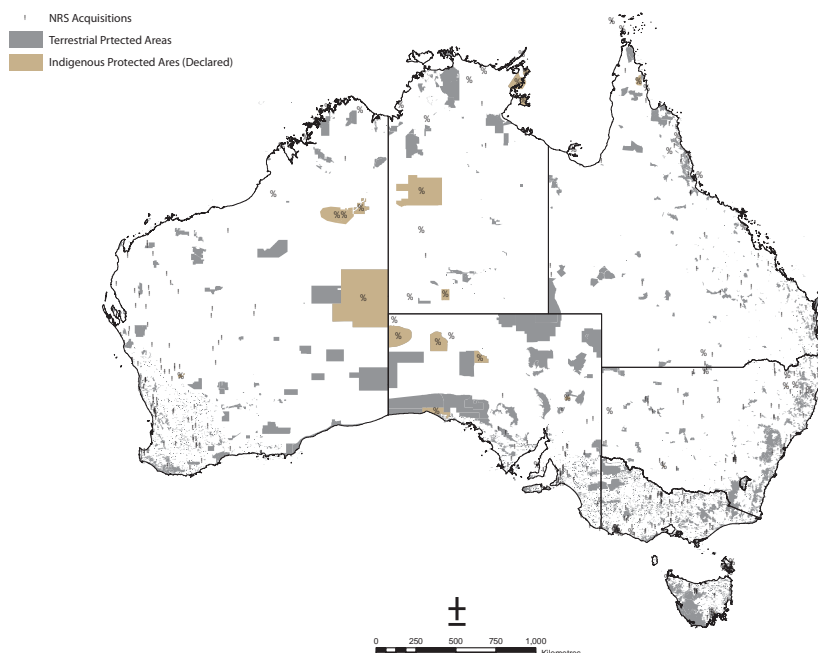


Protected areas managed by Indigenous people make an important contribution to the National Reserve System. The Indigenous Protected Area element of Caring for our Country supports Indigenous communities to manage their land for conservation, so that the biodiversity and heritage of this land are protected for the benefit of all Australians. The program helps Indigenous communities develop plans to manage their land's natural and cultural values and provides ongoing support for work to control threats such as weeds, feral animals and wildfire.

The declaration through the Indigenous Protected Area program in 2008–09 of the Angas Downs Indigenous Protected Area, brought an Indigenous-owned 320,500 hectare pastoral lease south-west of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory into the National Reserve System. With support from the Indigenous Protected Area program and other programs, traditional owners are working as rangers on projects such as feral animal control to restore and protect the environment of Angas Downs, in line with a management plan for the Indigenous Protected Area.

Outputs of the National Reserve System and Indigenous Protected Area programs, including performance results for 2008–09, are reported in the Department's annual report.

Figure 3: Acquisitions under the National Reserve System program and declared Indigenous Protected Areas as at 30 June 2009



The Director is also responsible for the management of Calperum and Taylorville Stations, adjoining pastoral leases located near Renmark in South Australia, comprising over 300,000 hectares of predominantly open mallee bushland and Murray River floodplains. The two stations form part of the Riverland Biosphere Reserve. They include wetlands recognised as internationally significant under the Ramsar Convention as well as large areas of intact mallee which are habitat for several nationally endangered species. Both properties are deeded to the Director of National Parks and are managed by the Australian Landscape Trust under contract to the Director.

More information on the management of Calperum and Taylorville Stations, including performance results for 2008–09, can be found in the State of the Parks report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08–09.

Protecting the marine environment

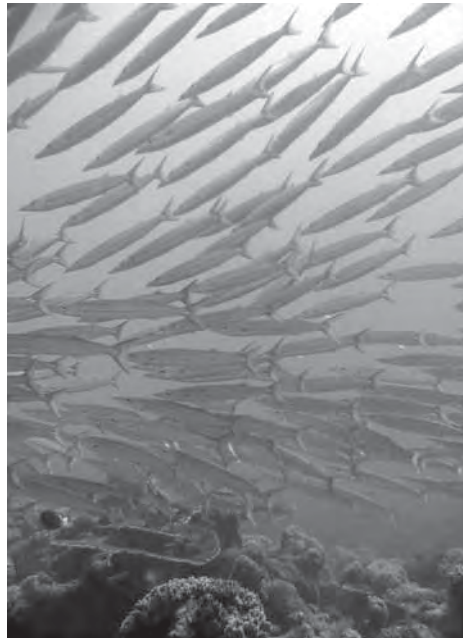
Australia's vast coastal waters and oceans contain some of the greatest arrays of marine biodiversity on Earth. Australia is the world's largest island, with a coastline stretching for over 32,000 kilometres. Australia's marine jurisdiction is larger than the mainland and covers some 14 million square kilometres of ocean.

The Director is responsible for a network of 26 Commonwealth marine reserves plus two marine conservation zones that have been declared under the EPBC Act. The reserves extend across the range of marine environments within Australia's marine jurisdiction, from southern sub-Antarctic waters through temperate southern waters to the tropical north.

Of the 26 declared Commonwealth marine reserves, management of the Heard Island and McDonald Islands

Marine Reserve is delegated to the Australian Antarctic Division, in recognition of the Division's wider responsibilities for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Territory and its expertise in working in the remote sub-Antarctic environment. The remaining Commonwealth marine protected areas are managed by the Marine Division of the Department under delegation from the Director.

A conservation zone is an interim protection measure while an area of land or sea undergoes a thorough assessment process to determine the need for permanent protection. Two conservation zones have been declared in areas of Australia's oceans and are being assessed for possible inclusion in marine reserves. The Heard Island





and McDonald Islands Conservation Zone was declared in 2002 and complements the marine reserve. A major development this year was the declaration of the Coral Sea Conservation Zone covering some 972,000 square kilometres of Australian waters and seabed east of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

More information on the management of Commonwealth marine reserves, including performance results for 2008–09, can be found in the State of the Parks report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08-09.

Through the Marine Division of the Department, the Australian Government is supporting a world-leading program of regional marine planning across Australia's ocean jurisdiction. Under the program, marine bioregional plans are being established for each of five regions – south-east, south-west, north-west, north and east – to guide the Minister, sectoral managers and industry about the key conservation issues and priorities in each region.

One of the major outcomes of the marine planning process is the identification and establishment of new marine protected areas, as part of developing a representative system of marine protected areas in Commonwealth waters. The Australian Government is committed to establishing this system by 2012, building and expanding on the existing network of Commonwealth marine reserves.

Commonwealth marine reserves in turn are a major component of the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas. In the early 1990s Australian governments agreed to establish a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of protected areas covering Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone. The system aims to contribute to the long-term ecological viability of marine and estuarine systems, to maintain ecological processes and systems, and to protect Australia's marine biodiversity at all levels.

More information on marine bioregional planning can be found in the Department's annual report.

Understanding and studying Australia's biodiversity

Commonwealth botanic gardens

Parks Australia is the custodian of three botanic gardens: the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Norfolk Island Botanic Garden and Booderee Botanic Gardens.

The Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) is a major national scientific, educational and recreational resource located in Canberra. The ANBG was one of the first botanic gardens in the world to adopt the study and display of indigenous species as a principal goal and the living collection currently contains one-third of the nation's known flowering plant species. As part of the living collection the ANBG is the custodian of one of the largest collections (in terms of species) of Australian plant seeds with an emphasis on threatened species. The ANBG also provides a diverse range of education and public programs to raise awareness of the value of Australia's unique flora.

Norfolk Island Botanic Garden maintains a living and herbarium collection of Norfolk Island's flora and contributes to raising awareness among the local community and visitors to the island through education and interpretation programs.

Formerly an annex to the ANBG and now part of Booderee National Park, Booderee Botanic Gardens represents the regional biodiversity of south-east coastal New South Wales with a strong focus on the relationship between plants and the park's Indigenous owners, the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community.

More information on the work of these botanic gardens, including performance results for 2008–09, can be found in the State of the Parks report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08-09.



A knowledge bank of Australia's biodiversity

Parks Australia's work on enhancing and sharing knowledge of Australia's biodiversity is delivered via the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research and the Australian Biological Resources Study.

The Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research is a joint venture between the ANBG and CSIRO Plant Industry. Its principal function is to document the identity, origin, occurrence, distribution and human impact of Australia's native and introduced plant species. The centre's cornerstone is the Australian National Herbarium which houses a collection of 1.3 million plant specimens, documenting the diversity of the Australian flora and providing voucher specimens for research, environmental studies and for the ANBG living collection. The herbarium is a major contributor to national projects which aim to disseminate biodiversity information, notably Australia's Virtual Herbarium and the Atlas of Living Australia, as well as to international projects such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

The aim of the Australian Biological Resources Study is to provide national support and leadership for the naming and classification of species to underpin world-class science-based decision-making. It pursues this aim through strategic funding partnerships that support species discovery research and invest in Australia's biodiversity collections. Its range of taxonomic publications, electronic databases and identification tools provides national references for species names and, through the National Taxonomy Research Grant Program, the Australian Biological Resources Study provides the only ongoing source of funding for taxonomic research in Australia. It also contributes to international forums and projects including the Global Taxonomy Initiative and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Decline in Australia's taxonomic capability is a particular challenge which the Australian Biological Resources Study is helping to address, through training and mentoring new scientists and supporting taxonomic research.

A highlight this year was the production of an education kit and poster to educate school students about Charles Darwin, his voyage of discovery and his contribution to science, as 2009 marks the 200th anniversary



of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*, Darwin's seminal work on evolutionary biology. The material was produced in conjunction with the Australian Science Teachers Association.

Outputs of the Australian Biological Resources Study, including performance results for 2008–09, are reported in the Department's annual report.

Managing access to genetic resources

The Director is responsible for development of Australian Government policy on management of Australia's genetic resources including regulating access to such resources in Commonwealth areas and benefit sharing arrangements. Parks Australia also works with state and territory agencies to support a nationally consistent regulatory approach for access to and use of Australia's native genetic and biochemical resources, and to promote best practice in the management of access to genetic resources. This year Victoria enacted measures to implement a nationally consistent approach to access and benefit sharing. Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Australian Government have already enacted such measures.

Outputs of the program to manage access to genetic resources, including performance results for 2008–09, are reported in the Department's annual report.

Providing national leadership

Parks Australia is the Australian national focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Director of National Parks is the focal point for one of the key thematic areas of the convention, namely protected areas. The Division, through its responsibilities as the lead for the Australian Government, works to enhance Australia's reputation as a positive and strategic party to the convention. Activities such as enhancing and sharing knowledge of Australia's biodiversity and promoting nationally consistent management of access to genetic resources contribute to implementing Australia's obligations under the convention.

The ANBG supports national coordination of the role of Australia's botanic gardens in conserving biodiversity through national forums such as the Council of Heads of Australia's Botanic Gardens. This year the ANBG took the leading role in developing a national strategy to guide Australia's botanic gardens in helping meet the challenge of climate change.



Case study: Taxonomy – an important tool in environmental weed management

Environmental weeds are one of the greatest threats to native plants and animals.

A research program at the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research is using taxonomic methods to unravel the genetic history of weeds and identify where they came from. The program is focusing first on the Weeds of National Significance, particularly weeds for which lack of taxonomic knowledge is hampering land managers' control efforts.

Plant scientists are combining tools from traditional taxonomy and from molecular systematics and ecology to determine the existence of distinct genetic races, the forces behind these variations, their geographic distribution and how they came to Australia. This knowledge will help with finding better targeted biocontrol agents for each weed species and will allow land managers to use traditional control methods more effectively.

Under the program, the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research is working closely with biocontrol entomologist Michael Day of Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries on lantana (*Lantana camara*), one of the Weeds of National Significance. The project is funded by the Australian Government's Commonwealth Environmental Research Facilities taxonomy research hub.

The precise origins of lantana are unclear due to a long history of horticultural breeding and a poorly resolved taxonomy. Genetic profiling under the project has shown that the source for the most invasive form of weedy lantana is likely to be a single widespread species with considerable variation.

The testing also indicated that lantana in Australia originated from Venezuela and the West Indies, suggesting that efforts to find a biocontrol agent should be refocused away from Mexico and towards those regions.

Other work has focused on flower colour. Scientists have found that flower colour is a poor marker for some genetic variants and instead varies within populations. Colours also vary throughout the Australian landscape and in their susceptibility to biocontrol agents. Colour is thus an important marker for predicting variation among lantana populations and how they interact with their environments.

This information will permit much more precise design of protocols for developing biocontrol agents.



Lantana is a Weed of National Significance. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts

Tourism and the National Landscapes program

Parks Australia and Tourism Australia have forged a partnership between tourism and conservation to identify and promote Australia's superlative landscapes to international visitors. National Landscapes extend beyond individual park boundaries or state and territory borders; instead they are defined by the world-class experiences that they offer.



Parks Australia's interest in the program is to enhance and promote the role of protected areas in the social and economic well-being of regional Australia. Parks that are important to the social fabric of a region are parks that are valued. National Landscapes aim to promote the sustainable use and protection of Australia's natural and cultural treasures.

By focusing on a discreet high yield target market known as the *Brand Australia* 'experience seeker', National Landscapes encourages collaboration between the parties that manage, preserve and promote the environment to build and sustain a strategic approach to environmentally responsible tourism.

The first eight National Landscapes were launched by the Minister for Tourism, the Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP, in July 2008. These are: the Australian Alps, Flinders Ranges, Australia's Green Cauldron, Australia's Coastal Wilderness, the Greater Blue Mountains, the Great Ocean Road, Australia's Red Centre and Kakadu. In June 2009, Kangaroo Island joined this group of superlative Australian experiences. Candidates in Western Australia and Queensland are amongst others actively developing their formal proposals for inclusion.

Each National Landscape must have strong management arrangements in place to ensure tourism returns benefits to the regional community and contributes to the region's natural values. A tourism master plan establishes a strategic approach to sustainable tourism with a focus on delivering world class experiences. The master plan further engages key stakeholders by fostering partnerships and identifying economic opportunities.

As the program has expanded, so has an awareness of the great opportunities that a positive and strategic relationship between tourism and conservation can deliver for the communities and the environment. Already the program has improved stakeholder cooperation and coordination in the Landscape regions, fostered regional development potential and tapped new funding opportunities. Recently this has included funding to highlight the Indigenous cultural value of the National Landscapes and open economic opportunities for Indigenous communities.

Case Study – Australia's Red Centre

Covering the region that encompasses Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park, the McDonnell Ranges and Alice Springs, Australia's Red Centre was the first National Landscape recognised in 2006. The region includes spectacular ancient desert mountain ranges and awesome monoliths. The immense and remarkable geological and landform features set on desert plains provide revered focal points to the Indigenous culture that has been present in this land for tens of thousands of years. The area is a mix of national parks, other reserves, Aboriginal lands and pastoral areas.

As a result of the National Landscape's focus on strategic planning, the Red Centre is experiencing increasing opportunities for regional cooperation, investment in infrastructure and economic development.

In February and March 2009, Tourism NT and industry partners urged Australian travellers to 'get ceNTred' in a campaign that showcased the sophistication and transformational appeal of the Red Centre National Landscape. The campaign aligned with National Landscapes branding in targeting the discerning adventure market – inviting people to experience the Red Centre through encounters with the people and the natural wonders of the region.

Incorporated into the campaign is the 'Red Centre Way', a project well underway. In recognition of project value, the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism has provided funding for signage to increase visitor safety and link Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park through five interpreted regions to Alice Springs. The sealing of the Mereenie Loop road and Larapinta Drive provides the final link for a safe, high standard circular route with the potential to become one of the world's outstanding desert mountains touring experiences.

Geoscience Australia partnered with the Parks Australia and the Red Centre National Landscapes Steering Committee to produce topographical maps of the region and digital media for visitor centres. This is a positive outcome for both land management agencies and visitors to Australia's Red Centre. For Geoscience Australia, an agency which previously has had limited involvement



Spectacular Kings Canyon is a popular attraction in Australia's Red Centre



Interpretation provided by rangers at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park enhance the visitor experience

in tourism, this project has opened future partnership opportunities in other Landscapes.

Alongside the drawcard of a spectacular natural environment, Indigenous cultural experiences are an important element in our National Landscapes, and this is

particularly the case for Australia's Red Centre. Recently, the Red Centre received \$48,000 in funding from the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism under the National Landscapes Indigenous Tourism program. Training has been provided to managers and supervisors from local tourism businesses that currently work with, or could employ Indigenous individuals as tour guides, increasing long term employment opportunities. This program complements the Indigenous Tour Guide training program funded through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in 2009.

Engaging the Indigenous community, to interpret and deliver experiences on their land aligns perfectly with the lucrative Experience Seeker market – visitors who want to go beyond the stunning landscape and learn from the Aboriginal people who live in the region and understand the way they see the world.

This year Parks Australia completed construction of Talinguru Nyakuntjaku within Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, which was opened by the Minister in October 2009. This new infrastructure will enhance the visitor experience of the environment and by opening opportunities for the indigenous community explore the economic prospects that tourism presents.

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is an iconic Australian landscape. Since the initial declaration of the area as a national park in the 1950s, many lessons have been learnt about the value of conservation and partnerships with Anangu, the traditional owners.

There are many challenges ahead, however, National Landscapes provides a platform for emphasising the importance of conservation and tourism working together to produce a sustainable and accessible experience for visitors and long term cultural and environmental benefits.





*Storm clouds over Uluru in the Red Centre illustrate
the dynamic nature of Australia's arid environment*

3 Organisational structure



Figure 4: Parks Australia organisation chart as at 30 June 2009

The executive team

Our staff

Table 5: Staffing profile as at 30 June 2009

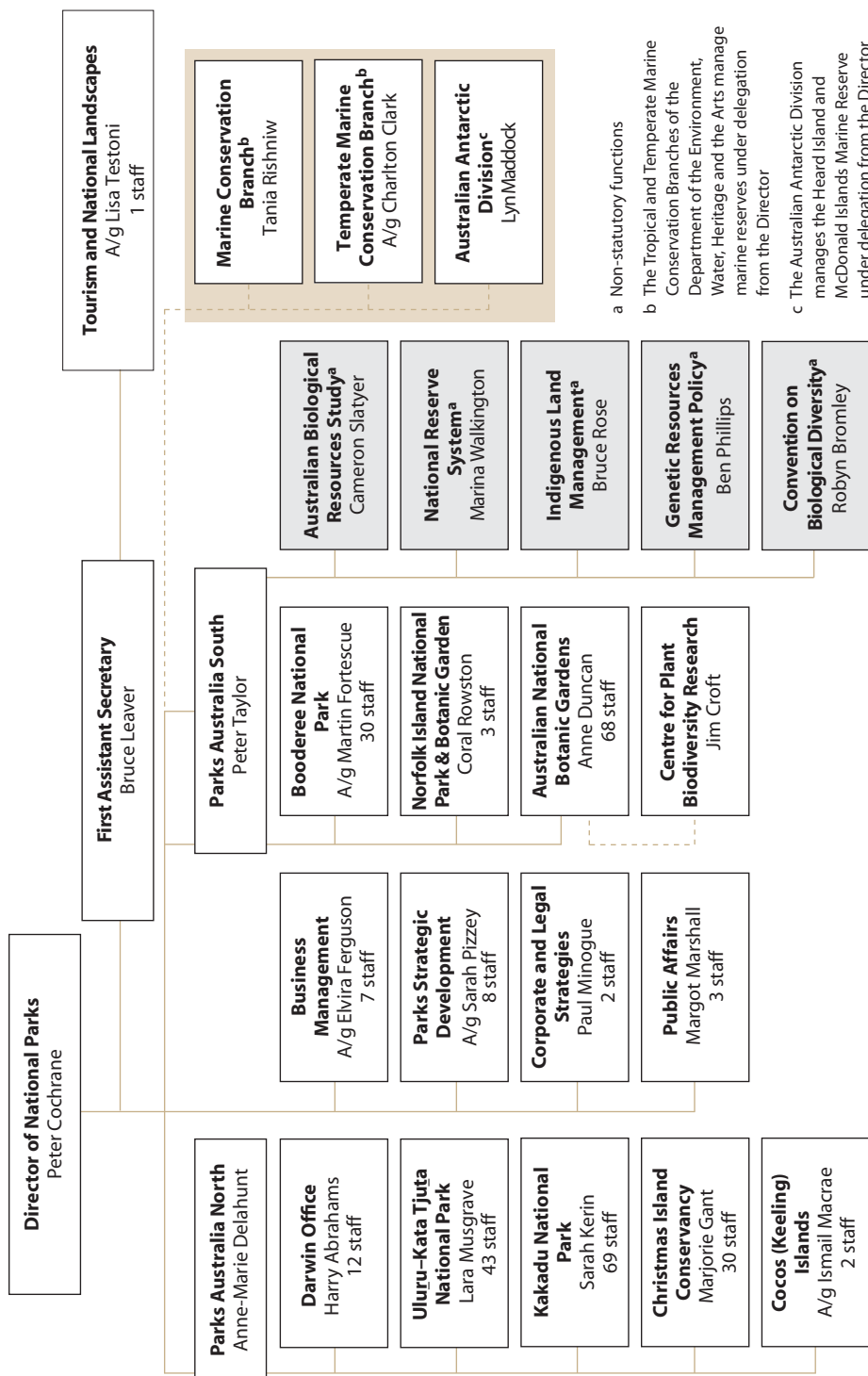
Boards of management

Table 6: Booderee National Park Board of Management

Table 7: Kakadu National Park Board of Management

Table 8: Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management

Figure 4: Parks Australia organisation chart as at 30 June 2009



The executive team



Peter Cochrane

Director of National Parks

Peter was appointed Director of National Parks in October 1999 and was reappointed in October 2002, November 2005 and again in December 2008. Priorities continue to be building relationships with traditional owners of jointly managed parks and other stakeholders, and improving agency performance, corporate governance, accountability, transparency and risk management.

Peter has worked for the oil and gas industry on national environment and competition policy issues and as an adviser to two Australian Government Ministers on environment and natural resources issues.

Peter has a Masters degree in Public Policy and a Bachelor of Science degree. He has a background in field ecology and the eco-physiology of native plants.



Bruce Leaver

First Assistant Secretary

Bruce has worked in conservation management agencies in New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia. He is a former Executive Director of the Australian Heritage Commission and has professional qualifications in forestry.

Bruce serves on the Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships Reef Advisory Committee and the Tourism and Recreation Reef Advisory Committee for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and on the Australian Capital Territory Bushfire Council. He is the convener of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee which oversees the cooperative management program for alpine national parks in Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.



Anne-Marie Delahunt

Assistant Secretary, Parks Australia North

Anne-Marie has almost 20 years experience in the Department, working primarily on biodiversity conservation issues.

Anne-Marie has worked with Indigenous communities on turtle and dugong conservation, with non-government organisations and the research community on whale protection, and with the Threatened Species Scientific Committee.

During her time with Parks Australia North, Anne-Marie has been honoured to work with traditional owners of both Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Kakadu and an outstandingly dedicated group of park staff across the four national parks that fall within her responsibility.



Peter Taylor

Assistant Secretary, Parks Australia South

Peter has over 30 years experience working with the South Australian and Australian governments. He has had a long involvement in the development of national policies and programs associated with conservation and protected areas. This work has included initiatives to engage Indigenous community knowledge and expertise in nature conservation, leading the early development of the Department's current marine protected area agenda, and working with governments and key industry partners to enhance the recognition and importance of Australia's National Reserve System.

Peter has a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology and a Graduate Diploma of Continuing Education.



Tania Rishniw

Assistant Secretary, Tropical Marine Conservation Branch

Tania joined the Department in January 2006 after four years as a Director in the Department of Finance and Administration. She has a strong background in policy and regulation and experience across a range of Australian Government agencies.

Before joining the Tropical Marine Conservation Branch Tania was responsible for the Environment Assessment Branch's EPBC Act approvals. She was involved in the reconstruction and development taskforce responding to the 2004 tsunami and the development and implementation of the Australian Government's cost recovery policy.

Tania has a Bachelor of Law degree with honours, and a Bachelor of Arts degree. She is currently completing a Master of Management degree.



Charlton Clark

Acting Assistant Secretary, Temperate Marine Conservation Branch

Charlton has worked in the Department since 2001. Before commencing his current role in October 2008, Charlton was responsible for management of aviation operations for the Australian Antarctic Division including the establishment of an air service between Australia and Antarctica. He has a strong background in program and risk management and has undertaken work in Antarctica on several occasions.

Before joining the Department, Charlton spent ten years in a variety of logistics operations and management roles in the Army in Australia and overseas.

Charlton has a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours and a Graduate Diploma in Business Administration.

Senior management team

Weekly meetings between the executive team and senior staff address strategic directions and current issues. The Assistant Secretary of Parks Australia North and her staff take part in the meetings via video link. Marine Division staff also participate in regular meetings, advising the Director on Commonwealth marine reserve issues. Where appropriate, video and telephone links are used to liaise with executive and senior staff of the Australian Antarctic Division with regard to the management of the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve.

Our staff

Human resources and related corporate services are provided to the Director through a purchaser-provider arrangement with the Department. Detailed information on human resources management, employment conditions and remuneration is contained in the Department's annual report for 2008–09.

The Director of National Parks employed an average of 293 staff during 2008–09. The majority are located at Booderee, Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks and the ANBG. There are also small offices in remote locations including Norfolk Island in the South Pacific Ocean and Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Indian Ocean.

The central office of Parks Australia is located in Canberra City. It is co-located with the Department's Marine Division, which manages Commonwealth marine reserves under delegation from the Director.

Sixteen graduate employees were engaged for three-month placements under the Department's graduate recruitment program as well as four trainees under the Department's school leaver traineeship program.

Parks Australia is committed to providing staff with the necessary skills to effectively and safely undertake their duties, both in the field and in the office environment. Internal and external training is accessible on a broad range of subjects including conservation and land management, horticulture, Indigenous skills and languages, rescue skills, customer service, the EPBC Act, fire control and suppression, leadership development, heavy vehicle and 4WD operation, record keeping and business systems. The Department offers assistance to staff in completing formal external training through the study support scheme.



John Harvey, Sue-Ann Brown, Bernie McLeod, Lorraine Ardler and Kain Ardler from Booderee Park, accepting the 2008 NSW Tourism Award for Indigenous Tourism.

Staff on remote islands are given opportunities to travel to the mainland for training and development, and departmental staff visit these reserves to provide training on such issues as occupational health and safety and geographic information system (GIS) applications. The availability of online study programs through a number of educational institutions is making tertiary study more accessible for staff in remote areas.

In the jointly managed parks we work with traditional owners, local Indigenous communities and schools to share knowledge. Traditional land management skills and the application of Indigenous knowledge are cornerstones in the management of these parks. We encourage the interest of school children in park management and conservation through Junior Ranger programs, where primary school students are introduced to various aspects of park management, including land management, plant and animal identification, and working safely. Our island parks also work closely with local schools to encourage appreciation of the national parks and their place in the local environment.

Indigenous trainees and cadets are employed in the three jointly managed parks. Trainee programs are designed to improve the skills of local people, particularly in conservation and land management. Trainees complete nationally accredited certificates and are provided with on-the-job experience such as assisting with ranger duties and natural resource management.

Table 5: Staffing profile as at 30 June 2009^(a)

		Executive	Park managers/ section heads	Operational, policy and planning management	Technical and other field staff	Rangers	Total
Parks South	Male	1	1	10	43	4	59
	Female	0	2	12	33	1	48
	Total	1	3	22	76	5	107
Parks North	Male	0	1	23	35	37	96
	Female	1	3	26	25	10	65
	Total	1	4	49	60	47	161
Head Office	Male	2	1	7	0	0	10
	Female	0	3	12	0	0	15
	Total	2	4	19	0	0	25
Totals	Male	3	3	40	78	41	165
	Female	1	8	50	58	11	128
	Total	4	11	90	136	52	293

(a) Staffing profile comprises employees responsible for the management of terrestrial reserves working for the Director, within the Parks Australia Division of the Department.

Boards of management

Boards of management have been established under the EPBC Act for Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Kakadu and Booderee National Parks. Tables 6, 7 and 8 show members of each board at 30 June 2009.

In conjunction with the Director, each board prepares management plans for the reserve, makes decisions relating to the management of the reserve in accordance with the management plan, monitors management and advises the Minister on future development.



Paul McLeod
Chair, Booderee National Park Board of Management

Paul was raised in the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community and has lived in the local area all his life. He actively participated in the negotiated handback of land including Booderee and Wreck Bay and the establishment of joint management arrangements for the park. Paul has a custodial relationship with lands in the broader region including Tomikan and Wandalian, Monaro/Ngargo, and Jaithmathang. As such he plays a significant role in the Australian Alps Traditional Owner Reference Group, and New South Wales Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Water Cultural Heritage Reference Group.

He has been employed by the New South Wales Marine Park Authority, providing advice and liaison for setting up the Jervis Bay and Batemans Bay Marine Parks.

Paul is a great advocate for maintaining links with country through knowledge of traditional dance, song and teachings.

Table 6: Booderee National Park Board of Management

Paul McLeod (Chair)	Traditional owner nominee
Jennifer Stewart	Traditional owner nominee
Craig Ardler	Traditional owner nominee
Joseph Brown-McLeod	Traditional owner nominee
Julie Freeman	Traditional owner nominee
James McKenzie	Traditional owner nominee
John Stewart	Traditional owner nominee
Peter Cochrane	Director of National Parks
Assoc. Prof. Robyn Bushell	Tourism expertise
Dr Todd Minchinton	Science expertise
Capt. John Vandyke	Department of Defence
Vacant	Attorney-General's Department

The term of the previous Booderee National Park Board of Management concluded in January 2009 and a new board was constituted. We thank the previous board members for their work.





Jacob Nayinggul

Chair, Kakadu National Park Board of Management

Jacob Nayinggul has been chair of the Kakadu National Park Board of Management since 2005. Jacob is a senior traditional owner of the Maniligarr clan, located in the north-east of Kakadu National Park. He has been on the board since its inception and is actively involved in the Gunbalanya community and the Djabiluka Aboriginal Association.

Jacob is highly respected and is especially well regarded throughout the region for his customary knowledge. He has a long history with both the establishment and management of Kakadu National Park.

Since his appointment as chair, Jacob has provided leadership during development of the fifth management plan for Kakadu, advised on the development of Twin Falls, helped develop a shared vision for tourism and provided guidance to park management on natural and cultural matters.

Table 7: Kakadu National Park Board of Management

Jacob Nayinggul (Chair)	Traditional owner nominee
Jessie Alderson	Traditional owner nominee
Jane Christophersen	Traditional owner nominee
Victor Cooper	Traditional owner nominee
Michael Bangalang	Traditional owner nominee
Ryan Barrowei	Traditional owner nominee
Jeffrey Lee	Traditional owner nominee
Yvonne Margarula	Traditional owner nominee
Mick Markham	Traditional owner nominee
Denise Williams	Traditional owner nominee
Peter Cochrane	Director of National Parks
Anne-Marie Delahunt	Parks Australia
Rick Murray	Tourism industry expertise
Dr Robert Wasson	Nature conservation expertise
Marilynne Paspaley	Northern Territory Government nominee



Harry Wilson
Chair, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management

Harry Wilson has been the chair of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management since the beginning of 2009. Harry is the grandson of Paddy Uluru, a senior custodian of Uluru. Harry is keen to continue the good work of the previous chair in maintaining Tjukurpa (traditional Aboriginal law in the western desert region), and supporting Anangu (western desert Aboriginal people) and the park in working together to keep Tjukurpa strong.

Table 8: Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management

Harry Wilson (Chair)	Traditional owner nominee
Bruce Breden	Traditional owner nominee
Alison Hunt	Traditional owner nominee
Rita Okai	Traditional owner nominee
Malya Teamay	Traditional owner nominee
Judy Trigger	Traditional owner nominee
Sammy Wilson	Traditional owner nominee
Vacant	Traditional owner nominee
Peter Cochrane	Director of National Parks
Tony Mayell	Northern Territory Government nominee
Vacant	Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism nominee
Vacant	Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts nominee

The term of the previous Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management concluded in September 2008 and a new board was constituted. We thank the previous board members for their work.





Kakadu's migratory wetlands are internationally recognised for their significance

4 Planning, reporting and performance



Director of National Parks strategic planning and performance assessment framework

Portfolio Budget Statements

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts strategic plan and corporate plan

Parks Australia Divisional Plan

Management plans

Management plan implementation schedules

Management plan prescriptions not implemented

Performance reporting

Table 9: Portfolio Budget Statements sub-outcome:
Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves

Director of National Parks strategic planning and performance assessment framework

This annual report is one element in the strategic planning and performance assessment framework for the Director of National Parks. Other framework elements are described in this chapter.

Portfolio Budget Statements

These documents detail Budget initiatives and appropriations against specific outcomes and outputs. The annual report completes the budget cycle by reporting on achievements for those outcomes and outputs in the year under review. The Director of National Parks is included in the Portfolio Budget Statements for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio and contributes to the achievement of Outcome 1 (Environment):

The environment, especially those aspects that are matters of national environmental significance, is protected and conserved

The Director contributes to meeting this outcome through the sub-outcome:

Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves

There is one output identified under the sub-outcome:

Output 1.1: Parks and Reserves

Table 9 reports performance information for Output 1.1 as identified in the Portfolio Budget Statements. Detailed performance information for individual Commonwealth reserves is included in the State of the Parks report which is available electronically at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08-09.

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts strategic plan and corporate plan

The Department's strategic plan outlines the key strategic issues and priorities at the Departmental level. It identifies agency priorities to achieve the objectives outlined in the department's corporate plan. Both plans provide the direction, context and purpose for the activities and programs supported by the Department.

Parks Australia Divisional Plan

This plan sets down the long-term outcomes and shorter-term outputs for the Director of National Parks against seven key result areas (KRAs), as follows:

- KRA1: Natural heritage management
- KRA2: Cultural heritage management
- KRA3: Joint management
- KRA4: Visitor management and park use
- KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships
- KRA6: Business management
- KRA7: Biodiversity and knowledge management

Not all key result areas are relevant to all reserves. For example, KRA3, joint management, applies only to the three jointly managed reserves: Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Kakadu and Booderee National Parks. The State of the Parks report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08-09 provides performance information on the key result areas that apply to individual reserves.

Strategies to achieve the outcomes in the Parks Australia Divisional Plan and the Department's strategic and corporate plans are detailed in Parks Australia branch, section, work team and individual work plans and in management plan implementation schedules.

Detailed information on performance against key result areas is in the State of the Parks report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08-09.

Management plans

Section 366 of the EPBC Act requires the Director, or in the case of a jointly managed park, the Director and the relevant board of management, to prepare management plans for Commonwealth reserves. Management plans provide for the protection and conservation of the reserve. They must state how the reserve is to be managed and how the features of the reserve are to be protected and conserved.

As at 30 June 2009, the Director was responsible for the management of 33 Commonwealth reserves, eight of which had management plans in place. Eleven reserves are being managed in accordance with the intent of their previous management plans, or in a manner consistent with their IUCN category, until replacement plans are finalised. Fourteen marine reserves were declared in 2007 and do not have a current management plan. They have interim management arrangements in place until suitable plans are finalised in consultation with the public and stakeholders.



Marine Bioregional Plans are currently being developed for Australia's marine jurisdiction and will identify new networks of Commonwealth marine reserves that will incorporate existing marine reserves. The management plans of seven existing marine reserves have expired and are being managed under interim management arrangements in accordance with the intent of their previous management plans. Interim management arrangements will remain in place for these reserves until the new networks of reserves are created and network management plans are adopted.

Management plan implementation schedules

Implementation schedules are part of the planning and performance assessment framework for terrestrial reserves. The schedules contain all the prescriptions (policies and actions) identified in a management plan. Each action-based prescription is broken down into projects, tasks and timeframes. These projects and tasks are assigned to staff members and incorporated into individual performance agreements.

Management plan prescriptions not implemented

During the life of a management plan some prescriptions may not be implemented due to redundancy, impracticality or a lack of resources. Technical audits of the Christmas Island National Park Management Plan and the Booderee National Park Management Plan, both of which expired in 2008–09, identified prescriptions that were not implemented over the life of the plan.

At Christmas Island, while the prescription to identify the exact boundaries of potential park extensions was undertaken, the identified areas were not added to the existing area of the park (Prescription 16.3(b)) within the life of the plan.

At Booderee, prescriptions relating to the development of a cultural heritage management program (Prescription 4.1) and the employment of a cultural sites officer (Prescription 4.6) were deferred through mutual agreement of the Booderee National Park Board of Management. The establishment of a weed management committee for the Jervis Bay Territory (Prescription 5.5.7) was not seen as advantageous and therefore not established.

Performance reporting

Table 9 summarises performance in achieving the sub-outcome 'conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves'. Due to differing and overlapping uses of planning terminology, the summary table uses key result areas, outcomes and indicators identified in the Parks Australia Divisional Plan and key performance indicators and targets set down in the 2008–09 Portfolio Budget Statements (in italics, marked 'PBS'). Additional information on performance against key result areas is in the State of the Parks report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08-09.

**Table 9: Portfolio Budget Statements sub-outcome:
Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth Reserves**

KRA1: Natural Heritage Management
<p>Outcomes (including PBS key performance indicators)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural values for which Commonwealth reserves were declared and/or recognised are maintained ^{PBS} The impacts of threats to natural values of Commonwealth reserves are minimised ^{PBS} <p>Performance indicators (including PBS targets)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of viable populations of selected significant species ^{PBS} No net increase in distribution/abundance of significant invasive species ^{PBS} Regular targeted monitoring of key values and threats undertaken Number of taxa in cultivation in botanic gardens as proportion of total number of species in taxonomic, ecological and geographic, and horticultural themes in the collection policy <p>2008–09 results</p> <p><i>Reserve management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Commonwealth reserves were managed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Australian IUCN reserve management principles set out in the EPBC Regulations Management plans for reserves continued to be developed and implemented in line with the EPBC Act requirements. Work commenced on preparing new plans for Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Booderee, Christmas Island and the ANBG An expert working group provided an interim report to the Minister on the decline of the pipistrelle bat (<i>Pipistrellus murrayi</i>) and broader island-wide biodiversity issues on Christmas Island. The status of the pipistrelle bat remains critically endangered and it could soon become extinct Preparation of regional recovery plans for Norfolk Island and Christmas Island continued. On-island consultation with Norfolk Island stakeholders was undertaken in May 2009 A project focusing on best practice biodiversity management in Booderee National Park secured funding from the Australian Research Council for a further five years 23,000 trees were planted on 18 hectares of new primary plantings and 23 hectares of secondary infill plantings as part of the rehabilitation of former phosphate mining sites on Christmas Island Kakadu hosted a climate change symposium in August 2008 that initiated the preparation of a climate change strategy for the park Seven new boobook owl (<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata</i>) nesting boxes were installed on Norfolk Island to bring the total number of nesting boxes to 28 Revegetation associated with construction areas of the re-aligned Uluru base walk was completed. This work included trials to determine the most effective method of maximising seed germination using small, low intensity fires in the vicinity of sown seeds <p><i>Botanic collection management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Australian Government has committed \$1.5 million to address the ANBG's water infrastructure needs as part of the National Water Security for Cities and Towns program. The design of major water infrastructure improvements to separate potable and non-potable water supplies was completed A program for <i>ex situ</i> conservation of alpine plants continued, with an emphasis on germplasm storage under controlled and cryogenic conditions. Seven field trips to the Mount Kosciuszko area were undertaken and 115 seed samples collected. The ANBG now has 150 species stored in the alpine seed bank



KRA1: Natural Heritage Management

- The ANBG completed a living plant census which will inform a comprehensive collection review in 2009–10. The ANBG grows 6,170 taxa out of an estimated 20,000 Australian plants that comprise the potential taxonomic, ecological and horticultural themes of the collection. The number of taxa in the living collection has fallen by 2.6 per cent, as nursery activities were reduced during the year in response to the continuing regional drought, compliance with local water restrictions and pending the outcome of the living collection review

Monitoring

- *Park managers have nominated 35 species across all terrestrial reserves to determine whether viable populations of selected significant species have been maintained. Of the selected species, the populations of 4 species (11.4%) are increasing; 12 species (34.3%) are remaining steady; 8 species (22.9%) are decreasing; and 11 species (31.4%) are data deficient*^{PBS}
- *Further information on monitoring of selected significant species is provided in the State of the Parks report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08-09*^{PBS}
- Biodiversity monitoring at Booderee indicates that numbers of key species are either steady, or rising in the case of the eastern bristlebird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*). Fox baiting has had positive results and emphasis is moving to removing bait-shy individual foxes. Although the number of long-nosed bandicoots (*Perameles nasuta*) has declined, the medium term population trend is stable. For the fourth year running, the threatened green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*) was not recorded in the park
- The methodology of the island-wide survey on Christmas Island was revised to include a scientifically rigorous sampling methodology for native skinks. Ongoing native reptile monitoring indicates that reptiles are undergoing a rapid population decline. Ongoing monitoring of the distribution of Christmas Island pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus murrayi*) has confirmed that the species is also in severe decline and at risk of extinction
- Threatened species surveys in recognised biodiversity hotspots at Kakadu continued as part of a three-year contract with the Northern Territory Government. Numbers and diversity of Kakadu's small mammal species declined further in line with regional trends
- Parks Australia continued to support research on magpie geese (*Anseranas semipalmata*) at Kakadu to examine critical relationships between geese and wetland food plants, seasonal dispersal patterns, the impact of disease on populations and the potential implications of sea level rise
- Monitoring and recording of nest sites and chicks for the Norfolk Island green parrot (*Cyanoramphus cookii*) and boobook owl continued. The green parrot population has continued to increase with 14 chicks recorded. Owl populations are steady which may indicate that existing habitat may have reached its carrying capacity
- Populations of the red-footed booby (*Sula sula*) and the Cocos buff-banded rail (*Gallirallus philippensis andrewsi*) at Pulu Keeling are steady
- At Uluru-Kata Tjuta, the annual survey of tjakura (great desert skink, *Egernia kintorei*) identified the highest number of active burrows in 12 years of monitoring. This may be due to an increase in population or increased and more effective search effort. Future surveys should clarify the trend
- The captive breeding population of mala (rufous hare-wallaby, *Lagorchestes hirsutus*) at Uluru-Kata Tjuta continues to increase

KRA1: Natural Heritage Management

- A database was developed to assist with ongoing population studies on regional southern right whales in the Great Australian Bight Marine Park. A study into Australian sea-lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) foraging behaviour and interactions with fishing vessels in the park was completed. Key recommendations of the study are currently being considered. Interactions between Australian sea-lions and fishing activities in the park and adjacent areas are currently being addressed through a number of processes including the finalisation of the Australian sea-lion recovery plan and the south-west marine bioregional planning process
- The final stage of a three-part sea snake monitoring program at Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island by Charles Darwin University reported a general decline in sea snake diversity and density at Ashmore Reef and a steady population at Cartier Island. Researchers have speculated that a change in the physical or chemical environment at Ashmore Reef may have caused the decline
- A water quality monitoring program was established at Ashmore Reef. The program records regular measurements of nine water quality parameters to allow changes over time to be detected. The results will be used to further investigate the decline in sea snakes at the reserve
- James Cook University undertook a marine survey of Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island in May 2009 to assess the abundance and diversity of small and large fishes, hard and soft corals, holothurians (sea cucumbers), trochus, *Tridacna* clams and marine megafauna. Preliminary results indicate that coral cover has increased since 2005 (increased significantly at Cartier Island); however the densities of sharks, pelagic fishes, trochus, holothurians and clams remain low
- A volunteer monitoring program, ReserveWatch, was launched at Mermaid Reef in June 2009. The program asks reserve visitors to report their observations on habitat condition and human impacts to park managers
- The Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute undertook a baseline biodiversity survey in the Cod Grounds in May 2009. Results of the survey will be published in late 2009
- The results of vegetation monitoring at Coringa-Herald since 2006 were summarised in a final report and field guide to flora. The report provides a comprehensive assessment of the reserve's flora and a detailed baseline for future monitoring. *Pisonia* and *Cordia* continue to suffer dieback as a result of the prolonged dry period and the impact of pest insects (despite some successes with the biological control program). *Argusia* is also suffering dieback due to unknown causes
- Monitoring at Coringa-Herald of *Pisonia* forest ecosystems, seabirds, terrestrial invertebrates and coral reefs continued
- A research and monitoring trip to Lihou Reef was undertaken in December 2008. Coral cover has increased since the 2004 survey and there are few signs of coral bleaching
- Data loggers to collect data on reef temperature and water conditions were replaced at Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs. The reserve is generally in good health with little coral bleaching and very little evidence of crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) activity
- A baited remote underwater video survey commenced at Lord Howe to build on information about benthic fish assemblages in deep water habitats collected in 2004
- Funding of research projects by the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute and CSIRO continued to obtain baseline biological information for several of the reserves in the South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network



KRA1: Natural Heritage Management

Invasive species management

- Park managers have nominated 20 significant invasive species across all terrestrial reserves to identify changes in overall distribution and abundance. Of the selected species, the populations of 6 species (30%) are increasing; 3 species (15%) are remaining steady; 2 species (10%) are decreasing; and 9 species (45%) are data deficient ^{PBS}
- Further information on monitoring of significant invasive species is provided in the State of the Parks report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08-09 ^{PBS}
- Approximately 400 hectares of bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) was sprayed at Booderee. Since 2004, Booderee's aerial spraying program has resulted in a 70 per cent reduction in the area of high density infestation
- Fauna surveillance cameras were used to monitor residual fox populations at Booderee with encouraging results
- 90 hectares of yellow crazy ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) supercolonies and 82 hectares of invasive woody weeds were treated on Christmas Island. An \$800,000 contract was signed with LaTrobe University to conduct research into the indirect biological control of yellow crazy ants. An aerial baiting program is being planned for late 2009
- Kakadu hosted a workshop on feral animals in December 2008 and continued to support an ongoing study of the impact of cane toads (*Bufo marinus*) on native frog populations in Northern Australia
- Weed control was undertaken in 5 of the 19 weed control coups identified in the Norfolk Island rehabilitation strategy. Under the strategy coups are treated on a two-yearly cycle to increase habitat opportunities for native species
- 25 wild cats were trapped on Norfolk Island under the feral cat control program and analysis of gut contents has commenced. Results of this analysis will provide valuable information on prey targets in the park
- Concentrated rabbit control was undertaken in the mala enclosure at Uluru including the release of rabbit calicivirus
- Approximately 15 hectares of buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) was removed from Uluru

Species relocation and captive breeding

- A captive breeding report was prepared for the Christmas Island pipistrelle bat and planning commenced for a capture attempt in August 2009
- Christmas Island commenced a capture and captive breeding program for native skinks including the blue-tailed skink (*Cryptoblepharus egeriae*)
- The last three captive Norfolk Island green parrots were released into the wild
- Kakadu continued to support a Northern Territory Government project to relocate golden bandicoots (*Isodon auratus*) onto an offshore island

KRA2: Cultural Heritage Management

Outcomes (including PBS key performance indicators)

- Cultural heritage values, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, for which parks were declared or are recognised are protected and conserved ^{PBS}
- Living cultural traditions are being maintained
- The impacts of threats to cultural values have been minimised
- Wide awareness and appreciation that parks are managed and presented as living cultural landscapes and seascapes

Performance indicators (including PBS targets)

- 100% of key sites, as agreed with traditional owners, inspected and treated as required ^{PBS}
- Adequacy and currency of inventories of cultural sites
- Level and nature of support provided by park management to maintain and promote traditional cultural values
- Histories, prehistories and knowledge recorded (oral, written and pictorial) where culturally appropriate

2008–09 results

- All key sites at Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta were inspected as agreed with traditional owners. Various treatments were undertaken as required. An inspection and treatment program is not yet in place at Booderee ^{PBS}

Inventories of cultural sites

- At Kakadu, the review of recorded cultural material, storage of cultural objects, and cultural heritage databases continued in consultation with Bininj/Mungguy. The review includes development of protocols to ensure that these sensitive cultural resources can be accessed appropriately and in a user-friendly format
- An assessment of all rock art sites was completed at Uluru-Kata Tjuta and conservation treatments began on women's sacred sites. The effectiveness of conservation treatments at public art sites on the Mala and Mutitjulu walks was assessed. The cultural site management system database was updated, including developing software to improve remote data capture and input

Maintenance and promotion of traditional cultural values

- In conjunction with Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council the cultural heritage strategy for Booderee was completed and cultural heritage content for the second management plan identified. Over 120 cultural interpretation sessions were conducted for visiting school groups and as part of the spring, summer and autumn school holiday programs
- Logistical support was provided by Uluru-Kata Tjuta park staff for Anangu attending Women's Law and Culture meetings
- At Kakadu, DVDs recording the views of traditional owners and local Indigenous people on various management issues were produced

Histories, prehistories and knowledge recording

- Kakadu continued to develop a register of oral history audio and video material and to record history from identified informants, in particular key traditional owners. A partnership agreement between the National Archives of Australia and the Director of National Parks was completed for the long-term storage and protection of audio and video materials currently held in the park
- Oral history recordings were completed at Uluru-Kata Tjuta about waterhole management in the park and the surrounding regions and information on fire knowledge and management was collated



KRA3: Joint Management

Outcomes (including PBS key performance indicators)

- *Joint management is practised through:*
 - implementation of lease provisions and prescriptions contained in management plans
 - implementation of relevant decisions made by boards of management
 - *growing capacity and increasing participation of traditional owners in park management in a positive and harmonious relationship* ^{PBS}

Performance indicators (including PBS targets)

- *5% increase in numbers of Indigenous staff and/or contractors providing park services* ^{PBS}
- Training provided for and undertaken by traditional owners and relevant Indigenous people (staff, contractors and community people)
- Contribution of Aboriginal enterprises operating in parks
- Proportion of board of management actions addressed within agreed timelines

2008–09 results

Indigenous staffing and contractors

- *There was a 3% decrease in the number of Indigenous staff (including intermittent and irregular employees) employed by the jointly managed parks* ^{PBS}
- *While Indigenous contractor numbers were unable to be accurately determined across the jointly managed parks, Wreck Bay Enterprises Ltd (the enterprise arm of the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council) continued to provide cleaning, road maintenance and entry station services to Booderee National Park. In recognition of the Council's desire to assume greater responsibility for delivery of park management functions, proposals were developed for the potential provision of ground maintenance, infrastructure maintenance and visitor centre services. Many Indigenous businesses provided park services at Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Kakadu* ^{PBS}

Training

- At Kakadu, relevant Aboriginal staff continued certificate level studies, numeracy and literacy training. Bininj staff continued with workplace English language and literacy training. A DVD outlining the opportunities and pathways available for young Aboriginal people to gain employment at Kakadu for circulation at local schools was completed
- At Booderee, a broad range of training was provided to Wreck Bay Enterprises Ltd, Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community and park staff in accordance with the training strategy
- 21 Junior Ranger activities were undertaken with Mutitjulu and Yulara primary schools at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Contribution of Aboriginal enterprises

- Anangu were employed through the employment agreement between the Mutitjulu Community and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, including incorporating a traditional knowledge and skills component in the agreement to acknowledge and recompense the specialised knowledge and skills of senior Anangu. Pitjantjatjara interpreters were engaged for board, consultative committee and other meetings to improve communication with traditional owners and community members
- Bininj were engaged in delivering interpretive and environmental programs at Kakadu
- Wreck Bay Enterprises Ltd contractors undertook \$1.8 million of works at Booderee National Park. Agreement was reached on services to be included in the second phase of outsourcing, draft service level agreements were drawn up and a timetable was drafted proposing outsourcing activities to Wreck Bay Enterprises Ltd by November 2009

KRA3: Joint Management

Boards of Management

- Two Board meetings were held at Uluru-Kata Tjuta and three each at Kakadu and Booderee
- Seven new traditional owner representatives were appointed to the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management
- Seven new traditional owners were appointed to the Booderee Board of Management

KRA4: Visitor Management and Park Use

Outcomes (including PBS key performance indicators)

- *Visitors to Commonwealth reserves enjoy inspirational, satisfying and safe experiences* ^{PBS}
- Visitor impacts (on reserve management, values, the environment and other visitors) are within acceptable levels
- Public awareness and appreciation of the values of Commonwealth reserves have been enhanced
- Commercial operators provide a high quality service to park visitors

Performance indicators (including PBS targets)

- *Reduction in number of risks identified in Risk Watch Lists as 'extreme,' 'very high' or 'high'* ^{PBS}
- *Greater than 80% of comments received from park users about their visit are positive* ^{PBS}
- Annual numbers, types and demographics of park visitors
- Annual numbers and demographics of people participating in educational, interpretive and other programs

2008–09 results

- *There was a reduction in the number of risks identified in Risk Watch Lists as 'extreme,' 'very high' or 'high'* ^{PBS}
- *Visitor surveys were undertaken at Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Kakadu, Booderee and Norfolk Island. All reserves recorded satisfaction from greater than 80% of park users. Uluru – 95% domestic, 92% international; Kakadu – 94% domestic, 91% international; Booderee – 97%; Norfolk Island – 86%* ^{PBS}

Visitor numbers

- An estimated 1.41 million people visited Commonwealth terrestrial reserves, a decrease of 3.9 per cent. Visitor numbers increased at Booderee (10.2%), Kakadu (0.8%) and Norfolk (5.6%). Visitor numbers were steady at Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling and decreased at Uluru-Kata Tjuta (4%) and the ANBG (17.6%)
- While the yearly trend at the ANBG is down, visitor numbers over the past 17 years show an upward trend. Yearly fluctuations are linked to weather conditions and the number of tourists visiting the ACT. The decline over the past year matches the decline in tourist numbers to other ACT attractions

Education/interpretation programs

- 11,060 students and 1,373 accompanying teachers/adults participated in education programs at the ANBG. A new school education program on biodiversity and climate change was developed and implemented at the ANBG
- Booderee staff delivered 114 school holiday interpretation sessions, focusing on Aboriginal cultural values and conservation themes, with over 3,000 attendees. A further 40 interpretation sessions were delivered to primary schools, high schools, universities and special interest groups, with more than 1,500 attendees in total



KRA4: Visitor Management and Park Use

- Uluru-Kata Tjuta staff delivered 161 presentations to visitors to the cultural centre, 82 presentations to school groups and 22 orientation sessions for Ayers Rock Resort staff. A total of 8,145 visitors attended the daily ranger-guided Mala Walk at Uluru
- New interpretive brochures on Christmas Island species were produced

Visitor facilities

- The upgrade of visitor facilities at Booderee continued including mains water and a new public shelter at Green Patch, Murrays Beach boat ramp, Booderee Botanic Gardens walking trails and bridges, visitor information signs, roads and management trails and ongoing installation of water and electricity saving devices
- Walking tracks and viewing platforms were completed at Talinguru Nyakuntjaku in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and the new North Eastern track was opened to visitors. This realigned track affords visitors better views of Uluru through a range of habitats. The track was built by rangers and Mutitjulu community members
- Eight new sections of the Norfolk Island botanic garden boardwalk upgrade were completed

Awards

- Booderee National Park won the 2008 New South Wales Indigenous Tourism award; was a finalist in the 'best New South Wales tourist attraction' category; won an Award of Distinction for the Tourist Attraction category at the South Coast Tourism Awards; and won a Commendation for Excellence in Environmental Innovation from the New South Wales Caravan and Camping Industry Association. Green Patch Beach won the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Award for resource protection in recognition of recycling, energy and water efficiency initiatives

Kakadu brand

- The new Kakadu brand was launched, including a new logo for the park, new uniforms for Park staff and a new Visitor Guide and Park Notes. A new branded Kakadu website for visitors was established which will help match visitor expectations to experiences in the park as well as conveying essential information to travellers. Interpretive signage and park entry stations were updated to reflect the new brand

KRA5: Stakeholders and Partnerships

Outcomes (including PBS key performance indicators)

- *Stakeholders and partners are involved in contributing effectively to park management activities* ^{PBS}
- Volunteers and community groups (including Indigenous community groups) contribute to protected area management
- Commercial partnership opportunities are encouraged and evaluated

Performance indicators (including PBS targets)

- *Stakeholders and partners are actively involved during the year* ^{PBS}

2008–09 results

- *Stakeholders and partners were actively involved and contributed effectively to park management activities. Key stakeholders included national and regional tourism organisations, industry groups, universities, non-government organisations and community groups* ^{PBS}
- *Research partnerships continued with a range of organisations such as the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service, CSIRO, Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University, Australian National University, University of Canberra, Charles Darwin University and the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute* ^{PBS}
- *Constructive partnerships in managing Commonwealth reserves continued with: relevant state government agencies, the Department of Defence, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service* ^{PBS}
- Meetings were held with stakeholders to discuss the preparation of new management plans for Commonwealth reserves, seeking stakeholders' views and suggestions
- The ANBG took a leadership role within the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens in developing a national climate change adaptation strategy and action plan for botanic gardens. The strategy was endorsed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council in November 2008
- The partnership between the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research and the new Australian Tropical Herbarium in Cairns was consolidated. The collections management is now working smoothly based on database services provided by the ANBG and the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research
- The ANBG and Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research entered into a partnership with the Australian Biological Resources Study and the Atlas of Living Australia to develop and manage a common taxonomic infrastructure for the Australian Faunal Directory, the Flora of Australia, the Australian Plant Census and the Australian Plant Name Index and to develop web service for the Atlas of Living Australia
- At Christmas Island, cooperative cat control approaches are continuing with stakeholders including Victorian and Western Australian Government researchers, the Shire of Christmas Island and Christmas Island Phosphates. Parks Australia worked with the Shire of Christmas Island to prepare an island-wide cat management plan, supported a national feral cat bait trial and contributed funds for desexing domestic cats
- In July 2008, the first eight National Landscapes were launched by the Minister for Tourism, the Hon Martin Ferguson AM MP. These landscapes are the Australian Alps, Flinders Ranges, Australia's Green Cauldron, Australia's Coastal Wilderness, the Greater Blue Mountains, the Great Ocean Road, Australia's Red Centre and Kakadu. In June 2009, Kangaroo Island was added to the list of National Landscapes



KRA6: Business Management

Outcomes (including PBS key performance indicators)

- *Planning and decision-making is based on best available information; legislative obligations and Government and Director of National Parks policies* ^{PBS}
- *Management regimes are adapted to respond to information about impacts of climate change and improved technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions* ^{PBS}
- Financial and business management is based on better practice and Government requirements
- High levels of staff expertise and performance are recognised and valued
- Obligations under the EPBC Act and Regulations relating to management of Commonwealth reserves are complied with

Performance indicators (including PBS targets)

- *8 management plans and 4 implementation schedules in place* ^{PBS}
- *80% of management prescriptions in management plans subject to technical audits are completed* ^{PBS}
- *3 parks with climate change strategies in place* ^{PBS}
- *3 actions implemented which reduce greenhouse gas emissions* ^{PBS}
- No 'A' or 'B' findings from the annual ANAO audit of Director of National Parks financial statements
- Successful operation of business continuity plan
- Annual number of reportable incidents involving staff and park users
- Expenditure does not exceed budget

2008–09 results

Management Planning

- *Four terrestrial reserve management plans are in place. Draft management plans are being prepared for Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Booderee, Christmas Island and the ANBG* ^{PBS}
- *Four terrestrial reserve implementation schedules are in place. Implementation schedules are not in place for the reserves with expired management plans* ^{PBS}
- *Technical audits on the implementation of the Christmas Island and Booderee management plans were conducted. For Christmas Island, 63% of management prescriptions in the management plan were fully completed, 36% were partially completed and 1% were not commenced. For Booderee, 95% of prescriptions were fully completed, 4% were partially completed and less than 1% were not commenced* ^{PBS}
- The Director and Parks Australia staff continued to strive to meet best practice standards in the management of Commonwealth reserves
- The ANBG undertook a major consultation process with communities around Australia on people's perceptions and expectations about the ANBG's role as a national institution. This information is contributing to the preparation of the third management plan

Climate Change

- *Climate change strategies have been drafted for Kakadu, Booderee and the ANBG. Strategies identify actions to address five key objectives:*
 - *Understanding the implications of climate change*
 - *Maximising the resilience of our reserves*
 - *Reducing our carbon footprint*
 - *Working with communities, industries and stakeholders to mitigate and adapt to climate change*
 - *Communicating the implications of climate change and our management response* ^{PBS}

KRA6: Business Management

- Greenhouse gas emissions increased by 4 per cent over the year due to more accurate measurement of waste generation and an increase in the use of diesel powered generators at Uluru-Kata Tjuta and more accurate measurement of vehicular diesel usage at Booderee. There has been an 8 per cent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions over the past two years ^{PBS}
- While there was an increase in greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources (e.g. purchased or generated electricity) of 3 per cent, there was a significant reduction in emissions from transport sources of around 21 per cent. Key energy reduction activities undertaken by the parks included:
 - Reducing the vehicle fleet and introducing more fuel efficient vehicles at the ANBG, Booderee and Kakadu
 - Installing energy saving devices such as solar powered irrigation system controllers and 'soft start' airconditioning at the ANBG, automated sensor lights in public areas at Norfolk Island and energy efficient light globes at Kakadu
 - Removal of all off-park electrical equipment such as the radio repeater station at Norfolk Island ^{PBS}
- Planning and procurement approval has commenced at Uluru-Kata Tjuta to provide solar power augmentation for the park headquarters and the cultural centre ^{PBS}
- Further information on greenhouse gas emission reporting is provided in the environmental sustainability report at Appendix B

Financial and Business Management

- The Auditor-General issued an unqualified audit report for the 2008–09 financial statements of the Director of National Parks. There were no 'A' or 'B' findings from the ANAO audit of the financial statements
- The business continuity plan was not called upon during the year. The plan was updated to cater for the potential impact of H1N1 Influenza 2009 virus on the operations of Parks Australia
- Parks Australia recorded 165 occupational health and safety accidents or incidents. This was significantly lower than last year (211) with a reduction in both staff incidents (78 to 73) and visitor incidents (133 to 92)
- Expenditure did not exceed income
- Norfolk Island undertook and commenced implementation of an organisational review aimed at allocating and prioritising resources to meet the aims of the park's management plan. Christmas Island and Uluru-Kata Tjuta continued the implementation of organisational reviews conducted in 2007–08
- Staff and community members at jointly managed parks undertook training with an emphasis on contract and project management, fire preparedness/fighting and supervisory and management skills



KRA7: Biodiversity Knowledge Management

Outcomes (including PBS key performance indicators)

- *High quality, comprehensive and current information is available to the Australian community to facilitate and foster understanding^{PBS}, appreciation, sound conservation and appropriate use of Australian biodiversity*

Performance indicators (including PBS targets)

- *5% increase in website hits and publications accessed^{PBS}*
- *Commonwealth reserves website redeveloped and maintained to a high standard^{PBS}*
- The number of biodiversity information publications and resources provided

2008–09 results

Websites and publications

- *The Parks Australia website (environment.gov.au/parks) received 427,415 'unique' visits for the year (averaging 1,171 'unique' visitors per day). There were 79,935 'unique' views of online Parks Australia publications (an average of 219 'unique' views per day). Due to unavoidable changes to the department's web monitoring systems in March 2009, comparisons with the previous year's usage cannot be provided. Comparative data will be available in next year's annual report^{PBS}*
- *Visitation to the ANBG website (anbg.gov.au) increased by 5% over 2007–08^{PBS}*
- *The Commonwealth reserves website continued to be redeveloped and updated with an increase in interactive and rich media elements^{PBS}*
- Information about each Commonwealth reserve is available in hardcopy and electronically

Biodiversity Knowledge

- The ANBG added 19,223 herbarium specimens to the Australian National Herbarium Specimen Information Register with a total of 815,841 collection specimens now recorded
- The Australian Plant Image Index was updated with 4,592 additional images accessible on the internet
- Redevelopment of the ANBG website commenced to update content, modernise the site's appearance and improve site navigation
- Significant progress was made on an agreed list of scientific names for Australia's flowering plants through management of the Australian Plant Name Index and the National Collaborative Australian Plant Census project
- The Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research successfully tendered to manage the weed images for the department's Weeds in Australia website. The agreement will result in the addition of weed images to the Australian Plant Image Index which previously concentrated on native plants
- The ANBG and Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research participated in national and international biodiversity information management and technical infrastructure projects including the Atlas of Living Australia, Australian Faunal Directory, Taxonomy Research and Information Network, Australian Plant Census, Australia's Virtual Herbarium, Global Biodiversity Information Facility, Encyclopaedia of Life and the Taxonomic Databases Working Group
- Information brochures on Commonwealth marine reserves were distributed to key stakeholders, including researchers and commercial tour operators. The brochures included details of effective quarantine measures to be undertaken by visitors
- Educational products on the South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network (including bulletins, user guides, posters, brochures and a DVD) were distributed to stakeholders and the community

5 Management and accountability



Corporate governance

Ministerial directions

Funding

Planning documents

Executive management

Boards of management and advisory committees

Other consultative mechanisms

Control arrangements

Figure 5: Risk management benchmarking scores for the Director of National Parks in 2008–09 compared to the average for 126 Australian Government agencies

External review

Occupational health and safety

Table 10: Five-year overview of safety incident records for terrestrial reserves

Compliance and enforcement under the EPBC Act

Table 11: Compliance and enforcement in terrestrial reserves during 2008–09

Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

Freedom of information

Corporate governance

The Director of National Parks is responsible, under the EPBC Act, for the management of Commonwealth reserves established over Commonwealth-owned land, Commonwealth marine areas and certain areas of Aboriginal land leased to the Director. The Director of National Parks corporation is a Commonwealth authority and is subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act). The Director is a corporation sole constituted by the person who holds the office that is also named the Director of National Parks.

The Director is responsible to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP.

Ministerial directions

The EPBC Act requires the Director to perform functions and exercise powers in accordance with any directions given by the Minister, unless the EPBC Act provides otherwise. The Minister responsible for the CAC Act may also notify the Director of general policies of the Government that are to apply to the Director via a General Policy Order.

During 2008–09 no Ministerial directions were issued and there were no directions continuing from previous years.

The Director is subject to directions given by the Minister for Finance and Administration in December 2004 under section 47A of the CAC Act in relation to the application of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.

Funding

The EPBC Act makes provision for funding the Director of National Parks. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts receives the appropriation for the Director of National Parks. In effect, the Department purchases park management services from the Director to contribute to the Department's Outcome 1. The Director is the sole provider of statutory functions and powers for establishing and managing Commonwealth reserves.

The Department also has an arrangement to provide corporate services to the Director. The Department's Parks Australia Division supports the Director's work.

During 2008–09 the Department provided \$44.2 million to the Director of National Parks under the purchaser-provider arrangement (see the audited financial statements at Chapter 6 of this report). This arrangement was effective, providing the resources that enabled the Director to meet the targets set in the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Portfolio Budget Statements 2008–09.

Planning documents

For information about the strategic planning and performance assessment framework, see Chapter 4 of this report.

Executive management

The holder of the office of Director of National Parks and three senior executives provide leadership in Parks Australia (see Chapter 3 of this report). Weekly meetings of the executive team provide the primary management forum for developing and reviewing park policy priorities and strategic and corporate goals.

In addition to the Parks Australia executive team, two senior executives in the Department's Marine Division are responsible, under delegation from the Director of National Parks, for management of 25 Commonwealth marine reserves and the Director of the Australian Antarctic Division is responsible for management of one marine reserve.

Parks administration faces a number of specific challenges including widely distributed workplaces in remote areas, many in a cross-cultural environment. Coordination between area managers, Canberra-based managers and the executive team is vital. Key communication activities include regular phone link-ups and the annual Parks Australia Forum involving all senior managers.

Staff participation through consultative committees, both regional and Canberra based, supports the internal management of Parks Australia.



Members of the Parks Australia Executive, park managers, directors and other senior managers attended a recent Parks Australia Forum held in Canberra to discuss strategic directions and current issues and to share knowledge



Boards of management and advisory committees

Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Booderee National Parks are managed jointly by the Director and the traditional Aboriginal owners, in accordance with the EPBC Act. Each park has a board of management established under the Act, with a majority of members being Indigenous people nominated by the traditional owners of land in the park. Membership of the boards also includes the Director, nominees of the Northern Territory Government (for Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks) and members representing special interest groups or with particular skills relevant to managing the park (see Chapter 3 of this report for board members).

The function of a Commonwealth reserve board of management is to make decisions relating to the management of the reserve that are consistent with its management plan. A board, in conjunction with the Director, is also responsible for preparing management plans, monitoring management of the reserve and advising the Minister on the reserve's future development.

Norfolk Island, Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling National Parks have non-statutory advisory or consultative bodies which include community representatives and representatives of the Director.

Other consultative mechanisms

The EPBC Act requires public consultation prior to the declaration of a Commonwealth reserve and in the preparation of management plans for reserves that have been established under the Act.

For Commonwealth reserves that include Aboriginal-owned land the EPBC Act provides for both consultation with, and involvement of, representatives of the Aboriginal landowners about the management of the reserve. The Director must consult with, and have regard to, the views of the chair of the relevant land council in relation to the performance of the Director's functions and the exercise of the Director's powers in relation to the reserve. The land council chair must be specifically invited to comment on the preparation of management plans.

Additional consultation with traditional Aboriginal owners of Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Booderee National Parks takes place through cultural advisers, Aboriginal staff, community liaison officers, Aboriginal organisations, and special consultative committees.

The EPBC Act also requires the Northern Territory Government to be consulted in relation to the performance of the Director's functions and the exercise of the Director's powers in relation to Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Parks, and to be invited to comment on the preparation of management plans for those parks.

Tourism industry interests are consulted through the tourism consultative committees of the Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta Boards of Management and other ad hoc working groups.

Control arrangements

Director of National Parks Chief Executive Instructions

The Chief Executive Instructions guide Parks Australia staff in assisting the Director to carry out the Director's functions and to meet the Director's statutory obligations. Policies and procedures sit under the Chief Executive Instructions and are subject to regular review.

Audit

An Audit Committee is established for the Director in accordance with the CAC Act. During the year the Audit Committee met four times and addressed corporate governance issues including risk management and financial management.

During 2008–09 internal audits were undertaken of: the service delivery agreement between the Director and the Department under which corporate services are provided to the Director; visitor service management; environmental sustainability reporting; and the project management framework. The committee also endorsed the process for preparation of the 2008–09 financial statements.

Members of the committee at 30 June 2009 were:

- Paul Hickey, independent member and Chair
- Brian Gilligan, independent member
- Peter Hoefer, independent member
- Peter Cochrane, Director of National Parks

The Assistant Secretaries for Parks Australia and the Director of the Business Management Section were also invited to attend committee meetings. Staff from the Australian National Audit Office, the Department's Finance Branch and the internal audit service provider also attended meetings as observers.

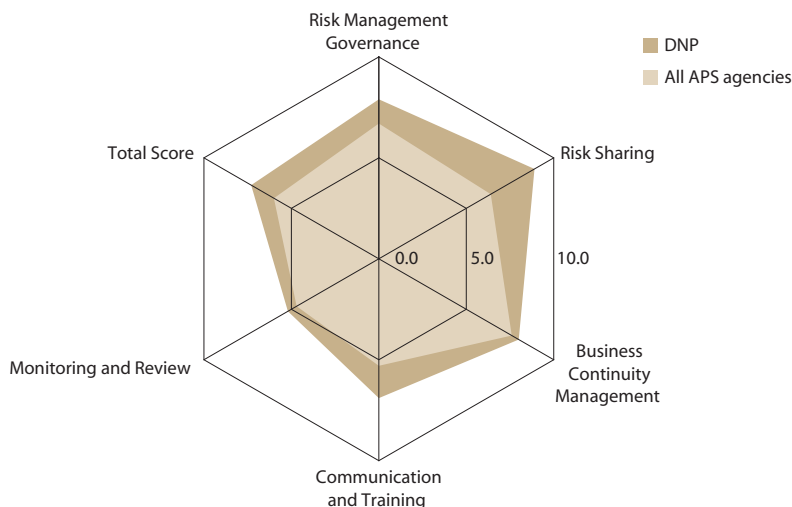
Risk management

Risk watch lists for each park or business unit are periodically reviewed in accordance with the Director's Risk Management Policy. Incidents in all workplaces, categorised under the key result areas, are reported monthly to the executive team.

The Director has participated in the Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking scheme since 2002–03. The Director's risk management system was rated average in 2002–03 and has risen since then. In 2008–09 the Director scored 7.3 out of a possible 10 and for the last four years the Director has consistently scored above the average for all Australian Government agencies.



Figure 5: Risk management benchmarking scores for the Director of National Parks in 2008–09 compared to the average for 126 Australian Government agencies (Source: Comcover 2009)



One element of risk management is a business continuity plan covering all Parks Australia sites. The plan was not called upon during the year.

Indemnities and insurance

In 2008–09 the Director maintained comprehensive insurance cover through Comcover, the Australian Government’s general insurance fund, for the Director’s business operations, including general liability and professional indemnity, and directors and officers’ liability. No incidents generated a major insurance claim during the year.

The Director also manages risk by requiring all commercial operators, contractors, and scientific researchers in Commonwealth reserves to indemnify the Director and the Commonwealth and maintain appropriate levels of insurance for their activities.

External review

Judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals

There were no judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals during the year that had, or may have, a significant impact on the Director’s operations.

Commonwealth Ombudsman

There were no formal reports from the Commonwealth Ombudsman during the year.

Reports by the Auditor-General

The Auditor-General issued an unqualified audit report for the 2008–09 financial statements of the Director of National Parks.

Occupational health and safety

This section is presented in accordance with the requirements of section 74 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991*.

The Director of National Parks continued to maintain a strong commitment to the health, safety and welfare of Parks Australia staff. Parks Australia was an active participant on the Department's Occupational Health and Safety Committee. Occupational health and safety committees in the three mainland national parks, the Christmas Island–Cocos (Keeling) Islands Conservancy and at the ANBG considered and addressed local issues. The Department's annual report contains detailed occupational health and safety information.

Parks Australia staff, by the nature of their work, face a diverse range of hazards. The main hazards include fieldwork in remote and arduous locations, plant and machinery, chemicals and hazardous substances, handling unpredictable wildlife, manual handling, driving vehicles and static posture injuries from using desktop equipment.

ParkSafe, Parks Australia's integrated occupational health and safety management system, has been in place since 2004. It is designed to provide a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and contractors working for Parks Australia. All relevant policy and procedural information is available electronically. Ongoing revision of the system continued during the year to improve its effectiveness, including further upgrades of all job safety analyses. ParkSafe is used as a model for field operations by other divisions of the Department.

This year ParkSafe training was conducted at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. In addition to ParkSafe training, most staff members were expected to maintain a score of 80 per cent on the Department's online SafeTrac occupational health and safety course.

During 2008–09 Parks Australia recorded 165 occupational health and safety accidents or incidents (see Table 10). This was significantly lower than the total number recorded last year (211) with a reduction in both staff incidents (78 to 73) and especially visitor incidents (133 to 92).



Some 65 per cent of the staff incidents were strains, animal threats, bites and scratches and vehicle incidents. There were reductions in most visitor incident types compared to previous years but most significantly in the heat stress category (11 in 2007–08 to four in 2008–09). Heat stress has been predominantly associated with Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

Unfortunately the visitor incidents for 2008–09 included four fatalities. While there was a slight reduction in the number of highway rollovers at Kakadu the severity of the incidents increased, resulting in three deaths. The fourth death involved the disappearance of a visitor to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park whose body was found three months later.

As noted in last year’s report, Comcare issued a prohibition notice under section 46 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act in May 2008, relating to an incident concerning roadworks in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park which Comcare investigated. This notice remained in place during the year pending the release of the Comcare report. There were no matters to report under sections 45 or 47 of the Act.

Table 10: Five-year overview of safety incident records for terrestrial reserves

	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Staff, volunteers and contractors					
Minor injury or near miss ^(a)	76	68	77	57	41
Moderate injury ^(b)	18	22	12	21	31
Major injury ^(c)	2	2	0	0	1
Total	96	92	89	78	73
Visitors, permit holders and residents					
Minor injury or near miss ^(a)	87	88	80	84	60
Moderate injury ^(b)	40	46	35	42	21
Major injury ^(c)	14	10	3	6	7
Death	1	1	0	1	4
Total	142	145	118	133	92

(a) Includes near miss, no injury or first aid treatment only.

(b) Includes treatment by paramedics or at a medical centre/hospital.

(c) Includes significant hospitalisation (more than 2 days).

Compliance and enforcement under the EPBC Act

Wardens and rangers are appointed under the EPBC Act to exercise enforcement powers under the Act and its Regulations for Commonwealth reserves (members of the Australian Federal Police and officers of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service are *ex-officio* wardens by force of the Act). All law enforcement officers are required by the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines to hold statements of attainment in relevant modules of the Diploma in Government (Fraud Control–Investigations).

A whole-of-government approach is taken to compliance and enforcement in Commonwealth marine reserves. In addition to the role of Australian Federal Police and Customs officers, officers from other agencies, including the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, state and territory police, and fisheries and conservation agencies can be appointed wardens under the EPBC Act after the required training. These arrangements greatly improve the Director's ability to enforce the EPBC Act in remote and infrequently visited Commonwealth reserves.

The following enforcement matters were determined by courts during 2008–09:

- On 14 November 2008 one person was convicted on two counts of taking and moving members of a listed migratory species (estuarine crocodile) in Kakadu National Park on 12–13 April 2004 and was fined a total of \$1,000.
- On 14 April 2009 one person was convicted of carrying out recreational fishing activities in the Sanctuary Zone of the Solitary Islands Marine Reserve on 14 May 2008 and in his absence was fined \$500 plus court costs.
- On 24 April 2009 one person pleaded guilty to carrying out recreational fishing in the Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve. The charge was proved and dismissed pursuant to section 19B(1)(c) of the Crimes Act 1914.

Table 11: Compliance and enforcement in terrestrial reserves during 2008–09

	Members of the public	Tourism operators	Other commercial operators
EPBC Act incidents detected	126	0	0
Offenders unknown	16	0	0
Verbal cautions issued	41	1	0
Warning letters issued	15	1	0
Infringement notices issued	20	0	0
Continuing investigations	0	1	0
Permit suspensions	0	0	0
Court cases pending	1	0	0
Cases taken to court	0	0	0
Convictions	1	0	0

Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

All of the Director's activities have an impact on ecologically sustainable development. Commonwealth reserves are managed to conserve and enhance their natural and cultural values for current and future generations. Only development activities that are consistent with the primary management objectives may be permitted.

The provisions of the EPBC Act ensure that management plans for Commonwealth reserves properly integrate environmental, economic and social considerations, and that appropriate environmental monitoring and reporting regimes are in place.

The Director's statement under section 516A of the Act relating to the organisation's contribution to ecological sustainable development and environment performance is provided at Appendix B.

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

The Commonwealth Disability Strategy is a framework for Australian Government departments to help them improve access for people with disabilities to government programs, services and facilities. The strategy includes a performance reporting framework built around the five key roles of government: policy adviser, regulator, purchaser, provider and employer.

The Department has developed a Disability Action Plan 2009–2011 to meet the needs of people with disabilities in accordance with the roles identified by the Commonwealth Disability Strategy. Information on the strategy is contained in the Department's annual report for 2008–09.

Provision of access to Commonwealth reserves for tourism and recreation is a significant part of the Director's responsibilities. As reserve managers, Parks Australia, the Marine Division and the Australian Antarctic Division come under the 'provider' role of the strategy.

Given the locations and nature of the terrain, access for people with a disability to the reserves varies. Some marine reserves are very remote and without facilities, whereas a number of the major tourist destinations in the three mainland national parks – Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Booderee – and the ANBG are accessible by wheelchair. Management plans developed through a consultative process address current and proposed levels of accessibility.

Freedom of information

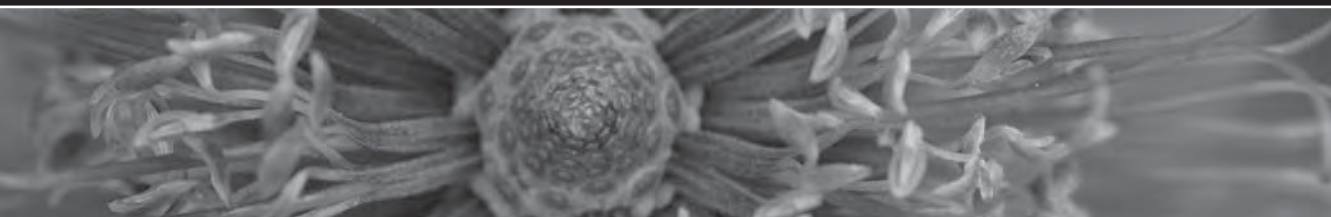
No applications were received relating to the Director's statutory functions under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. The Director's statement under section 8 of the Act is at Appendix C.





Pristine coastal habitats in Booderee are home to a range of waterbirds and other species

6 Financial Statements



**Director of National Parks financial statements and audit report
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

CONTENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS


Independent audit report	77
Statement by the Director and Chief Financial Officer	79
Income statement	80
Balance sheet	81
Statement of changes in equity	82
Cash flow statement	83
Schedule of commitments	84

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies	86
Note 2: Events after the balance sheet date	95
Note 3: Income	96
Note 4: Expenses	97
Note 5: Financial assets	98
Note 6: Non-financial assets	100
Note 7: Payables	104
Note 8: Employee provisions	104
Note 9: Cash flow reconciliation	105
Note 10: Contingent liabilities and assets	105
Note 11: Director's remuneration	105
Note 12: Related party disclosures	106
Note 13: Executive remuneration	106
Note 14: Remuneration of auditors	106
Note 15: Financial instruments	107
Note 16: Appropriations	109
Note 17: Compensation and debt relief	109
Note 18: Reporting of outcomes	109

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

Scope

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Director of National Parks for the year ended 30 June 2009, which comprise: a Statement by the Director and the Chief Financial Officer; Income Statement; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

The Director's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Director of National Parks is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards (which include the Australian Accounting Interpretations). This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Director of National Parks' preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Director of National Parks' internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Director of National Parks as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

GPO Box 767 CANBERRA ACT 2601
19 National Circuit BARTON ACT 2600
Phone (02) 6263 7326 Fax (02) 6263 7777

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

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

Independence

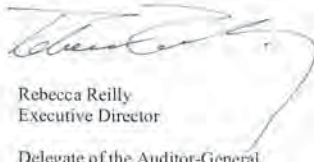
In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Director of National Parks:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including the Director of National Parks' financial position as at 30 June 2009 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Rebecca Reilly
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

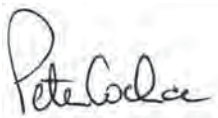
Canberra
17 September 2009

Director of National Parks Statement by the Director and Chief Financial Officer

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Director of National Parks will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed



Peter Cochrane
Director

17 September 2009

Signed



Michelle Callaway
Chief Financial Officer

17 September 2009

Director of National Parks
Income statement
for the year ended 30 June 2009

		2009	2008
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
INCOME			
Revenue			
Revenue from Government	3A	44,196	44,051
Sale of goods and rendering of services	3B	11,923	12,479
Interest		1,114	1,303
Other revenue		1,352	1,323
Total revenue		58,585	59,156
Gains			
Sale of assets	3C	60	(28)
Other gains	3D	3,911	3,900
Total gains		3,971	3,872
Total Income		62,556	63,028
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	4A	24,758	23,919
Suppliers	4B	28,674	29,963
Depreciation and amortisation	4C	7,421	7,899
Write-down and impairment of assets	4D	173	120
Other expenses		151	145
Total Expenses		61,177	62,046
Surplus attributable to the Australian Government		1,379	982

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Director of National Parks
Balance sheet
as at 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	27,633	26,497
Trade and other receivables	5B	1,257	1,512
Other	5C	56	114
Total financial assets		28,946	28,123
Non-Financial Assets			
Land and buildings	6A,C	65,580	66,144
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	6B,C	85,460	83,182
Intangibles	6D,E	–	–
Other non-financial assets	6F	358	381
Total non-financial assets		151,398	149,707
Total Assets		180,344	177,830
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	7A	2,914	2,340
Other payables	7B	2,222	2,658
Total payables		5,136	4,998
Provisions			
Employee provisions	8	6,224	5,326
Other provisions		37	88
Total provisions		6,261	5,414
Total Liabilities		11,397	10,412
Net Assets		168,947	167,418
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		30,971	30,821
Reserves		67,473	67,473
Retained surplus		70,503	69,124
Total Equity		168,947	167,418
Current assets		29,304	28,504
Non-current assets		151,040	149,326
Current liabilities		10,905	9,768
Non-current liabilities		492	644

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Director of National Parks
Statement of changes in equity
as at 30 June 2009

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation Reserves		Contributed equity		Total equity	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	69,124	68,163	67,473	64,585	30,821	15,821	167,418	148,569
Adjusted opening balance	69,124	68,163	67,473	64,585	30,821	15,821	167,418	148,569
Income and expenses recognised directly in equity								
Income and expenses recognised directly in equity	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	21
Revaluation adjustment	-	(21)	-	2,867	-	-	-	2,846
Sub-total income and expenses recognised directly in equity	-	(21)	-	2,888	-	-	-	2,867
Surplus for the period	1,379	982	-	-	-	-	1,379	982
Total income and expenses	1,379	961	-	2,888	-	-	1,379	3,849
Transactions with Owners								
<i>Contributions by Owners</i>								
Appropriation (equity injection) (refer Note 16)	-	-	-	-	150	15,000	150	15,000
Sub-total transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	150	15,000	150	15,000
Closing balance at 30 June	70,503	69,124	67,473	67,473	30,971	30,821	168,947	167,418
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	70,503	69,124	67,473	67,473	30,971	30,821	168,947	167,418

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Director of National Parks
Cash flow statement
for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Goods and services		12,624	13,725
Receipts from Government		44,196	44,051
Interest		1,172	1,273
Net GST received		1,860	2,548
Other		1,279	1,323
Total cash received		61,131	62,920
Cash used			
Employees		23,821	23,910
Suppliers		26,961	29,775
Other cash used		202	117
Total cash used		50,984	53,802
Net Cash from operating activities	9	10,147	9,118
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		563	95
Total cash received		563	95
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		9,724	15,534
Total cash used		9,724	15,534
Net Cash used by investing activities		(9,161)	(15,439)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity		150	15,000
Total cash received		150	15,000
Net Cash from financing activities		150	15,000
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		1,136	8,679
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the reporting period		26,497	17,818
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	5A	27,633	26,497

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Director of National Parks
Schedule of commitments
as at 30 June 2009

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
BY TYPE		
Commitments Receivable		
GST recoverable on commitments	(6,483)	(7,001)
Total Commitments Receivable	(6,483)	(7,001)
Commitment Payable		
Capital Commitments		
Buildings; Infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,673	6,806
Total Capital Commitments	2,673	6,806
Other Commitments		
Operating leases ²	66,776	67,704
Other commitments ³	3,114	2,968
Total Other Commitments	69,890	70,672
Net Commitments by Type	66,080	70,477
BY MATURITY		
Commitments Receivable		
Other Commitments Receivable		
One year or less	(470)	(849)
From one to five years	(343)	(398)
Over five years	(5,670)	(5,754)
Total Other Commitments Receivable	(6,483)	(7,001)
Commitments Payable		
Capital Commitments		
One year or less	2,673	6,806
Total Capital Commitments	2,673	6,806
Operating Lease Commitments		
One year or less	882	882
From one to five years	3,529	3,529
Over five years	62,365	63,293
Total Operating Lease Commitments	66,776	67,704

Director of National Parks
Schedule of commitments
as at 30 June 2009

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000
Other Commitments		
One year or less	2,649	2,113
From one to five years	465	855
Over five years	–	–
Total Other Commitments	3,114	2,968
Net Commitments by Maturity	66,080	70,477

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant

¹ Outstanding contractual payments for buildings and infrastructure under construction

² Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable

³ Other commitments comprise general consultancy services and utilities

Nature of Lease / General Description

Leases for rent of National Parks from Traditional Owners – The Director of National Parks leases Kakadu National Park, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park and Booderee National Park from the parks' Traditional Owners. Annual rent is payable in advance. Terms of leases vary up to a maximum of 99 years.

Leases for office accommodation – Lease payments are subject to annual increases in accordance with upwards movements in the Consumer Price Index. The initial periods of office accommodation leases are still current with no option to renew.

Agreements for the provision of motor vehicles to senior executive officers – No contingent rentals exist. There are no renewal or purchase options available.

Leases for office equipment – No contingent rentals exist. There is an option to renew for 90 days.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements and notes are required by clause 1(b) of Schedule 1 to the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 and are a General Purpose Financial Report.

The continued existence of the Director of National Parks in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the Director of National Parks' administration and programs.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (or FMOs) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2008; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The Financial Report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The Financial Report is presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an Accounting Standard or the FMOs, assets and liabilities are recognised in the Balance Sheet when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Director of National Parks and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are not recognised unless required by an Accounting Standard.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, revenues and expenses are recognised in the Income Statement when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.2 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the Director of National Parks has not made any judgements that have a significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements.

No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

1.3 Statement of Compliance

Australian Accounting Standards require a statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) to be made where the financial report complies with these standards. Some Australian equivalents to IFRSs and other Australian Accounting Standards contain requirements specific to not-for-profit entities that are inconsistent with IFRS requirements, so while this financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards including Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRSs) it cannot make this statement.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Adoption of new Australian Accounting Standard requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the effective date in the current period.

The following new standards, amendments to standards or interpretations for the current financial year have no material financial impact on the Director of National Parks:

- AASB 1 First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (June 2007)
- AASB 3 Business Combinations (December 2007)
- AASB 5 Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations
- AASB 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures
- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements (Dec 2007)
- AASB 114 Segment Reporting
- AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment
- AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements (Dec 2007)
- AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
- AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement
- AASB 1004 Contributions
- AASB 1048 Interpretation and Application of Standards
- AASB 1051 Land Under Roads
- AASB 1052 Disaggregated Disclosures
- AASB 2007-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 12 [AASB 1, AASB 117, AASB 118, AASB 120, AASB 121, AASB 127, AASB 131 & AASB 139]
- AASB 2007-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Review of AASs 27, 29 and 31 [AASB 3, AASB 5, AASB 8, AASB 101, AASB 14, AASB 116, AASB 127 & AASB 137]
- AASB 2008-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Reclassification of Financial Assets
- AASB 2008-12 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Reclassification of Financial Assets – Effective Date and Transition [AASB 7, AASB 139 & AASB 2008-10]
- AASB 2009-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Embedded Derivatives [AASB 139 & Interpretation 9]
- Interp 4 Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease
- Interp 12 Service Concession Arrangements (Feb 2007)
- Interp 13 Customer Loyalty Programmes
- Interp 14 AASB 119 – The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, Minimum Funding Requirements and their Interaction
- Interp 129 Service Concession Arrangements: Disclosures
- Interp 1038 Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Future Australian Accounting Standard requirements

The following new standards, amendments to standards or interpretations have been issued by the AASB but are effective for future reporting periods. It is estimated that the impact of adopting these pronouncements when effective will have no material financial impact on future reporting periods.

- AASB 1 First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (May 2009)
- AASB 3 Business Combinations (Mar 2008)
- AASB 8 Operating Segments
- AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements (Sep 2007)
- AASB 123 Borrowing Costs
- AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements (Mar 2008)
- AASB 1039 Concise Financial Reports
- AASB 2007-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 8 [AASB 5, AASB 6, AASB 102, AASB 107, AASB 119, AASB 127, AASB 134, AASB 136, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]
- AASB 2007-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123 [AASB 1, AASB 101, AASB 107, AASB 111, AASB 116 & AASB 138 and Interpretations 1 & 12]
- AASB 2007-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101
- AASB 2007-10 Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101
- AASB 2008-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard – Share-based Payments: Vesting Conditions and Cancellations [AASB 2]
- AASB 2008-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 132, AASB 139 & Interpretation 2]
- AASB 2008-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 3 and AASB 127 [AASBs 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 101, 107, 112, 114, 116, 121, 128, 131, 132, 133, 134, 136, 137, 138 & 139 and Interpretations 9 & 107]
- AASB 2008-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project [AASB 5, 7, 101, 102, 107, 108, 110, 116, 118, 119, 120, 123, 127, 128, 129, 131, 132, 134, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 1023 & 1038]
- AASB 2008-6 Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project [AASB 1 & AASB 5]
- AASB 2008-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Cost of an Investment in a Subsidiary, Jointly Controlled Entity or Associate [AASB 1, AASB 118, AASB 121, AASB 127 & AASB 136]
- AASB 2008-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Eligible Hedged Items [AASB 139]
- AASB 2008-9 Amendments to AASB 1049 for Consistency with AASB 101
- AASB 2008-11 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard – Business Combinations Among Not-for-Profit Entities [AASB 3]

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

- AASB 2008-13 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 17– Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners [AASB 5 & AASB 110]
- AASB 2009-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Borrowing Costs of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 1, AASB 111 & AASB 123]
- AASB 2009-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Improving Disclosures about Financial Instruments [AASB 4, AASB 7, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]
- AASB 2009-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project [AASB 2 and AASB 138 and AASB Interpretations 9 & 16]
- AASB 2009-5 Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project [AASB 5, 8, 101, 107, 117, 118, 136 & 139]
- AASB 2009-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
- AASB 2009-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 5, 7, 107, 112, 136 & 139 and Interpretation 17]
- Interp 1 Changes in Existing Decommissioning, Restoration and Similar Liabilities
- Interp 12 Service Concession Arrangements (June 2007)
- Interp 15 Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate
- Interp 16 Hedges of a Net Investment in a Foreign Operation
- Interp 17 Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners
- Interp 18 Transfers of Assets from Customers

Other

The following standards and interpretations have been issued but are not applicable to the operations of the Director of National Parks.

AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting

AASB 1050 Administered Items

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1.4 Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- the seller retains no managerial involvement nor effective control over the goods;
- the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Director of National Parks.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- the probable economic benefits with the transaction will flow to the Director of National Parks.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad and doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

The revenues described in this Note are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the Director of National Parks.

Revenue from the sale of tickets, permits and goods are recognised at the time tickets/permits are issued or goods are delivered to customers. Refunds for ticket sales are accounted for when they occur. An estimate for these refunds is not provided for.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.

Revenues from Government

The Director of National Parks received no direct appropriation from the Government for Departmental outputs. Funds are received directly to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and transferred to the Director of National Parks. The Director of National Parks was however appropriated an equity injection of \$0.15 million (Appropriation Act No.2 2008–09) for Kakadu National Park rehabilitation of the uranium mine site at Gunlom.

1.5 Gains

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of non-current assets is recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

Resources Received Free of Charge

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

The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts provides corporate services under a Service Delivery Agreement to the Director of National Parks.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1.6 Transactions with the Government as Owner

Equity injections

Amounts appropriated which are designated as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions) are recognised directly in Contributed Equity in that year.

1.7 Employee Benefits

The legal entity of the Director of National Parks has only one employee, being the Director himself. However, under an arrangement with the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, the Director of National Parks has a number of employees of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts that are assigned to assist the Director. For the purpose of these financial statements, such employees are treated as employees of the Director of National Parks.

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at the reporting date to the extent that they have not been settled. Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119) and termination benefits due within twelve months are measured at their nominal amounts. The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

All other employee benefit liabilities are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the Director of National Parks is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, including the Director of National Park's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave has been determined using the short-hand method in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders 2008–09.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The Director of National Parks recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

Employees of the Director of National Parks are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS) or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap).

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Commonwealth. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported by the Department of Finance and Deregulation as an administered item.

The Director of National Parks makes employer contributions to the Australian Government at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the cost to the Government of the superannuation entitlements of the Director of National Parks' employees.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1.8 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

The discount rate used is the interest rate implicit in the lease. Leased assets are amortised over the period of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the principal component and the interest expense.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

The majority of operating lease payments relate to arrangements with traditional owners over Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Booderee National Parks.

1.9 Cash

Cash and cash equivalents includes notes and coins held and any deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount.

1.10 Financial Assets

The Director of National Parks classified its financial assets as 'loans and receivables'.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Effective interest method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets 'at fair value through profit or loss'.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss where the financial assets:

- have been acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the near future;
- are a part of an identified portfolio of financial instruments that the Director of National Parks manages together and has a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking; or
- are derivatives that are not designated and effective as a hedging instrument.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are stated at fair value, with any resultant gain or loss recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest earned on the financial asset.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Loans and Receivables

Trade and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. They are included in current assets, except for maturities greater than 12 months after the balance sheet date. These are classified as non current assets. Receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at each balance date.

Financial assets held at amortised cost – If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the Income Statement.

1.11 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially measured at fair value. Subsequent fair value adjustments are recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest paid on the financial liability.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value net of transaction costs. Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Supplier and other payables

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

1.12 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but are reported in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset, or represent an existing liability or asset in respect of which settlement is not probable or the amount cannot be reliably measured. Remote contingencies are part of this disclosure. Contingent assets are reported when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are recognised when settlement is greater than remote.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1.13 Acquisition of Assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor entity's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.14 Property, Plant and Equipment (PP&E)

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Balance Sheet, except for purchases costing less than \$5,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

Asset class	Fair value measured at:
Land	Market selling price
Buildings	Market selling price
Leasehold improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Infrastructure, plant & equipment	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not materially differ with the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets. The last revaluation was conducted in 2008.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised through operating result. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly through operating result except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the Director of National Parks using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation. Leasehold improvements are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the lesser of the estimated useful life of the improvements or the unexpired period of the lease.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2009	2008
Buildings	5 to 85 years	5 to 85 years
Infrastructure	7 to 73 years	7 to 73 years
Plant and equipment	2 to 50 years	2 to 50 years
Computer software	4 to 5 years	4 to 5 years

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2009. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the Director of National Parks were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

No indicators of impairment were found for assets at fair value.

1.15 Intangibles

The Director of National Parks' intangibles comprise internally developed software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the Director of National Parks' software are 4 to 5 years (2007–08: 4–5 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2009.

1.16 Taxation

The Director of National Parks is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax and the goods and services tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities are recognised net of GST:

- except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- except for receivables and payables.

Note 2: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

There were no material events that occurred after the balance sheet date that could impact the financial statements.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

2009	2008
\$'000	\$'000

Note 3: Income

Revenue

Note 3A: Revenue from Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

CAC Act body payment item	44,196	44,051
---------------------------	---------------	--------

Total revenue from Government	44,196	44,051
--------------------------------------	---------------	--------

Note 3B: Sale of goods and rendering of services

Provision of goods – external entities	58	65
--	-----------	----

Rendering of services – related entities	2,842	3,247
--	--------------	-------

Rendering of services – external entities	9,023	9,167
---	--------------	-------

Total sale of goods and rendering of services	11,923	12,479
--	---------------	--------

Gains

Note 3C – Sale of Assets

Infrastructure, plant & equipment

Proceeds from sale	563	95
--------------------	------------	----

Carrying value of assets sold	(503)	(123)
-------------------------------	--------------	-------

Net gain / (loss) from sale of assets	60	(28)
--	-----------	------

Note 3D – Other Gains

Resources received free of charge	3,911	3,900
-----------------------------------	--------------	-------

Total other gains	3,911	3,900
--------------------------	--------------	-------

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 4: Expenses**Note 4A – Employee Benefits**

Wages and salaries	15,969	15,197
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	1,003	855
Defined benefit plans	2,145	2,137
Leave and other entitlements	2,268	2,059
Separation and redundancies	78	305
Employee allowances	2,988	3,050
Other employee expenses	307	316
Total employee benefits	24,758	23,919

Note 4B – Suppliers

Provision of goods – related entities	47	24
Provision of goods – external entities	3,389	3,134
Rendering of services – related entities	10,930	11,425
Rendering of services – external entities	10,020	11,049
Operating lease rentals:		
Minimum lease payments	589	589
Contingent rentals	3,699	3,742
Total supplier expenses	28,674	29,963

Note 4C – Depreciation and Amortisation

Depreciation:		
Buildings	2,522	2,658
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	4,899	5,239
Total depreciation	7,421	7,897
Amortisation:		
Intangibles – Computer Software	–	2
Total amortisation	–	2
Total depreciation and amortisation	7,421	7,899

Note 4D – Write-down and impairment of assets

Financial assets		
Bad and doubtful debts expense	14	(46)
Non-financial assets		
Buildings	61	3
Infrastructure, plant & equipment	98	163
Total write-down and impairment of assets	173	120

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 5: Financial assets

Note 5A – Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash on deposit	27,549	26,428
Cash on hand	84	69
Total cash and cash equivalents	27,633	26,497

Note 5B – Trade and Other Receivables

Goods and services – related entities	138	82
Goods and services – external entities	244	187
Total receivables for goods and services	382	269
Net GST receivable from ATO	305	514
Other receivables	591	741
Total other receivables	896	1,255
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	1,278	1,524
Less: Impairment and allowance account		
Goods and services	(15)	–
Other	(6)	(12)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	1,257	1,512

All receivables are current assets.

Receivables (gross) are aged as follows:

Not overdue	1,130	1,346
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	16	45
31 to 60 days	58	10
61 to 90 days	45	4
More than 90 days	29	119
	148	178
Total receivables (gross)	1,278	1,524

The impairment and allowance account is aged as follows:

Not overdue	–	–
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	–	–
31 to 60 days	(4)	–
61 to 90 days	(5)	–
More than 90 days	(12)	(12)
Total impairment and allowance account	(21)	(12)

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Reconciliation of the impairment and allowance account:

Movements in relation to 2009

Opening balance	–	(12)	(12)
Amounts written off	–	5	5
Amounts recovered and reversed	–	1	1
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	(15)	–	(15)
Closing balance	(15)	(6)	(21)

Movements in relation to 2008

Opening balance	(47)	(13)	(60)
Amounts written off	2	–	2
Amounts recovered and reversed	20	1	21
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	25	–	25
Closing balance	–	(12)	(12)

2009 2008
\$'000 \$'000

Note 5C – Other Financial Assets

Accrued Revenue	56	114
Total other financial assets	56	114

All other financial assets are current assets. No indicators of impairment were found for other financial assets.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

2009 2008
\$'000 \$'000

Note 6: Non-financial assets

Note 6A: Land and Buildings

Land at fair value	6,581	6,581
Buildings on land		
work in progress	1,461	603
fair value	60,563	59,471
accumulated depreciation	(3,025)	(515)
Total buildings on land	58,999	59,559
Leasehold Improvements		
work in progress	–	4
Total leasehold improvements	–	4
Total land and buildings (non-current)	65,580	66,144

No indicators of impairment were found for land, buildings and leasehold improvements.

Note 6B: Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment

Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment		
work in progress	23,078	16,853
fair value	68,331	67,654
accumulated depreciation	(5,949)	(1,325)
Total infrastructure, plant and equipment	85,460	83,182

Revaluations were conducted in accordance with the policy stated at Note 1. In 2007–08 revaluations were conducted by independent valuer Herron Todd White and valued as at 30 June 2008.

No indicators of impairment were found for infrastructure, plant and equipment.

The Director of National Parks has various Heritage and Cultural Items which have not been recorded as assets in the financial statements, due to the difficulties associated with the reliable measurement of these items. These items include gardens, historic buildings, ruins and cultural artworks. There was no significant acquisition or disposal activity in relation to these items in the reporting period.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 6C – Analysis of property, plant and equipment

Table A – Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2008–09)

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Total Land & Buildings \$'000	IP&E \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2008					
Gross book value	6,581	60,078	66,659	84,507	151,166
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	–	(515)	(515)	(1,325)	(1,840)
Net book value 1 July 2008	6,581	59,563	66,144	83,182	149,326
Additions					
by purchase	–	1,995	1,995	7,729	9,724
by recognition	–	–	–	73	73
Revaluations and Impairment through equity	–	–	–	–	–
Depreciation expense	–	(2,522)	(2,522)	(4,899)	(7,421)
Disposals – by sale	–	–	–	(503)	(503)
Write Offs	–	(61)	(61)	(98)	(159)
Transfers	–	24	24	(24)	–
Net book value 30 June 2009	6,581	58,999	65,580	85,460	151,040
Net book value as of 30 June 2009 represented by:					
Gross book value	6,581	62,024	68,605	91,409	160,014
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	–	(3,025)	(3,025)	(5,949)	(8,974)
	6,581	58,999	65,580	85,460	151,040

Director of National Parks
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Table A – Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2007–08)

	Land	Buildings	Total Land & Buildings	IP&E	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2007					
Gross book value	6,581	63,638	70,219	82,854	153,073
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	–	(4,938)	(4,938)	(9,024)	(13,962)
Net book value 1 July 2007	6,581	58,700	65,281	73,830	139,111
Additions					
by purchase	–	620	620	14,914	15,534
by recognition	–	–	–	–	–
Revaluations and Impairment through equity	–	2,719	2,719	148	2,867
Depreciation expense	–	(2,658)	(2,658)	(5,239)	(7,897)
Disposals – by sale	–	–	–	(123)	(123)
Write Offs	–	(3)	(3)	(163)	(166)
Transfers	–	185	185	(185)	–
Net book value 30 June 2008	6,581	59,563	66,144	83,182	149,326
Net book value as of 30 June 2008 represented by:					
Gross book value	6,581	60,078	66,659	84,507	151,166
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	–	(515)	(515)	(1,325)	(1,840)
	6,581	59,563	66,144	83,182	149,326

2009 2008
\$'000 \$'000

Note 6D: Intangibles

Computer software

Internally developed – in use

Accumulated amortisation

Total intangibles (non-current)

No indicators of impairment were found for intangible assets.

8 8
(8) (8)
– –

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 6E – Analysis of intangibles

Table A – Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of intangibles (2008–09)

	Computer Software Purchased \$'000
As at 1 July 2008	
Gross book value	8
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation and impairment	(8)
Net book value 1 July 2008	–
Additions	
by purchase	–
by recognition	–
Amortisation expense	–
Disposals – by sale	–
Write Offs	–
Transfers	–
Net book value 30 June 2009	–
Net book value as of 30 June 2009 represented by:	
Gross book value	8
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation and impairment	(8)
	–

Table A – Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of intangibles (2007–08)

	Computer Software Purchased \$'000
As at 1 July 2007	
Gross book value	8
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation and impairment	(6)
Net book value 1 July 2007	2
Additions	
by purchase	–
by recognition	–
Amortisation expense	(2)
Disposals – by sale	–
Write Offs	–
Transfers	–
Net book value 30 June 2008	–
Net book value as of 30 June 2008 represented by:	
Gross book value	8
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation and impairment	(8)
	–

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

2009	2008
\$'000	\$'000

Note 6F: Other Non-Financial Assets

Prepayments	358	381
Total other non-financial assets	358	381

All other non-financial assets are current assets. No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

Note 7: Payables

Note 7A – Suppliers

Trade creditors	2,107	1,493
Operating lease payments	807	847
Total supplier payables	2,914	2,340

Trade creditors

Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

All supplier payables are current

Note 7B – Other Payables

Salaries and wages	282	195
Superannuation	51	34
Unearned revenue	1,889	2,429
Total other payables	2,222	2,658

All other payables are current

Note 8: Employee provisions

Leave	6,177	5,304
Other	47	22
Total employee provisions	6,224	5,326

Employee provisions are categorised as follows:

Current	5,732	4,682
Non-current	492	644
Total employee provisions	6,224	5,326

The classification of current employee provisions includes amounts for which there is not an unconditional right to defer settlement by one year, hence in the case of employee provisions the above classification does not represent the amount expected to be settled within one year of reporting date. Employee provisions expected to be settled in one year from the reporting date are \$4,050,000 (2008: \$2,048,000), and in excess of one year \$2,174,000 (2008: \$3,278,000).

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

2009	2008
\$'000	\$'000

Note 9: Cash flow reconciliation**Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement****Report cash and cash equivalents as per:**

Cash Flow Statement	27,633	26,497
Balance sheet	27,633	26,497
Difference	-	-

Reconciliation of operating result to net cash from operating activities:

Operating result	1,379	982
------------------	--------------	-----

Non-cash items

Depreciation/amortisation	7,422	7,899
Take up of Assets for first time	(73)	-
Write down of non-financial assets	159	166
(Gain) / Loss on disposal of non-current assets	(60)	28

Changes in Assets and Liabilities

(Increase)/decrease in receivables	45	(103)
(Increase)/decrease in GST receivables	210	(195)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	24	9
(Increase)/decrease in accrued revenue	58	(31)
Increase/(decrease) in unearned revenue	(540)	405
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	1,001	(35)
Increase/(decrease) in supplier liabilities	574	(35)
Increase/(decrease) in other provisions	(52)	28

Net cash from operating activities	10,147	9,118
---	---------------	-------

Note 10: Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

No contingent assets or liabilities exist for the Director of National Parks for the current financial year (2007–08: Nil).

Note 11: Director's Remuneration

The number of directors of the Director of National Parks included in these figures are shown below in the relevant remuneration bands:

	2009	2008
\$280,000 to \$294,999	1	1
Total number of directors of Director of National Parks	1	1
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by the Director of National Parks:	\$280,204	\$294,525

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 12: Related party disclosures

Director of National Parks

The Director of National Parks during the year was Mr Peter Cochrane. The aggregate remuneration of the Director is disclosed in Note 11.

Loans to Director and Director related entities

There were no loans made to either the Director or entities related to the Director during 2008–09 (2007–08: Nil).

Other Transactions with Director or Director related entities

There were no other transactions with either the Director or entities related to the Director during 2008–09 (2007–08: Nil).

Note 13: Executive remuneration

The number of senior executives who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$130,000 or more:

	2009	2008
\$145,000 – \$159,999	1	–
\$175,000 – \$189,999	–	1
\$190,000 – \$204,999	1	–
\$220,000 – \$234,999	–	1
\$235,000 – \$249,999	–	1
\$265,000 – \$279,999	1	–
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

The aggregate amount of total remuneration of senior executives shown above **\$603,916** \$640,102

The aggregate amount of separation and redundancy / termination benefit payments during the year to executives shown above.

– –

The senior executive remuneration includes all senior executives concerned with or taking part in the management of the Director of National Parks during 2008–09 except the Director of National Parks. Details in relation to the Director of National Parks have been incorporated into Note 11: Directors Remuneration.

Note 14: Remuneration of auditors

	2009	2008
Financial Statement audit services are provided to Director of National Parks by the Auditor-General.		
The fair value of the services provided was:	<u>\$78,000</u>	<u>\$76,000</u>

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

		2009	2008
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Note 15: Financial instruments			
Note 15A – Categories of financial instruments			
Financial Assets			
Cash equivalents and other receivables			
Cash	5A	27,633	26,497
Goods and services	5B	382	269
Carrying amount of financial instrument assets		28,015	26,766
Financial Liabilities			
At amortised cost			
Trade creditors	7A	2,107	1,493
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		2,107	1,493
Note 15B – Net income and expense from financial assets			
Cash equivalents and other receivables			
Interest revenue		1,114	1,303
Net gain/(loss) loans and receivables		1,114	1,303
Net gain/(loss) from financial assets		1,114	1,303

There was no net income/expense from financial liabilities not at fair value from profit and loss (2008: \$Nil).

Note 15C – Fair value of financial instruments

The carrying value of the Director of National Parks' financial instruments are a reasonable approximation of fair value.

Note 15D – Credit risk

The Director of National Parks is exposed to minimal credit risk as the majority of cash equivalents and other receivables are cash, trade receivables or amounts owed by the Australian Tax Office in the form of a Goods and Services Tax refund. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the risk that arises from potential default of a debtor. This amount is equal to the total amount of trade receivables (2009: \$382,137 and 2008: \$269,231). The Director of National Parks has assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated \$21,452 in 2009 (2008: \$12,192) to an impairment and allowance account.

The Director of National Parks holds no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Credit risk of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired:

	Not Past Due Nor Impaired 2009 \$'000	Not Past Due Nor Impaired 2008 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2009 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2008 \$'000
Goods and services	234	91	148	178
Total	234	91	148	178

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2009

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Goods and services	16	58	45	29	148
Total	16	58	45	29	148

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2008

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+days \$'000	Total \$'000
Goods and services	45	10	4	119	178
Total	45	10	4	119	178

Note 15E – Liquidity risk

The Director of National Park's financial liabilities are payables and operating leases (due and payable). The exposure to liquidity risk is based on the notion that the Director of National Parks will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely due to appropriation funding and mechanisms available to the Director of National Parks and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there are appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

The following tables illustrates the maturities for financial liabilities

	On demand 2009 \$'000	within 1 year 2009 \$'000	1 to 5 years 2009 \$'000	> 5 years 2009 \$'000	Total 2009 \$'000
Trade creditors	–	2,107	–	–	2,107
Total	–	2,107	–	–	2,107

	On demand 2008 \$'000	within 1 year 2008 \$'000	1 to 5 years 2008 \$'000	> 5 years 2008 \$'000	Total 2008 \$'000
Trade creditors	–	1,493	–	–	1,493
Total	–	1,493	–	–	1,493

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 15F – Market risk

The Director of National Parks holds basic financial instruments that do not expose it to market risks. The Director of National Parks is not exposed to 'currency risk' or 'other price risk'.

Interest Rate Risk

The only interest-bearing items on the balance sheet is 'Cash on deposit' which bears interest at a fixed tiered interest rate.

Note 16: Appropriations

The Director of National Parks received no direct appropriation from the Government for Departmental outputs. Funds are appropriated directly to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and transferred to the Director of National Parks. The Director of National Parks was however appropriated an equity injection of \$0.15million (Appropriation Act No.2 2008–09) for Kakadu National Park rehabilitation of the uranium mine site at Gunlom.

When received by the Director of National Parks, the payments made are legally the money of the Director of National Parks and do not represent any balance remaining in the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Note 17: Compensation and debt relief

No payments of the following kind were made by the Director of National Parks during 2008–09 (2007–08: Nil): (1) waivers of amounts owing to the Australian Government; (2) compensation for detriment caused by defective administration; or (3) special circumstances payments relating to APS employment.

Note 18: Reporting of outcomes

Note 18A – Outcomes of the Director of National Parks

The Director of National Parks is structured to contribute to the following outcome and output:

Outcome 1

The Director of National Parks has only one outcome – Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth Reserves

Output 1

The Director of National Parks has only one output – Parks and Reserves.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 18B – Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Expenses				
Departmental	61,177	62,046	61,177	62,046
Total expenses	61,177	62,046	61,177	62,046
Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector				
Departmental	9,081	9,232	9,081	9,232
Total costs recovered	9,081	9,232	9,081	9,232
Other external revenues				
Departmental				
Sales of goods and services – to related entities	2,842	3,247	2,842	3,247
Interest	1,114	1,303	1,114	1,303
Net gains from disposal of assets	60	(28)	60	(28)
Other gains	3,911	3,900	3,911	3,900
Other revenue	1,352	1,323	1,352	1,323
Total Departmental	9,279	9,745	9,279	9,745
Total other external revenues	9,279	9,745	9,279	9,745
Net cost of outcome	42,817	43,069	42,817	43,069

The net costs shown include intra-government costs that would be eliminated in calculating the actual Budget outcome.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 18C – Departmental Revenue and Expenses by Output Groups and Outputs

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Departmental expenses				
Employees	24,758	23,919	24,758	23,919
Suppliers	28,674	29,963	28,674	29,963
Depreciation and amortisation	7,421	7,899	7,421	7,899
Write-down of assets	173	120	173	120
Other Expenses	151	145	151	145
Total departmental expenses	61,177	62,046	61,177	62,046
Funded by:				
Revenues from Government agencies	44,196	44,051	44,196	44,051
Sale of goods and services	11,923	12,479	11,923	12,479
Interest	1,114	1,303	1,114	1,303
Net gain from disposal of asset	60	(28)	60	(28)
Other non-taxation revenues	1,352	1,323	1,352	1,323
Other gains	3,911	3,900	3,911	3,900
Total departmental income	62,556	63,028	62,556	63,028

The Director of National Parks' outcome and output are described at Note 18A.

The net costs shown include intra-government costs that would be eliminated in calculating the actual Budget outcome.

Director of National Parks
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

Note 18D – Departmental Assets and Liabilities by Outcome

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Departmental assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	27,633	26,497	27,633	26,497
Trade and other receivables	1,257	1,512	1,257	1,512
Other financial assets	56	114	56	114
Land and buildings	65,580	66,144	65,580	66,144
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	85,460	83,182	85,460	83,182
Intangibles	–	–	–	–
Other non-financial assets	358	381	358	381
Total departmental assets	180,344	177,830	180,344	177,830
Departmental Liabilities				
Suppliers	2,914	2,340	2,914	2,340
Other payables	2,222	2,658	2,222	2,658
Employee provisions	6,224	5,326	6,224	5,326
Other provisions	37	88	37	88
Total departmental liabilities	11,397	10,412	11,397	10,412

The Director of National Parks' outcome and output are described at Note 18A.

7 Appendices

Appendix A: Agency Resourcing Statement 2008–09

**Appendix B: Ecologically sustainable development
and environmental performance**

Appendix C: Freedom of information statement

Appendix D: Compliance index

Appendix A: Agency Resourcing Statement 2008–09

The Agency Resourcing Statement was introduced to Portfolio Budget Statements in 2008-09 to provide information about the various funding sources that the Director of National Parks may draw upon during the year.

The Director of National Parks is required to publish the Agency Resourcing Statement in the annual report that reconciles to cash reserves in the financial statements.

	Actual available appropriation \$'000	Payments Made \$'000	Balance Remaining \$'000
Opening balance/Reserves at bank	26,497	–	26,497
REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT			
Ordinary annual services¹			
Outcome 1	–	–	–
Total ordinary annual services	–	–	–
Other services²			
Non-operating	150	–	150
Total other services	150	–	150
Total annual appropriations	150	–	150
Payments from related entities³			
Amounts from the portfolio department	44,196	44,196	–
Total	44,196	44,196	–
Total funds from Government	44,196	44,196	–
FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES			
Interest	1,172	1,172	–
Sale of goods and services	12,624	12,624	–
Other	3,702	2,716	986
Total	17,498	16,512	1,860
Total net resourcing for DNP	88,491	60,708	27,633

All figures are GST exclusive

The Director of National Parks is not directly appropriated as it is a CAC Act body. Appropriations are made to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts which are then paid to the Director of National Parks and are considered 'departmental' for all purposes.

1 Appropriation Bill (No.1) 2009–10

2 Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2009–10

3 Funding provided by a Government body that is not specified within the annual appropriation bills as a payment to the CAC Act body.

Appendix B: Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Section 516A of the EPBC Act requires Australian Government organisations to include in their annual reports details of the organisation's contribution to ecologically sustainable development as well as the environmental performance of the organisation. Section 516A also promotes development of a framework that integrates environmental, economic and social considerations and helps improve the environmental performance and ecologically sustainable development of Australian Government agencies.

The following is a summary of activities by the Director of National Parks in 2008–09 in accordance with section 516A of the EPBC Act.

1. How the activities of the organisation, and the administration of legislation by the organisation, accord with the principles of sustainable development (section 516A(6)(a))

(i) The following activities accord with the principles of integrating environmental, social and economic considerations:

- ensuring the long-term sustainability of biodiversity in Commonwealth terrestrial reserves by managing biodiversity in accordance with management plans prepared under the EPBC Act. The EPBC Act explicitly recognises the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- managing Commonwealth reserves in consultation with boards of management and advisory committees
- undertaking monitoring and assessment programs for plants and animals within the reserves
- undertaking compliance operations resulting in detection and fines against illegal activities in the reserves
- working with traditional owners to implement traditional management and use of resources
- establishing criteria for the preparation of Tourism Master Plans which provide for safe and memorable visitor experiences, while improving benefits to local communities and ensuring the environmental values of Commonwealth reserves are not affected.

(ii) The following activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, especially by employing or promoting the use of the precautionary principle:

- making decisions that comply with the EPBC Act (sections 324-390A) and in accordance with decision-making and environmental impact assessment procedures for works and new developments in Commonwealth reserves
- adapting management approaches to take account of the Parks Australia Climate Change Strategy.

(iii) The following activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development by aiming to promote conservation of the environment for the benefit of future generations:

- promoting enjoyment and understanding of protected areas and their conservation objectives as set out in management plans for each reserve
- working with traditional owners to ensure traditional knowledge about management and use of the land is incorporated into park management activities and that opportunities are created for young indigenous people to learn about and contribute to park management.

For a summary of activities undertaken in 2008–09 please refer to Table 9 in Chapter 4 of this annual report under KRA 3 – Joint management and KRA 4 – Visitor management and park use.

(iv) The following activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development by ensuring that conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity is a fundamental consideration in decision-making:

- Commonwealth reserves are managed in accordance with management plans established under the EPBC Act and with IUCN Protected Area Categories which have as their primary purpose the long term conservation of nature
- management plans set out clear decision-making and environmental assessment procedures for works and new proposals in Commonwealth reserves to ensure the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

For a summary of activities undertaken in 2008–09 please refer to Table 9 in Chapter 4 of this annual report under KRA 1 – Natural heritage management.

(v) The following activities accord with the principles of ecologically sustainable development by aiming to improve valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms:

- tour operator workshops and tour guide accreditation at Kakadu aim to improve the quality and consistency of visitor experiences
- the reintroduction of park use fees at Kakadu (in April 2010) will ensure visitors contribute to the cost of park management. This measure was publicly announced in October 2008
- camping fees at Kakadu were increased in April 2009 following a review in 2007.

2. How the outcomes specified in the relevant Appropriations Act contribute to ecologically sustainable development (section 516A(6)(b))

The Director of National Parks' key outcome as identified in the 2008–09 Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Portfolio Budget Statements is the conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves. The Portfolio Budget Statements describe this outcome as follows:

The management of nationally significant assets, including seven terrestrial reserves established under the EPBC Act, will result in the conservation and appreciation of natural and cultural values, including best practice management of nationally significant assets, provision for appropriate recreation and tourism and better understanding of their values. Kakadu, Uluru-Kata Tjuta and Booderee National Parks are jointly managed with their indigenous owners.

Activities undertaken during 2008–09 to achieve this outcome are described in Chapter 4 of this annual report and the State of the Parks Report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08-09.

3. Effect of the organisation's activities on the environment (section 516A(6)(c))

The Director has the responsibility of managing Australia's Commonwealth reserves. Three of these reserves are managed jointly with their traditional owners.

Potential large-scale threats to the reserves are managed by a range of statutory protective mechanisms and decision-making and assessment processes set out in management plans. The Director manages commercial activities (e.g. tourism and camping) within reserves through the EPBC Act and the EPBC Regulations and in accordance with the management plan for each reserve.

4. Measures being taken by the organisation to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment (section 516A(6)(d))

The Director maintains a strong commitment to continuous improvement in environmental performance. The Director conducts environmental audits of the Director's operations to maximise efficient use of resources, reduce waste, and build environmental awareness among its employees and volunteers.

Each management plan identifies actions to reduce the ecological footprint of the reserve's operations. As a matter of course, office paper, toner cartridges and organic waste are recycled, office machines (photocopiers, printers) are automatically programmed to save power, and printers are programmed to duplex documents to reduce paper usage.

Climate change strategies which include actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are being prepared for each of the Director's terrestrial reserves.

For a summary of activities undertaken in 2008–09 please refer to Table 9 in Chapter 4 of this annual report under KRA 6 – Business management.

5. Mechanisms for reviewing and increasing the effectiveness of these measures (section 516A(6)(e))

In accordance with the Australian Government's policy on energy efficiency in Government operations, the Director reports on annual energy performance through the online Energy Reporting (EDGAR) system. Public reporting provides a number of benefits to the Director including:

- increasing awareness of energy and greenhouse issues
- measuring relative performance
- providing a benchmarking tool
- tracking changes over time
- identifying high-intensity areas
- encouraging improvement through transparency.

Close analysis of the EDGAR reporting will help the Director determine how to most effectively adopt energy performance measures to meet the Director's needs and the government's revised energy intensity targets.

A summary of total greenhouse gas emissions from the Director's terrestrial reserves is provided in Table A and Figure A. Greenhouse gas emissions are comprised of stationary sources (Table B), transport sources (Table C) and waste sources (Table D).

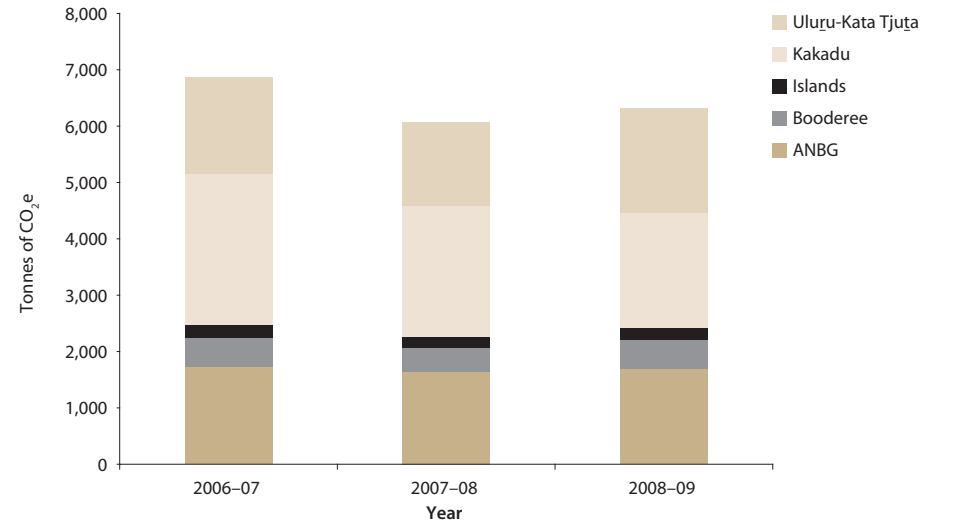
Performance on water consumption is provided in Table E. Paper consumption is provided in Table F (reams of paper) and Table G (reams of paper per person).

A summary of activities undertaken in 2008–09 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is provided in Table 9 of Chapter 4 of this annual report under KRA 6 – Business management and in the State of the Parks Report at environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/08-09.

TABLE A: DNP Terrestrial Reserves – Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Total

Reserve Name	2006–07 (tonnes of CO2e)	2007–08 (tonnes of CO2e)	2008–09 (tonnes of CO2e)	Change over 1 yr (%)	Change over 2 yrs (%)
Australian National Botanic Gardens	1,738	1,641	1,698	+3.5	–2.3
Booderee National Park	500	419	510	+21.7	+2.0
Christmas Island National Park	181	157	159	+1.3	–12.2
Kakadu National Park	2,681	2,329	2,040	–12.4	–23.9
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	29	26	28	+7.7	–3.4
Pulu Keeling National Park	27	22	22	0.0	–18.5
Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park	1,712	1,482	1,860	+25.5	+8.6
Total	6,868	6,076	6,317	+4.0	–8.0

Figure A: DNP Terrestrial Reserves –Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Total



protected areas, 31
 see also Indigenous Protected Area program; marine protected areas
 publications see websites and publications
 Pulu Keeling National Park, 21
 advisory/consultative body, 66
 monitoring, 52
 visitor numbers, 57
 purchaser-provider arrangement with Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, 41, 64

Q

quarantine measures
 Commonwealth marine reserves, 62

R

rabbit control, 54
 Ramsar Convention see Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention
 rangers see wardens and rangers (under EPBC Act)
 rats, 22
 Red Centre National Landscapes Steering Committee, 34
 'Red Centre Way' project, 34
 red crabs (*Gecarcoidea natalis*), 4, 20
 red-footed booby (*Sula sula*), 21, 52
 regional recovery plans
 Christmas Island, 51
 Norfolk Island, 51
 reptiles, 52
 research partnerships, 59
 reserve management, 51
 ReserveWatch
 and Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve, 53
 revenue base, 8
 risk management, 67–8
 Risk Management Policy, 67
 Risk Watch lists, 57, 67
 Riverland Biosphere Reserve, 26
 rock art
 Kakadu National Park, 17
 Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, 55

S

SafeTrac, 69
 school leaver traineeship program, 41
 sea snake monitoring program, 53
 seed bank collections, 5
 senior management team, 41
 see also executive team
 senior staffing
 changes, 6–7

small mammals
 Booderee National Park, 18
 Kakadu National Park, 4, 52
 solar power, 61
 South Alligator River catchment, 17
 South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network
 educational products, 62
 monitoring, 53
 southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*), 53
 species relocation and captive breeding, 54
 staff, 6, 8, 41–2
 awards, 7
 staff participation through consultative committees, 65
 staff training, 41–2, 61
 staffing profile, 42
 stakeholders and partnerships (KRA5), 49, 59
 strategic planning and performance assessment framework, 48–62
 study support scheme, 41
 swine flu see H1N1 Influenza 2009 virus

T

Talinguru Nyakunytyaku, 5, 35, 58
 Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute
 baseline biodiversity survey in the Cod Grounds, 53
 Taxonomic Databases Working Group, 62
 taxonomic research, 30
 taxonomy
 and environmental weed management (case study), 32
 Taxonomy Research and Information Network, 62
 Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 21
 tjakura or great desert skink (*Egernia kintorei*)
 Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, 52
 Tjukurpa (traditional law and culture)
 and management of the Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, 18
 tourism
 and National Landscapes, 33
 Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden, 21
 Tourism Australia
 partnership with on National Landscapes, 5, 33
 tourism awards, 5
 tourism industry
 consultation with, 66
 partnership with, 5, 8
 Tourism NT, 34
 traditional owners, 8
 consultation with, 66
 joint management of protected areas, 17
 see also joint management (KRA3)
 trainee programs, 42

U

- Uluru climb
 - proposed closure of, 5
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, 18
 - Board of Management, 45, 57, 66
 - cultural heritage management, 55
 - invasive species management, 54
 - joint management, 17, 18, 35, 56–7
 - management plan, 5, 51, 60
 - monitoring, 52
 - National Landscape, 18
 - organisational review, 61
 - park use fees, 6
 - revegetation of construction areas, 51
 - viewing area *see* Talinguru Nyakuntjaku
 - visitor facilities, 58
 - visitor management and park use, 58
 - visitor numbers, 57
 - visitor survey, 57
- uranium mining sites
 - rehabilitation of, 5

V

- vegetation monitoring, 53
- visitor facilities, 8, 58
 - Booderee National Park, 5, 58
- visitor incidents/accidents, 61, 69, 70
- visitor management and park (KRA4), 49, 57–8
- visitor numbers, 57
- visitor surveys, 57
- volunteers *see* ReserveWatch

W

- wardens and rangers (under EPBC Act), 71
- water buffalo *see* buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*)
- water infrastructure
 - Australian National Botanic Gardens, 5, 51
- water quality monitoring program
 - Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve, 53
 - Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve, 53
- websites and publications, 62
- weed control, 4–5, 7
 - Christmas Island National Park, 54
 - Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden, 5, 54
 - see also* environmental weed management
- Weeds in Australia website, 62
- Weeds of National Significance, 32
- wetlands
 - Calperum and Taylorville Stations, 21
 - Christmas Island National Park, 20
 - Kakadu National Park, 17, 52
 - Pulu Keeling National Park, 21
- Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention
 - Calperum and Taylorville Stations, 21
 - Christmas Island National Park, 20
 - Kakadu National Park, 17
 - Pulu Keeling National Park, 21
- wheelchair access, 72
- Women's law and Culture meetings
 - Anangu people, 55
- women's sacred sites
 - Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, 55
- Wreck Bay Aboriginal community
 - and Booderee Botanic Gardens, 29
 - and cultural heritage strategy for Booderee, 55
 - joint management of Booderee National Park, 18
- Wreck Bay Enterprises Ltd, 56

Y

- yellow crazy ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*), 4, 20, 22, 54

© Director of National Parks 2009

ISSN 1443-1238

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process, re-used or redistributed without prior written permission from the Director of National Parks. Any permitted reproduction must acknowledge the source of any such material reproduced and include a copy of the original copyright notice. Requests and enquiries concerning reproduction and copyright should be addressed to: The Director of National Parks, GPO Box 787, Canberra ACT 2601.

Director of National Parks Australian business number: 13051 694 963

Credits:

Front cover

Researcher with bird – *Nick Rains*
Traditional basket – *Michael Nelson*
Children at rock pools – *June Andersen*
Waratah – *Michael Nelson*
Yellow-footed rock wallaby – *Nick Rains*
Scribbly gum – *At a Glance Photography*
Gum leaves – *Nick Rains*

Chapter pages

Thorny devil – *Nick Rains*
Rainbow bee-eater – *Nick Rains*
Galahs – *Nick Rains*
Kangaroos – *Nick Rains*
Kookaburra – *June Andersen*
Banksia flower – *June Andersen*
Orchid – *June Andersen*

Full-page images

Sea anemone, Mermaid Reef – *Jay M Hayes,*
Commercial Diver
Rain over Uluru – *Leanne Handreck*
Brolga at Kakadu – *Michael Nelson*
White-faced heron – *June Andersen*

Other images

Jim Jim Falls in the wet season – *Ian Oswald-Jacobs*
Feral buffalo – *Anna Pickworth*
Horn-eyed ghost crab – *Fusion Films*
Masked booby – *Fusion Films*

Pulu Keeling coastline – *Fusion Films*
Bushland with fallen bark – *Nick Rains*
Mornington reserve (NRS) – *Nick Rains*
Mornington reserve (NRS) – *Nick Rains*
Northern Tanami IPA – *Nick Rains*
Bigeye barracuda – *Robert Thorne*
Marine turtle – *Neil Gemmell*
Reef fish – *Neil Gemmell*
Seabirds at Lihou Reef – *Neil Gemmell*
Seabirds at Lihou Reef – *Neil Gemmell*
Banksia at Booderee – *At a Glance Photography*
Bees on eucalypt bud – *June Andersen*
Planting at ANBG – *Barry Brown*
Identifying plant species – *Carl Davies*
Researcher – *Nick Rains*
Lantana – *Michael Nelson*
Twelve Apostles, Great Ocean Road – © *Tourism Australia*
and Tourism NT
Kings Canyon – © *Tourism Australia and Tourism NT*
Uluru ranger – © *Tourism Australia and Tourism NT*
Parks forum – *Rebecca Chandler*

Maps – *Environmental Resources Information Network*
Design – *CRE8IVE*
Editor – *Elizabeth Hutchings Editing*
Indexer – *Barry Howarth*

Printed by Canprint on Australian paper
made from sustainable plantation timber

Map data sources

Indigenous Protected Areas (Declared), Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database – CAPAD 2006:
© Commonwealth of Australia, Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, 2009.

State and Territory Borders: © Commonwealth of Australia, Geoscience Australia.

Caveat: All data are presumed to be correct as received from data providers. No responsibility is taken by the Commonwealth for errors or omissions. The Commonwealth does not accept responsibility in respect to any information or advice given in relation to, or as a consequence of anything contained herein.

Geographic Coordinate System on the GDA94 Datum.

