



Australian Government
Director of National Parks



Director of National Parks

Annual Report 2009–10

Managing the Australian Government's protected areas

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Credits

Front cover

Banksia flower – *June Anderson*

Uluṟu sunset – *Parks Australia*

Talinguṟu Nyakunytjaku opening ceremony – *Grenville Turner*

Kakadu rangers doing survey work

Red hermit crab – *Fusion films*

Maps – *Environmental Resources Information Network*

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Red hermit crab – *Fusion films*

Banksia flower – *June Anderson*

Anangu dancer – *Grenville Turner*

Snorkeling at Booderee – *June Andersen*

Correa 'Canberra Bells' – *M Fagg, ANBG Collection*

Budgies – *Courtesy of W. Lawler, Australian Wildlife Conservancy*

Norm Morrison using the Gardens' Botanical Resource Centre – *ANBG Collection*

Biking in the Alps – *Tourism Australia*

Ally holding a green turtle – *Parks Australia staff*

Robber crab – *Director of National Parks*

Kakadu National Park – *Director of National Parks*

Eucalyptus caesia – *ANBG Collection*

Penguins – *Kate Kiefer*

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, 2010.

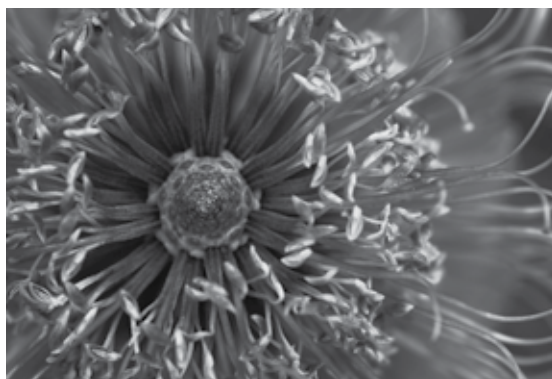
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Geographic Coordinate System on the GDA94 Datum.



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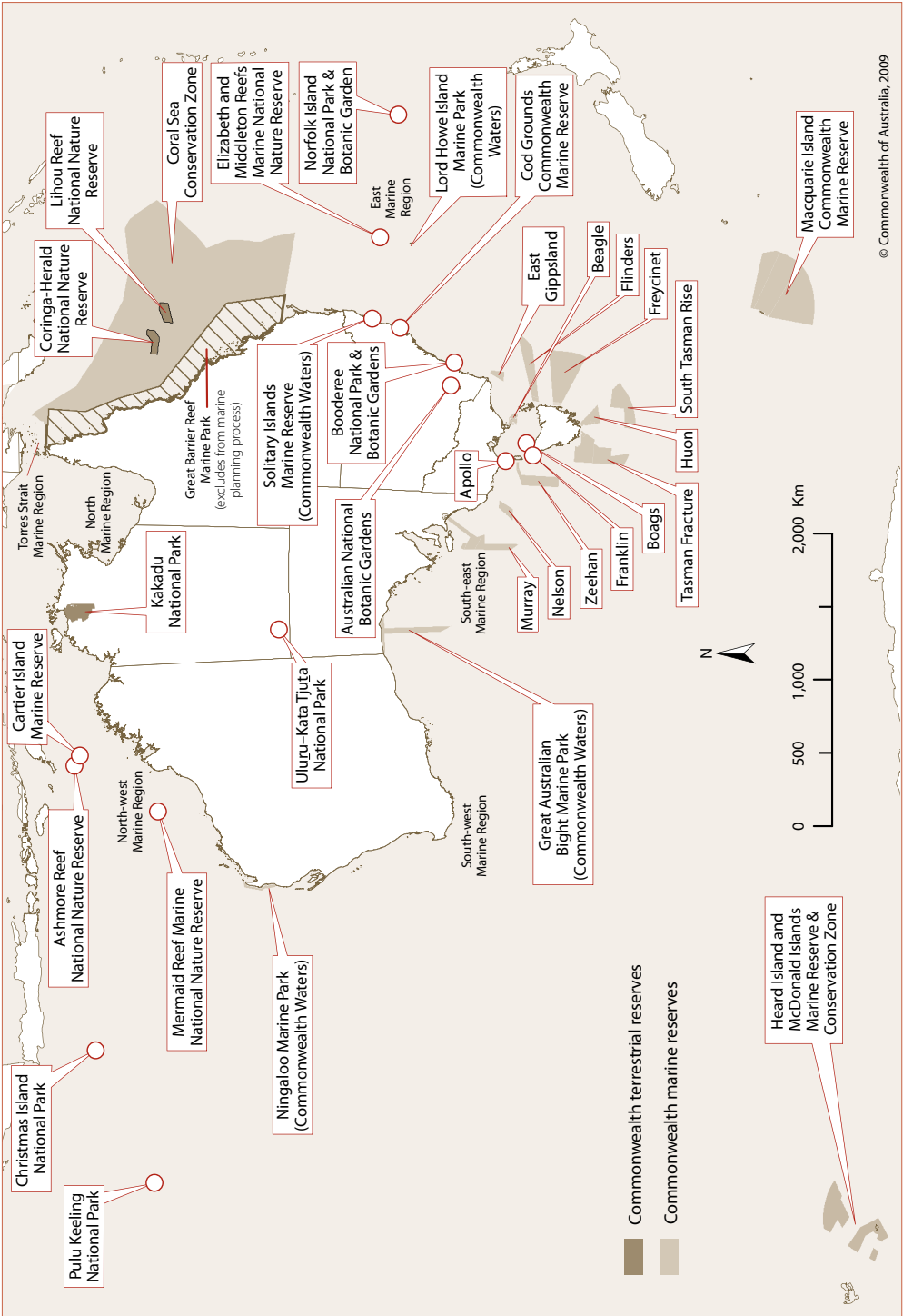


Director of National Parks

Annual Report 2009–10

Managing the Australian Government's protected areas

Figure 1: Locations of Commonwealth parks and reserves managed by the Director of National Parks in 2009–10



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 2009–10, 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 Austland Services Pty Ltd
- employed 290 full-time equivalent staff around Australia
- recorded a total price of outputs of \$66.7 million.

Major highlights and issues for 2009–10

- The fifth management plan for Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park came into effect
- Booderee National Park won the national Indigenous Tourism award in the 2009 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards and was awarded a commendation in the best tourism attraction category
- Despite the enormous efforts of park staff, scientists, zookeepers and vets, the rescue mission for the pipistrelle bat on Christmas Island was unsuccessful and the species is now believed to be extinct
- The Australian National Botanic Gardens took on a leadership role to coordinate Australia's diverse seedbank efforts that secure the future of native plants that may be under threat in the wild
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park's new viewing area, called Talinguru Nyakunytjaku was officially opened
- While small mammal populations continued to decline across northern Australia, biodiversity surveys at Anlarr and Mamukala in Kakadu National Park resulted in one of the best trapping results for years, indicating that these areas may be an important refuge for small mammal populations.





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1 Director's review

The year in review

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Certification

← Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park completed Talinguru Nyakunyatjaku, it's new viewing area in 2009–10. The award-winning facility offers visitors a chance to see Australia's most iconic landmark while providing information on its cultural and environmental importance. Pictured is an Anangu dancer at the official opening of the viewing area. Photo Grenville Turner

The year in review

The 2009–10 financial year saw a number of major achievements across the Commonwealth parks and reserves, as well as significant improvements in the way Parks Australia does business.

Through a restructure of Parks Australia we have developed a stronger foundation for all aspects of our work, including creation of a new science-based branch to better inform and support our planning, management and action to protect biodiversity.

In 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, we launched Bush Blitz to help document the plants and animals in Australia's National Reserve System. Bush Blitz, Australia's largest nature discovery project, is the brainchild of Parks Australia's Australian Biological Resources Study which is now leading a three-year multimillion dollar partnership between the Australian Government, BHP Billiton, Earthwatch Institute Australia, the National Scientific Reference Site Network and others (see www.bushblitz.org.au). We also established a new leadership role for the Australian National Botanic Gardens in coordinating Australia's diverse seedbank efforts that secure the future of native plants that may be under threat in the wild.

We have had success with a number of our weed and feral animal control programs. Control of bitou bush in Booderee National Park has continued to reduce high density infestations, and Booderee has seen a jump in the number of brush-tail possums and other key indicator species thanks to a decade of effective fox management. At Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, the annual *tjakura* (great desert skink) survey showed the vulnerable reptiles are breeding well in the park, and native plants are bouncing back in areas where the aggressive weed buffel grass has been removed. Norfolk Island has tapped great community support, with school students helping to tackle one of the island's major environmental challenges, weed control, by clearing a significant area of morning glory and replacing it with native plants.

Unfortunately this year has also brought some disappointments. Despite the enormous efforts of park staff, scientists, zookeepers and vets, the rescue mission for the pipistrelle bat on Christmas Island was unsuccessful and the species is now believed to be extinct, although we continue to monitor potential habitat. The Minister has described the pipistrelle's story as a wake-up call that emphasises the need for a new ecosystem-wide approach to environmental management.

Even the remote and uninhabited island atoll of Pulu Keeling National Park is not safe from threats to its biodiversity, with concern about the potential impact of the yellow crazy ant on the park's important seabird populations. Park staff have activated a crazy ant management plan, drawing on the success of control programs on Christmas Island.

Concerns remain about the decline of small mammals in Kakadu National Park, reflecting a trend across much of northern Australia. However, biodiversity hotspot surveys at Anlarr and Mamukala in Kakadu resulted in one of the best trapping results for years, indicating that these areas may be an important refuge for small mammal populations.

→ Booderee National Park is famed for its crystal clear water and sparkling white beaches. The park took out the top award for Indigenous tourism in Australia at the National 2009 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards and received a highly commended in the best tourism attraction category. Photo June Andersen



On a positive note, we resumed aerial baiting of crazy ants on Christmas Island, with 99 per cent success in destroying targeted supercolonies and with no impact on red crabs. It has been a year of 'rediscoveries' on Christmas Island, with scientists finding four species feared to have been lost. They are an orchid that had not been seen for over 100 years, the Lister's gecko which had not been seen since 1987, a coastal skink which had not been seen since 2004 and a Christmas Island pink blink snake last seen in 1985.

We are making good progress with major infrastructure projects in our reserves. We are moving ahead with a construction project to pipe water from Lake Burley Griffin to the Australian National Botanic Gardens, on track for completion in November 2010. The pipeline will ensure a sustainable water supply for the Gardens' plants and free up valuable drinking water for Canberra's residents. Both Booderee and Norfolk Island National Parks have reduced their environmental footprint by installing solar power systems. At Norfolk Island, signs and brochures have been replaced, providing up-to-date information for visitors.

The Minister formally opened Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park's new viewing area, called Talinguru Nyakunytjaku, at a well attended event in October 2009. The celebrations included women's and men's *inma* (dance) performed by Anangu traditional owners as part of a stunning sunrise ceremony. This new visitor destination offers spectacular views of Uluru and Kata Tjuta from an area previously inaccessible. The tourism industry and visitors alike are delighted by the outstanding facilities.

Our performance on Indigenous employment did not meet expectations with direct Indigenous employment remaining steady, although indirect employment outcomes improved. To turn this around we are taking steps to replace some of the more inflexible Australian Public Service positions with more flexible arrangements, including traditional knowledge consultancies, cultural advisor roles and casual employment. While we need to do better on employment outcomes, our jointly managed parks continue to make an important contribution to government efforts to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage (see case study on page 18).

This year we continued our strong partnerships with the tourism industry. Western Australia's Kimberley region was announced as Australia's tenth National Landscape, highlighting its outstanding nature-based tourism experiences. Our National Landscapes partnership with Tourism Australia has become a central element of the Australian Government's National Long-term Tourism Strategy. Visitor surveys continued to record high levels of satisfaction at our popular reserves, and the parks have won several tourism awards. Booderee's awards were capped off by the national Indigenous Tourism award in the 2009 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards and a commendation in the best tourism attraction category. In March we launched Kakadu's Tourism Master Plan, which sets clear tourism directions for the park and presents opportunities for new experiences and visitor infrastructure over the next decade.

Norfolk Island National Park won the gold environment, history and heritage category of the 2009 Norfolk Island Tourism Awards. The park also won its first ever Norfolk Island Tourism Better Business Initiative award, recognising its efforts to promote the island as a wonderful tourist destination. The Australian National Botanic Gardens' Australian Plant Name Index Team gained a CSIRO team award for their innovation and achievements for this nationally significant project.

Our parks and reserves are embracing new ways of engaging visitors. Earlier this year, the Gardens and Norfolk Island National Park both launched Facebook pages, uploading information daily on events, walks, research and more. Their fans are growing steadily and they are seeing increased interaction from virtual visitors. Norfolk even saw visitors participating in the park's reptile survey by posting their own pictures online.

Management planning for our reserves progressed this year. The new management plan for Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park came into effect in January, flagging the intention to eventually replace the contentious Uluru climb with other visitor experiences. Climate change strategies for Kakadu, Booderee and the Gardens were finalised and the strategies for Norfolk Island and Uluru–Kata Tjuta are in their final stages of development.

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. We anticipate that a suite of new Commonwealth marine reserves will be established when the marine bioregional planning process is completed.

Financial matters

Overall, we have achieved good progress in all our major projects. Our work has been set against a background of increasing budget pressures that have demanded further efficiencies in staffing, structures and operations.

Park use fees were reintroduced at Kakadu in April 2010, coinciding with the substantial reduction of the special budget supplementation that had provided a substitute for fees. We delayed the planned introduction of e-ticketing arrangements for Kakadu, Uluru–Kata Tjuta and Booderee until we could resolve a number of technical issues.

This year we recorded a surplus, arising from minor delays in several repairs and maintenance projects which will be completed in 2010–11. Our financial control framework remains sound and is well regarded by internal and external auditors, continuing our history of good financial performance.

Our people

Our capacity to meet our challenges relies on skilled and dedicated staff, so continuing to invest in building and extending our staff is a high priority. A number of senior staffing changes warrant special mention. Dr Judy West joined Parks Australia to head the new Parks and Biodiversity Science Branch. Judy is an internationally renowned botanist and previously headed the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research. Anna Morgan also joined Parks Australia as acting assistant secretary of the new Parks Operations and Tourism Branch. We recruited Peter Byron as the new general manager of the Australian National Botanic Gardens and Christine Burke to replace Lara Musgrave as manager of Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park.

Significant departures from Parks Australia included the well-earned retirements of three long-standing senior employees: Bruce Leaver, Helen Halliday and Sarah Pizzey. Anne-Marie Delahunt has moved to another part of the department after nearly four years with Parks Australia. Their contributions will be missed and we wish them all the best. I would also like to acknowledge the retirement of long-serving Kakadu board members Jacob Nayinggul, Jane Christophersen, Jessie Alderson, Victor Cooper and Denise Williams. Murray Fagg celebrated 40 years at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, and the Norfolk Island National Park Advisory Committee celebrated 25 years with five members who had served since its establishment.

Australia Day awards went to the Australian Biological Resources Study team for successfully restructuring their grants program and forging innovative industry partnerships and to Leanne Wilks for her drive and commitment to delivering a long-term strategy for the National Reserve System. In August 2009 Linda Tulloch received a Secretary's Award in recognition of her sustained contribution as administration manager at Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park.

Sadly, this year was also marked with the sudden passing of two well-loved and respected staff members: Kevin McLeod and Andrew Gooley. Kevin was a long-time department employee and was responsible for developing a number of successful programs involving Indigenous people in conservation while Andrew had more recently joined Christmas Island National Park. Our sympathies are with their families and friends.

Finally thank you to all members of the senior management team in Parks Australia for their commitment and support throughout this year. An example of the great effort our employees make was recognised through an inaugural Australian Government silver award for the best online presentation of an annual report last year.

Looking ahead

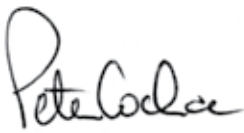
In the year ahead we will focus on tackling biodiversity challenges in our parks and reserves, improving training and employment opportunities for Indigenous staff, and providing even more rewarding visitor experiences through stronger partnerships with the tourism industry. I especially look forward to making further headway in the important task of improving the coordination and targeting of our science investment. While operational funding pressures remain, I am confident that we are in a strong position to continue to meet our many challenges and deliver our responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

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
4 October 2010



Peter Cochrane at Uluru



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: Kakadu's Indigenous rangers—Closing the Gap

Protecting unique island ecosystems

Conserving Australia's biodiversity through a National Reserve System

Case study: Witchelina, a major link in Australia's outback wildlife corridor

Protecting the marine environment

Understanding and studying Australia's biodiversity

Australia's National Landscapes

← The Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra had the honour of being the first garden to contain Canberra's centenary *correa* cultivar – *Correa* 'Canberra Bells'. First planted in 2010, the cultivar is going to be ready for the public to purchase in 2013, the year of Canberra's centenary celebrations.

The Minister

During 2009–10 the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP continued as Minister for Environment Protection, 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 2009–10 the Minister made official visits to Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Booderee and Christmas Island National Parks. In October 2009, the Minister joined traditional owners to open Talinguru Nyakunytyaku – a new \$21 million visitor facility including roads, toilet facilities and a viewing area at Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park. His visit to Booderee included meeting stakeholders and landowners on the neighbouring Heritage Estates to discuss a decision to restrict further housing development due to likely impacts on the park and endangered species. The Minister's visits also enabled him to meet with park staff and stakeholders and to assess the condition of these parks.

The Minister approved the Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park management plan in January 2010.



The Minister touring Bowra Station.

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 2009–10.

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 means 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 2010, 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.

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 2009–10, under delegation from the Director, staff of the department's Australian Antarctic Division managed the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve while Marine Division staff 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 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 Environment Protection, 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. 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, and provides coordination and leadership in meeting Australia's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The outputs of these non-statutory functions are reported in the department's annual report.

Financial summary

A surplus result was achieved for 2009–10 due largely to delays in repairs and maintenance work in several parks, asbestos rehabilitation works in Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta and lower than expected depreciation expenditure, caused by capital works delays.

Overall, income for 2009–10 was up by 1.3 per cent against budget and expenditure was down by 6.2 per cent against budget. An analysis of the variances is in Table 1.

Table 2 summarises 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 2009–10.

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 2009–10

Business area	Income	Expenses
Jointly managed parks	Down \$0.195 million due to lower than expected entry fees and the continuation of entry fee discount in Uluru. This amount is offset by an increase in entry and camping fees in both Kakadu and Booderee.	No material variance to budget.
Other parks and reserves	Up \$0.653 million due to increased sale of goods and services at the Australian National Botanic Gardens and accrued revenue at Christmas Island for the rehabilitation of mine sites.	Down \$0.668 million due to underspends for the natural resource management and wild cat abatement projects along with delays in visitor centre repairs and maintenance at Christmas Island.
Governance, corporate services and executive	Up \$0.450 million due to greater than expected interest revenue primarily from delays in operating expenditure and capital works.	Down \$3.770 million primarily due to significant investment in project planning for asbestos remediation and repairs and maintenance.

Table 2: Overview of financial results 2009–10

		2009 Actuals \$000s	2009 Restated^(d) \$000s	2010 Actuals \$000s	2010 Budget \$000s	2010 Variance \$000s
Jointly managed parks ^(a)	Income	39,284	39,284	40,681	40,876	(195)
	Expenses	(37,824)	(39,189)	(41,732)	(41,729)	(3)
	Surplus/(Deficit)	1,460	95	(1,051)	(853)	(198)
Other terrestrial parks and reserves ^(b)	Income	16,259	16,259	18,360	17,707	653
	Expenses	(15,791)	(15,988)	(17,152)	(17,821)	669
	Surplus/(Deficit)	468	271	1,208	(114)	1,322
Total for terrestrial parks and reserves	Income	55,543	55,543	59,041	58,583	458
	Expenses	(53,615)	(55,177)	(58,884)	(59,550)	666
	Surplus/(Deficit)	1,928	366	157	(967)	1,124
Governance, corporate services and executive ^(c)	Income	7,013	7,013	11,945	11,495	450
	Expenses	(7,562)	(7,562)	(7,845)	(11,615)	3,770
	Surplus/(Deficit)	(549)	(549)	4,100	(120)	4,220
Total for Director of National Parks	Income	62,556	62,556	70,986	70,078	908
	Expenses	(61,177)	(62,739)	(66,729)	(71,165)	4,436
	Surplus/(Deficit)	1,379	(183)	4,257	(1,087)	5,344

(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, finance, legal, insurance, planning, interest income and bank charges.

(d) Refer to Note 1.17 of the Financial Statements.

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

	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Number of staff (full-time equivalent)					
Management of terrestrial reserves	274.5	270.6	274.0	293.0	290
Management of marine reserves	15.3	17.5	16.3	16	15
Area of Commonwealth reserves (hectares)					
Terrestrial reserves area (number of reserves)	2,131,407 (7)	2,130,774 (7)	2,130,774 (7)	2,130,774 (7)	2,130,774 (7)
Marine reserves area (number of reserves)	27,245,378 (13)	27,245,678 (14)	49,844,075 (26)	49,844,075 (26)	49,844,075 (26)
Visitors to Commonwealth terrestrial reserves					
Number of visitors	1,430,515	1,485,727	1,466,560	1,410,021	1,445,381
Safety incidents recorded (including staff and visitors etc.)					
Minor injury or near miss	156	157	141	101	126
Moderate injury	68	47	63	52	41
Major injury	12	3	6	8	20
Death	1	0	1	4	2
Compliance and enforcement					
EPBC Act incidents detected	243	372	197	126	203
Warnings and cautions issued	195	287	131	56	147
Infringement notices issued	9	38	59	20	38
Cases taken to court	7	17	3	0	2
Court convictions	5	13	3	1	0
Court cases pending at year end	2	4	2	1	2
Financial summary—terrestrial reserves (\$ millions)					
Operations					
Total operating expenditure ^(a)	56.85	59.29	62.05	61.25	58.88
Total operating revenue ^(b)	59.02	62.99	63.03	62.63	59.04
Financial position					
Current assets	21.80	19.51	28.50	29.30	41.67
Non-current assets	138.90	139.11	149.33	151.04	151.53
Current liabilities	15.38	9.47	9.77	10.91	17.80
Non-current liabilities	0.45	0.58	0.64	0.49	0.53
Total equity	144.87	148.57	167.42	168.95	174.87
Financial summary—marine reserves (\$ millions)					
Total operating expenditure	3.58	5.53	4.51	4.55	2.80
Total operating revenue	3.58	5.53	4.51	4.55	2.80

(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 2009–10

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	6,923	787	1,218	558
Kakadu National Park	1,979,767	1979	II	21,945	2,748	3,197	1,655
Uluru—Kata Tjuta National Park	132,566	1977	II	12,864	5,475	7,217	2,011
Other Commonwealth terrestrial reserves							
Australian National Botanic Gardens	85	1991	IV	9,652	1,336	1,809	
Christmas Island National Park	8,719	1980	II	5,204	957	1,619	
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	656	1986	II	1,065	202	114	
Pulu Keeling National Park	2,602	1995	II	597	0	91	
Commonwealth marine reserves^(d)							
Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve	58,337	1983	Ia	75			
Cartier Island Marine Reserve	17,238	2000	Ia	0			
Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve	314	2007	Ia	168			
Coringa—Herald National Nature Reserve	885,249	1982	Ia	0			
Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve	187,726	1987	Ia	0			
Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	1,937,162	1998	VI	150			
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve	6,465,845	2002	Ia	84			
Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve	843,670	1982	Ia	104			
Lord Howe Island Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	300,287	2000	IV	118			
Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve	53,987	1991	Ia	93			
Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	243,513	1987	II	130			
Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters)	15,233	1993	VI	240			
South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network (inc Macquarie Island)	38,845,800	2007	1a, II, IV, VI	814			

(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, \$903,090 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 has a long and proud history of 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. Parks Australia works together with the Anangu traditional owners to protect, conserve and document the cultural and natural heritage of the park using *Tjukurpa* 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.

Kakadu's Indigenous rangers—Closing the Gap

Samantha Deegan lives in the Kakadu area with her family and has been employed full-time on the Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program since early 2009.

The program, funded through the Australian Government's Working on Country program, is helping to boost Indigenous job opportunities in the park. It contributes to the Closing the Gap target of halving the difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous job outcomes within a decade.



Sam at Kakadu

'The Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program is great—it's helped me get real experience across lots of different areas in Kakadu,' Samantha said.

'Since I started in the ranger program, I've worked in the Mary River District doing weed work and helping to open visitor sites like Gunlom and Koolpin Gorge after the wet season. I've helped coordinate staff training, and worked in the Bowali Visitor Centre giving tourists advice on great things to do at Kakadu. I've also completed a fair bit of training with the park, and at the moment I'm working on a project to record the oral histories of senior traditional owners in the park, which I'm really enjoying.

'I grew up at outstations in Kakadu and my kids are now growing up in the park and going to school here. I love working in the field, and in future my goal is to work as a full-time ranger in the Jim Jim District in Kakadu.'

In 2009–10, the Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program provided salaried job opportunities for 11 Indigenous community rangers within the park. The success of the program is underpinned by the park's strong partnership with the Warnbi and Werenbun Aboriginal Corporations. Rangers in the program are employed through these two Indigenous corporations. They are then based at Kakadu where they receive training and mentoring, and work in many different park management roles.

To date, six people involved in the program have gone on to Australian Public Service roles within the park, with other participants building the experience and skills necessary to win such positions in the future.

There are many social and economic benefits to the Kakadu Indigenous community, as rangers develop networks and increase their social participation through employment while enhancing their own living standards and those of their families.

The Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program is currently funded until June 2013, which will ensure Kakadu continues to contribute significantly to Closing the Gap for Indigenous communities through jobs in conservation and park management.

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.

Parks Australia's relationship with Indigenous communities in the jointly managed parks continues to develop. Staff 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 building a knowledge-based approach to management, Parks Australia is committed to ensuring that traditional knowledge is utilised effectively.

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

More information on Commonwealth jointly managed reserves, including performance results for 2009–10, can be found in the State of the Parks report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10.

Protecting unique island ecosystems

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 seabird species (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 ongoing and has been accelerated, with some encouraging results.

The presumed extinction of the endemic pipistrelle bat during the year focused attention on the need to promote a more integrated approach to management of the island's biodiversity. The final report of an expert working group appointed in February 2009 stressed the need for measures such as improved quarantine procedures if further extinctions were to be avoided. Despite the loss of the pipistrelle, the rediscovery during the year of two endemic reptiles and an orchid species not recorded for many years was an encouraging development.

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 2009–10, can be found in the State of the Parks report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10.



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.

During 2009–10 Caring for our Country contributed over \$35.8 million to the National Reserve System towards the purchase of 27 properties, covering up to 1.14 million hectares, and over \$2.7 million to strategic projects for the establishment of protected areas on private lands.

A particular highlight was the establishment in June 2010 of Witchelina reserve in outback South Australia. At 4,200 square kilometres one of the largest properties ever purchased for the National Reserve System, Witchelina is owned and managed by the independent Nature Foundation SA. The property forms a vital habitat link between Lake Torrens and the Northern Territory.

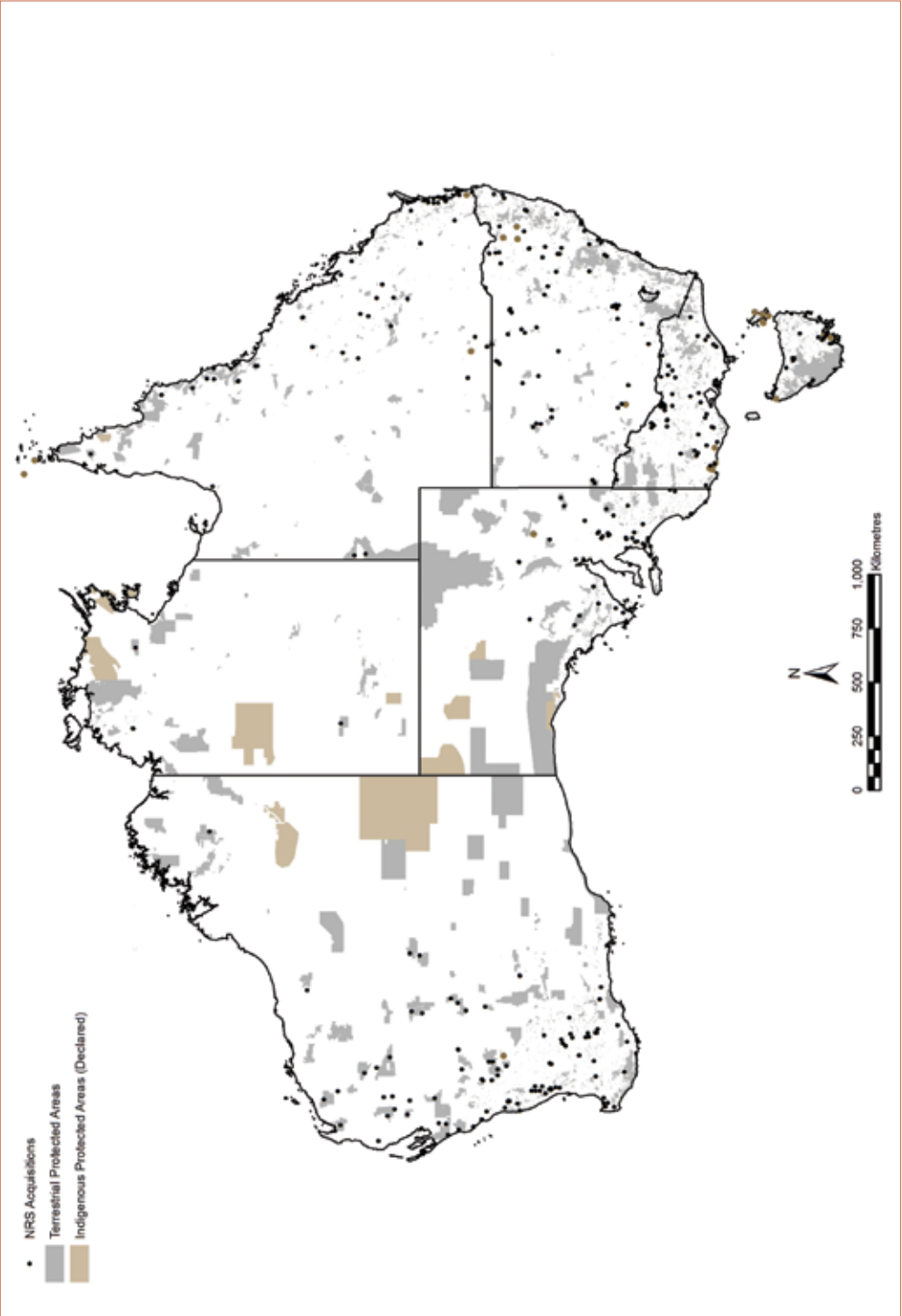
Protected areas managed by Indigenous people make an important contribution to the National Reserve System. The Indigenous Protected Area element of Caring for our Country supports Indigenous communities to manage their land for conservation, so that the biodiversity and heritage of this land are protected 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 in September 2009 of the Djelk and Warrdeken Indigenous Protected Areas in Arnhem Land created a huge conservation corridor stretching from Kakadu's stone country to the Arafura Sea. Together the Djelk and Warrdeken Indigenous Protected Areas cover more than 2,000 square kilometres and are the culmination of years of work undertaken by the traditional owners and their representative Indigenous organisations. The areas are home to many endemic and threatened species while thousands of individual occupation and rock art sites record the rich cultural heritage of the Aboriginal people who live there.

Outputs of the National Reserve System and Indigenous Protected Area programs, including performance results for 2009–10, are reported in the department's annual report.

Figure 2: Acquisitions under the National Reserve System program and declared Indigenous Protected Areas as at 30 June 2010



Witchelina, a major link in Australia's outback wildlife corridor

Witchelina is a vast conservation area in the arid heartland of South Australia. At 4,200 square kilometres, more than twice the size of greater Adelaide, Witchelina is the largest property ever purchased for the National Reserve System through Caring for our Country.

The Nature Foundation SA purchased the property for conservation with almost \$2 million from the Australian Government, a contribution from the South Australian Government and a series of environmental offset payments from resource companies.



Gecko found at Witchelina

Witchelina has been hit hard by Australia's long drought, but with recent rains and plans for careful management the property is on track to make a strong recovery.

Witchelina's stony plains shelter the leathery gibber dragon and its red sand dunes are home to huge burrowing frogs. Witchelina's 'old man saltbush' plains and acacia dune-fields provide ideal habitat for threatened small mammals such as the vulnerable dusky hopping mouse and the peregrine falcon.

When it rains in this arid environment the creek beds burst with water, and wildflowers such as the iconic Sturt's desert pea flourish. When wet, Witchelina's creeks and waterholes act as arid zone refuges for nomadic ducks, sandpipers and other waterbirds. The nationally vulnerable thick-billed grass wren finds it home in Witchelina's chenopod shrublands and in winter, the blue-winged parrot visits the reserve's grasslands and woodlands from Tasmania.

The new reserve forms part of a vital habitat link between South Australia's Lake Torrens and the Northern Territory, covering almost 10 million hectares. Witchelina is part of the world's first transcontinental wildlife corridor being created through the heart of Australia's outback, between Port Augusta and Arnhem Land.

Witchelina has a long social history. The property straddles the boundary between the traditional lands of the Adnyamathanha and Arabunna peoples who have continued strong spiritual connections to their country. After European occupation, Witchelina operated as a pastoral station for more than 140 years.

The reserve significantly increases the area protected in the under-represented Flinders Lofty Block bioregion, taking total levels of protection from 5.6 per cent to almost 9 per cent.

Witchelina also increases protection in the Stony Plains bioregion to 7.35 per cent. The aim of the National Reserve System program is to protect at least 10 per cent of each of Australia's distinct bioregions, so purchases such as Witchelina make an important contribution to our national conservation effort.

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 Austland Services Pty Ltd (a company established by the Australian Landscape Trust) under contract to the Director.

More information on the management of Calperum and Taylorville Stations, including performance results for 2009–10, can be found in the State of the Parks report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10.

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 department's Marine Division 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; the Coral Sea Conservation Zone covering some 972,000 square kilometres east of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was declared in 2009.

More information on the management of Commonwealth marine reserves, including performance results for 2009–10, can be found in the State of the Parks report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10.

Through the Marine Division, 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 in making decisions about the key conservation issues and priorities in each region.



The hawksbill turtle is a large marine turtle with a distinctive parrot-like beak. It lives in coral and rocky reefs in Australia's tropical waters and breeds in the northern areas of the Great Barrier Reef and on beaches in the north-west of Western Australia. It is listed as a vulnerable species and can take up to 30 years to reach adulthood. Photo Glen Cowans glencowans.com

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.

The release of more areas for further assessment in April 2010 marked an important milestone in efforts to assess the unique economic and environmental values of the Australian east coast marine environment. These areas will be examined more closely to determine the best placement of marine reserves to protect the marine environment in a way that minimises impacts on industry.

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 is a major national scientific, educational and recreational resource located in Canberra. The Gardens 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 Gardens is the custodian of one of the largest collections (in terms of species) of Australian plants with an emphasis on threatened species. The Gardens also provides a diverse range of education and public programs to raise awareness of the value of Australia's unique flora. This year a new position of national seedbank coordinator was established at the Gardens to lead Australia's seedbanking efforts.

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.

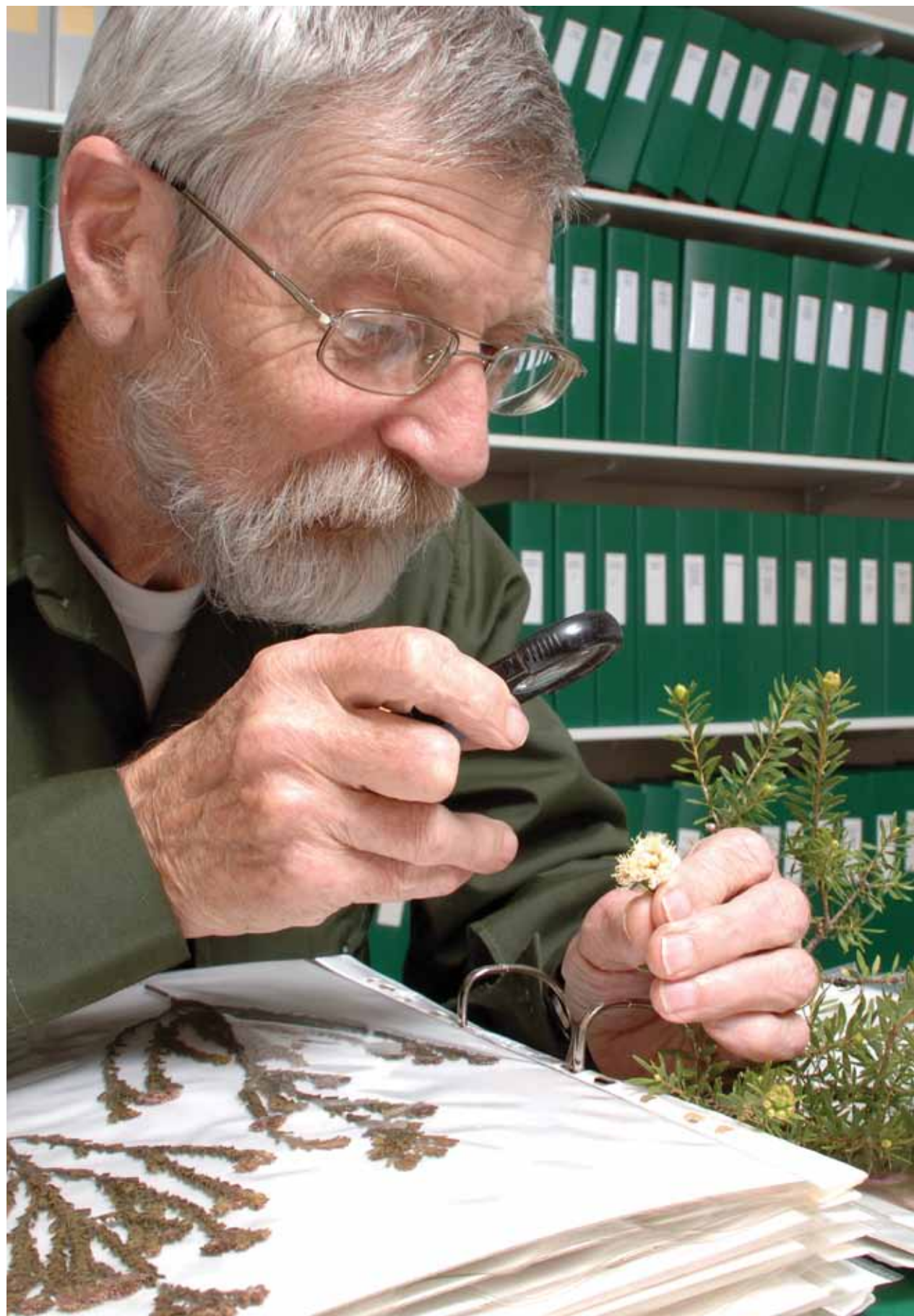
Formerly an annex to the Gardens and now part of Booderee National Park, Booderee Botanic Gardens represents the regional biodiversity of south-east coastal New South Wales with a strong focus on the relationship between plants and the park's Indigenous owners, the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community.

More information on the work of these botanic gardens, including performance results for 2009–10, can be found in the State of the Parks report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10.

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 Australian National Botanic Gardens 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 approximately 1.2 million plant specimens, documenting the diversity of the Australian flora and providing voucher specimens for research, environmental studies and for the Gardens 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 10 year agreement between the Director and CSIRO that underpins the Centre expired in 2009. A new agreement has been negotiated and will be finalised in 2010.



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.

The highlight for the year was the development and launch of the Bush Blitz project, which will help to provide the first national snapshot of the biodiversity contained in the National Reserve System. Bush Blitz is a partnership with BHP Billiton, Earthwatch Institute Australia, the National Scientific Reference Site Network and Caring for our Country.

Outputs of the Australian Biological Resources Study, including performance results for 2009–10, 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 managing access to genetic resources. Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory have joined the Australian Government in enacting measures to implement a nationally consistent approach to access and benefit sharing.

In September 2009 a National Forum on Biodiversity, Biodiscovery and Traditional Knowledge was held to inform Australia's position on the development of an international regime of access and benefit sharing. The Minister welcomed over 130 people to the forum including leading international and Australian scientists.

Outputs of the program to manage access to genetic resources, including performance results for 2009–10, 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. Parks Australia, 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 Australian National Botanic Gardens 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.

Australia's National Landscapes

Australia's National Landscapes, a partnership between Parks Australia and Tourism Australia, is identifying and promoting Australia's top 15 exceptional natural and cultural experiences to the international market. 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 to date are the Red Centre, the Australian Alps, the Great Ocean Road, Kakadu, Australia's Coastal Wilderness, Greater Blue Mountains, Flinders Ranges, Australia's Green Cauldron, Kangaroo Island and the latest, the Kimberley (announced in 2010). Candidates in Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania are seeking recognition as National Landscapes.

All National Landscapes must have effective locally driven management arrangements in place that are committed to protecting Australia's distinctive natural and cultural assets. Local steering committees play a critical role.

National Landscapes has attracted enormous interest in Australia as a framework for best practice long-term strategic regional tourism planning. The initiative has been identified by industry bodies as a successful model for conservation and tourism partnerships and regional collaboration. National Landscapes was also recognised in the Australian Government's National Long-Term Tourism Strategy, launched in December 2009.

Experience development strategies that focus on the delivery of a small number of outstanding and iconic visitor experiences will be produced by each National Landscape. The strategies consider what visitor experience the regions will offer; where the experiences will be offered (and where they will not); how the experiences are best delivered; what infrastructure or services are needed to deliver them; and what levels of visitor interpretation are needed to build appreciation of the natural and cultural values of the destination.

Strategies have now been completed for the Australian Alps and Australia's Coastal Wilderness. Both are demonstrating very positive early results including aligned regional heritage strategies, walking trails, new product development and regional discussion of appropriate tourism development in natural environments.

→ *Australia's iconic landscapes are a major drawcard for visitors, with national parks such as Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta attracting hundreds of thousands of people each year. The National Landscapes initiative – a partnership between Tourism Australia and Parks Australia – is building on the natural link between tourism and conservation to market Australia's world-class visitor experiences. The Alps, pictured here, is one of ten National Landscapes that stretch across Australia from South Australia's Kangaroo Island to the Kimberley in Western Australia. Photo Tourism Australia*





3 Organisational structure

Figure 3: Parks Australia organisation chart at 30 June 2010

The executive team

Senior management team

Staffing overview

Table 5: Staffing (full- and part-time) profile at 30 June 2010

Boards of management

Booderee National Park

Kakadu National Park

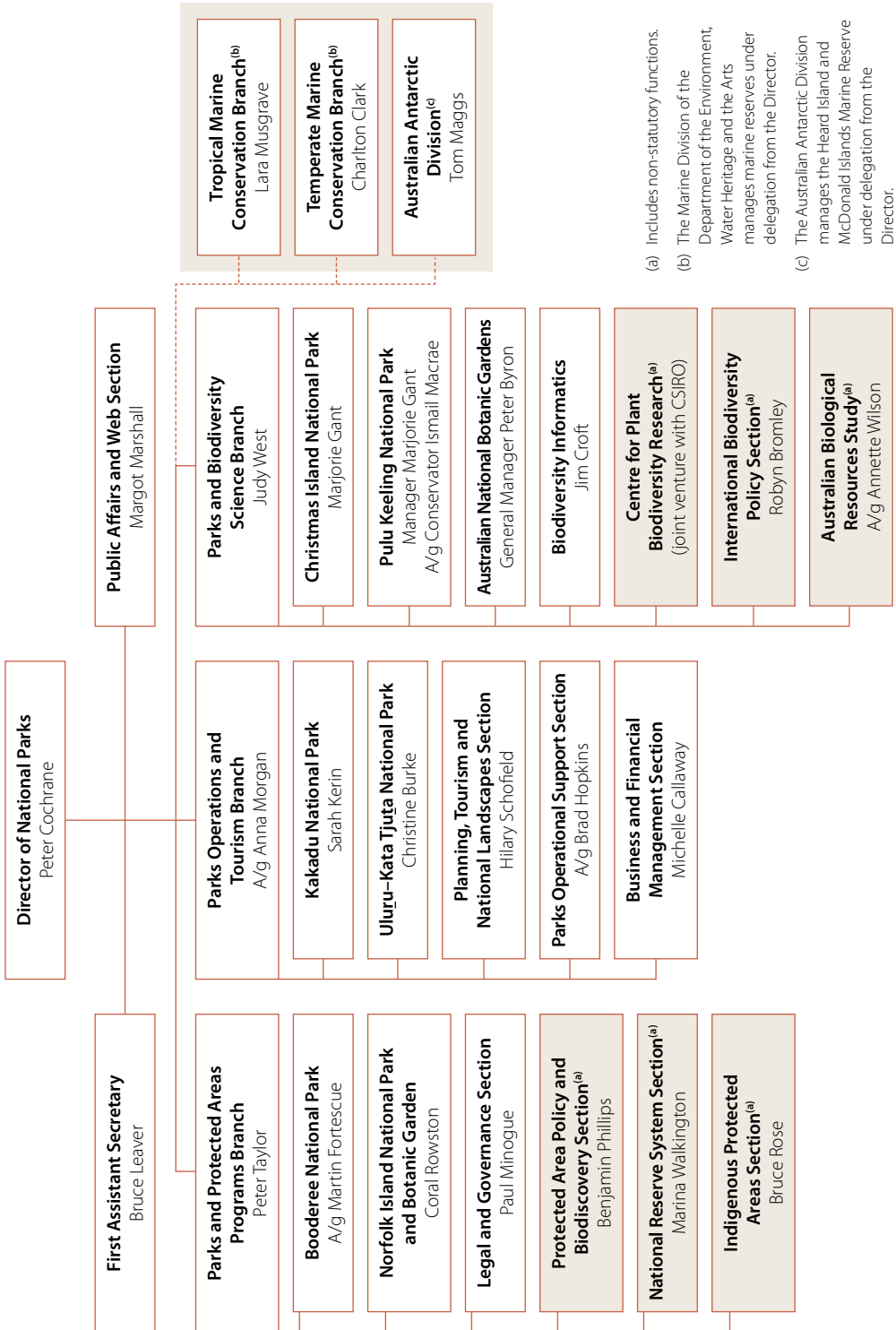
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park

Table 6: Booderee National Park Board of Management

Table 7: Uluru–Kata Tjuta Board of Management

← One of Australia's smallest national parks, Pulu Keeling National Park has helped maintain its pristine environment and rich biodiversity largely due to its remoteness. Here park ranger Ally Colless holds a green turtle, one of the many marine species found in the waters surrounding the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The park surveyed the species again in 2009–10 finding that the turtles appear to grow at a faster rate than elsewhere in Australia.

Figure 3: Parks Australia organisational chart as at 30 June 2010



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.

Until his retirement on 30 June 2010, Bruce served 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. Bruce was 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.



Dr Judy West

Executive Director, Australian National Botanic Gardens Assistant Secretary, Parks and Biodiversity Science Branch

Judy has been a Senior Principal Research Scientist in CSIRO Plant Industry and Director of the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research and Australian National Herbarium. She holds an adjunct professorial position at the Australian National University for her contributions to Australian plant systematics and was awarded the Nancy Burbidge Memorial Medal in 2001 and an Order of Australia in 2003.

Judy's scientific expertise is in plant systematics and phylogenetics, biodiversity informatics and conservation biology. Judy started with Parks Australia in November 2009.



Peter Taylor

Assistant Secretary, Parks and Protected Areas Programs Branch

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 industry to enhance recognition of the importance of Australia's National Reserve System.

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



Anna Morgan

Acting Assistant Secretary, Parks Operations and Tourism Branch

Anna joined the Department in 2000, having worked as a cultural heritage consultant and a conservation officer in the Queensland environment department. She has held a variety of positions in the department gaining extensive policy and program experience. Anna has worked on the development of the heritage amendments to the EPBC Act 1999, the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) program and provided secretariat support to key departmental Indigenous

advisory committees. Prior to her current role, Anna was involved in the development of the national Working on Country program and the development and management of the Northern Territory Working on Country program. She oversaw the implementation of the Australian and Northern Territory Governments' bilateral agreement, Healthy Country Healthy People. Anna has a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in History and Archaeology and a Masters Degree in Cultural Heritage Studies in Anthropology and Archaeology from James Cook University.



Lara Musgrave

Assistant Secretary, Tropical Marine Conservation Branch

Lara first joined the department in February 1998. Before commencing her current role in February 2010, Lara was the Manager of Uluṟu–Kata Tjuṯa National Park. She has extensive policy and regulatory experience in water and marine issues particularly. Lara was involved in the National Water Initiative Taskforce in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and has had responsibility for a variety of marine and water related areas in the department including domestic

and international fisheries issues, water policy, and Great Barrier Reef water quality protection cooperation with Queensland. Lara has a Bachelor of Science (Earth Science Oceanography) with honours from the University of New South Wales.



Charlton Clark

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 worked 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 the Parks Operations and Tourism Branch, who is based in Darwin, takes 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 in Tasmania with regard to the management of the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve.

Staffing overview

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 2009–10.

The Director of National Parks employed an average of 290 full time equivalent staff during 2009–10. The majority are located at Booderee, Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens. 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 Woden in Canberra. It is co-located with the department's Marine Division, which manages Commonwealth marine reserves under delegation from the Director.

Parks Australia participates in the department's graduate recruitment program and school leaver traineeship program and this year hosted a number of placements in Canberra and on the reserves.

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 available 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 a study support scheme.

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 staff 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. Staff encourage school children's interest 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. The 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 apprentices 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.

Jointly managed parks have a number of positions within their organisational structures specifically for Indigenous staff. Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park employs four specified Indigenous trainees and Kakadu National Park has one specified Indigenous trainee position. Kakadu National Park employs two Indigenous school based apprentices. These apprentices complete secondary school through participation in paid apprenticeships, gaining nationally accredited training in conservation and park management.

Through Working on Country, Kakadu's Indigenous Ranger Program is resourced to host 11 community rangers in park related employment.

Table 5: Staffing (full- and part-time) profile at 30 June 2010

		APS 1–3	APS 4	APS 5	APS 6	EL1	Park managers, Section heads	Technical, Legal, Public Affairs	SES	Total
Canberra (incl. ANBG)	Male	11	11	2	10	9	3	2	3	51
	Female	9	8	12	8	9	2	5	1	54
	Total	20	19	14	18	18	5	7	4	105
Kakadu	Male	27	8	5	2	4	0	0	0	46
	Female	17	5	5	5	1	1	0	0	34
	Total	44	13	10	7	5	1	0	0	80
Uluru–Kata Tjuta	Male	10	3	6	2	0	0	0	0	21
	Female	11	6	1	1	1	1	0	0	21
	Total	21	9	7	3	1	1	0	0	42
Christmas Island	Male	15	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	20
	Female	8	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
	Total	23	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	30
Booderee	Male	4	3	3	2	2	1	0	0	15
	Female	6	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	11
	Total	10	4	4	3	4	1	0	0	26
Darwin Office	Male	0	1	0	3	2	1	0	0	7
	Female	2	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	9
	Total	2	2	3	4	3	1	0	1	16
Pulu Keeling and Norfolk Island	Male	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Female	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
	Total	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	7
Grand Total		123	51	41	38	32	9	7	5	306

Note: these figures represent individual staff members, including those working part-time, and is not expressed as Full Time Equivalents (FTE).

Boards of management

Boards of management have been established under the EPBC Act for Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Kakadu and Booderee National Parks. Tables 6 and 7 show members of the boards at 30 June 2010.

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.

Booderee National Park



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 Wandanian, Monaro/Ngargo, and Jaithmathang. As such he plays a significant role in the Australian Alps Traditional

Owner Reference Group and the New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water Cultural Heritage Reference Group.

Paul has been employed by the Jervis Bay 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

Chair	Mr Paul McLeod (traditional owner nominee)
Members	Mr Craig Adler (traditional owner nominee) Mr Joseph Brown (traditional owner nominee) Mr James McKenzie (traditional owner nominee) Ms Julie Freeman (traditional owner nominee) Ms Jennifer Stewart (traditional owner nominee) Mr John Stewart (traditional owner nominee) Captain Jaimie Hatcher AM RAN (HMAS <i>Creswell</i>) Ms Sheryl Klaffer (Jervis Bay Territory Administration) Dr Todd Minchinton (conservation science expert) Assoc Prof Robyn Bushell (ecotourism expert) Mr Peter Cochrane (Director of National Parks)

Kakadu National Park

The terms of Kakadu National Park board members have expired and a process to recommend new members to the Minister is under way.

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park



Harry Wilson Chair, Uluru–Kata Tjuta 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 7: Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management

Chair	Mr Harry Wilson (traditional owner nominee)
Members	Ms Alison Hunt (traditional owner nominee)
	Ms Panjiti Windlass (traditional owner nominee)
	Mr Sammy Wilson (traditional owner nominee)
	Ms Judy Trigger (traditional owner nominee)
	Ms Malya Teamay (traditional owner nominee)
	Mr Bruce Breaden (traditional owner nominee)
	One other traditional owner (vacant) (nomination pending)
	Mr Tony Mayell (Northern Territory Government nominee)
	Mr John King (Minister for Resources, Energy and Tourism nominee)
	Mr Peter Cochrane (Director of National Parks)
	Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts nominee (vacant) (nomination pending)



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

Summary of performance

← In 2009 the Christmas Island Yellow Crazy Ant Team's work paid off with ant count data showing a decline in numbers over 99 per cent within four weeks of baiting. The aerial baiting program also had minimal impact on the island's important red and robber crab (pictured) populations. Aerial baiting is one way Christmas Island National Park is tackling one of its biggest threats. Photo Director of National Parks

Director of National Parks strategic planning and performance assessment

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, which includes a summary of performance for 2009–10.

Portfolio Budget Statements 2009–10

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:

The conservation and protection of Australia's terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems through supporting research, developing information, supporting natural resource management, regulating matters of national environmental significance and managing Commonwealth protected areas.

The Director contributes to meeting this outcome through:

Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves through the provision of safe visitor access, the control of invasive species and working with stakeholders and neighbours.

A summary of performance for Program 1.1 Parks and Reserves as identified in the Portfolio Budget Statements follows. Detailed performance information for individual Commonwealth reserves is included in the State of the Parks report (see www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10).

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 department's activities and programs.

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 and working with Indigenous communities

KRA4: Use and appreciation of protected areas

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

KRA6: Business management

KRA7: Biodiversity science, knowledge management and use.

Not all key result areas are equally relevant to all reserves. For example, KRA3, joint management and working with Indigenous communities, applies largely to the three jointly managed reserves: Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Kakadu and Booderee National Parks.

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 for individual reserves is in the State of the Parks report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10.

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 reserve's protection and conservation. They must state how the reserve is to be managed and how the reserve's features are to be protected and conserved.

As at 30 June 2010, the Director was responsible for the management of seven Commonwealth terrestrial and 26 Commonwealth marine reserves. Four terrestrial reserve management plans* are in place. Draft management plans are being prepared for Booderee and Christmas Island National Parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Management plans are in place for three marine reserves: Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve, the Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) and Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve and Conservation Zone.

Marine bioregional plans are 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 for other existing marine reserves have expired and the reserves are

* Norfolk Island National Park and Norfolk Island Botanic Garden are effectively managed as one reserve and the two reserve management plans are incorporated in a single document

being managed under interim arrangements in accordance with the intent of their previous management plans. Interim management arrangements will remain in place for these reserves until the new reserve networks 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. Four terrestrial reserve implementation schedules are in place.

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.

A technical audit of the Australian National Botanic Gardens conducted in 2009–10 identified a number of prescriptions that were not implemented over the life of the second plan, which expired in January 2009. Resource limitations and staff turnover impeded the ability to fully implement some prescriptions relating to new developments, field collections, marketing, philanthropic approaches and new policy development.



Uluru rangers and Mutitjulu community members surveyed murtja (mulgara) this year, part of an annual trapping project to check the health and breeding condition of these threatened marsupials.

Summary of performance

The following summary for 2009–10 uses key result areas, outcomes and indicators identified in the Parks Australia Divisional Plan and key performance indicators and deliverables identified in the 2009–10 Portfolio Budget Statements (marked 'PBS'). Additional information on performance against key result areas is in the State of the Parks report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10.

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Objective

- The Commonwealth protected area estate contributes to the long-term viability of Australia's biodiversity

Actions

- Undertake monitoring, research and conservation activities which maintain or improve the status of natural values for which Commonwealth reserves were declared and/or recognised^{PBS}
- Minimise the impacts of threats to natural values of Commonwealth reserves^{PBS}

2009–10 results

Reserve management

- 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 EPBC Act requirements. The Minister approved a new plan for Uluru–Kata Tjuta. New draft plans for Booderee, Christmas Island and the Australian National Botanic Gardens are being finalised.
- The Booderee National Park Climate Change Strategy 2010–2015 was finalised and adopted.
- The Christmas Island Expert Working Group, established in 2009 to advise on the ecological condition of the island, provided an interim report in June 2009 which was publicly released in 2009–10. Its final report was made public on 8 September 2010.
- With support from the Director, the Australasian Bat Society attempted to capture pipistrelle bats (*Pipistrellus murrayi*) on Christmas Island to establish a captive breeding colony. Despite considerable efforts the attempt was unsuccessful and the pipistrelle is now considered likely to be extinct.

- A collaborative project with the Northern Territory Government on two species of coastal dolphins, the Indo-Pacific humpback (*Sousa chinensis*) and Australian snubfin (*Orcaella heinsohni*), in the East and South Alligator rivers was completed. It is proposed to extend the project for a further 12 months to survey the West Alligator and Wildman rivers.
- A major three-year collaborative project with the Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts was completed. This project involved targeted surveys of threatened species in recognised biodiversity hotspots in the park, largely in the Arnhem Land Plateau. All surveys involved park staff (including trainees and school-based apprentices), Northern Territory Government staff, neighbouring Indigenous ranger groups and traditional owners from Arnhem Land.

Botanic gardens management

- A pipeline for non-potable water supply was installed between Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin and the Australian National Botanic Gardens and works were commenced to distribute this water through the Gardens' irrigation system. The works will secure a more reliable and sustainable water supply for irrigating the living collection and release around 170 megalitres per year of drinking water for Canberra.
- A program for *ex situ* alpine plant conservation supported by a three-year partnership between the Gardens, Australian National University, University of Queensland and the Friends of the Gardens continued. Eight field trips to the Mount Kosciuszko area were undertaken and 94 seed samples were collected. The program studies how climate change will affect the reproductive ecology and demography of Australian alpine flora.
- The old Gardens nursery site was rehabilitated to prepare for a new living collection display.
- Management of morning glory (*Ipomea cairica* and *I. indica*) at the Norfolk Island Botanic Garden continued with the assistance of students from the Norfolk Island Central School.

Monitoring and research

- Park managers nominated 35 species across six terrestrial reserves to determine whether viable populations of selected significant species have been maintained in those reserves. Of the selected species, the populations of five are increasing; 13 are remaining steady; eight are decreasing; one may be extinct; and for eight species population data are deficient. Further information on species monitoring is provided in the State of the Parks report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10.^{PBS}
- Species monitored at Booderee included the eastern bristlebird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*), hooded plover (*Thinornis rubricollis*), sooty oystercatcher (*Haematopus fuliginosus*) and little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*). Research into the ecology of the rare eastern chestnut mouse (*Pseudomys gracilicaudatus*) indicates relatively high abundance but whether this is due to suitable habitat becoming available following fire or to intensive fox control is not clear. Wildlife monitoring also continued to focus on the effectiveness of regular fox baiting and long-term impacts of the 2003 Windermere and 2007 Cave Beach fires, particularly on long-nosed bandicoots (*Perameles nasuta*) and eastern bristlebirds.

- Ongoing native reptile monitoring on Christmas Island indicated that reptiles are undergoing a rapid population decline. However, populations of Lister's gecko (*Lepidodactylus listeri*), last found in 1987, and an individual pink blind snake (*Ramphotyphlops exocoeti*), last found in 1985, were re-discovered.
- Monitoring and control programs continued at Kakadu for introduced plants including *Mimosa pigra*, mission grass (*Pennisetum polystachion*), olive hymenachne (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*), salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) at Yellow Water and gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*). Of these, salvinia and mission grass continue to be major challenges for the park. Two relatively new weed species were also targeted: snakeweed (*Stachytarphetta*) and knobweed (*Hyptis capitata*).
- Argentine ants (*Linepithema humile*) have been identified on Norfolk Island. Parks Australia staff conduct monthly surveys for Argentine ants at all visitor areas and around the periphery of the park, particularly focusing on areas near known infestations. At 30 June 2010, Argentine ants had not been detected in the park or botanic garden.
- Monitoring of invasive yellow crazy ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) at Pulu Keeling shows that colonies are widespread and some are reaching 'supercolony' density.
- Populations of the red-footed booby (*Sula sula*) and the Cocos buff-banded rail (*Gallirallus philippensis andrewsi*) at Pulu Keeling are steady.
- The thirteenth annual *tjakura* or great desert skink (*Egernia kintorei*) survey at Uluru–Kata Tjuta documented a record number (234) of breeding burrows, with 95 burrows containing juveniles and 65 containing sub-adults. This number of breeding burrows exceeds by far the previous highest number recorded since monitoring began.
- An environmental monitoring program was established to identify and assess any short-term or long-term damage associated with an oil and gas spill from the Montara wellhead platform off the northern Western Australian coast. The plan was agreed between the department and the company responsible for the platform, PTTEP Australasia, and includes monitoring of the Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island marine reserves. Studies are continuing and, when available, results will be released on the department's website.
- In May 2010, results were published of a study into the foraging range and behaviour of the Australian sea lion (*Neophoca cinerea*), its interactions with commercial fishing vessels, and how the risks of injury resulting from those interactions can be minimised (see <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mpa/gab/sea-lion.html>).
- The results of a baseline biodiversity survey in the Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve showed that the reserve encloses an area of high conservation value, not only because it contains a significant grey nurse shark (*Carcharias taurus*) aggregation site but also because it is a productive area that supports a large biomass of fishes including many exploited species.

Invasive species management

- Park managers nominated 20 significant invasive species across six terrestrial reserves and are monitoring changes in their overall distribution and abundance. Of the selected species, the populations of five are increasing; three are remaining steady; four are decreasing; and for eight species population data are deficient. Further information on monitoring of significant invasive species is provided in the State of the Parks report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10.^{PBS}
- Approximately 500 hectares of bitou bush at Booderee National Park was sprayed in June 2010. Booderee's aerial spraying program has resulted in a 90 per cent reduction in the area of high density infestation and a 75 per cent reduction in the area of medium density infestation between 2004 and 2010.
- Aerial baiting of 784 hectares of yellow crazy ant supercolonies at Christmas Island was successfully completed and a monitoring project to detect off-target impacts of baiting commenced.
- Weed control programs in Norfolk Island National Park were completed in six of the 19 coups identified in the park's weed control strategy.
- An island-wide survey to provide baseline data on the distribution and abundance of exotic species in Pulu Keeling was completed.
- The Buffel Grass Management Strategy for Uluru–Kata Tjuta was completed. Identified activities include continuing the Conservation Volunteers Australia program around the base of Uluru and removing buffel grass from roads and tracks throughout the rest of the park.

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Objective

- Australia's cultural heritage is conserved and effectively communicated to the public

Actions

- Identify, protect and conserve cultural heritage values for which the parks were declared/recognised^{PBS}
- Minimise threats to cultural values
- Work with traditional owners to assess and maintain key cultural sites^{PBS}
- Provide assistance to traditional owners in recording and maintaining living cultural traditions
- Assist in the facilitation of on-country activities to encourage intergenerational transfer of knowledge
- Provide appropriate interpretive material to the public to communicate the cultural heritage of Commonwealth reserves

2009–10 results

Identification and conservation of cultural sites

- 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}
- The rock art protection program at Uluru–Kata Tjuta continued with field visits from rock art conservators to men's, women's and public rock art sites at the base of Uluru. A rock art protection training workshop for Indigenous Protected Area ranger groups based at Docker River, Sandy Bore and lands in Western Australia was also conducted.^{PBS}
- At Uluru–Kata Tjuta, discussions continued with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and Northern Land Council about a register of sites of significance and access protocols. Rock art management programs were continued with the involvement of relevant Bininj. A review of historic (non-Aboriginal) cultural heritage sites was also completed.^{PBS}

Maintenance and promotion of traditional cultural values

- At Booderee, over 140 cultural interpretation sessions for visiting school groups and special interest groups were held as part of the spring, summer and autumn school holiday programs. The education shelter at the Booderee Botanic Gardens was completed and significant progress made on the pond features in the Koori Gardens section.
- A cultural heritage workshop involving traditional owners from the Mutitjulu Community and other communities was organised by Uluru–Kata Tjuta staff to revise the Cultural Heritage Action Plan.
- The register of oral history audio and video material at Kakadu was continued along with the recording of history from identified informants, in particular key traditional owners.

Histories, prehistories and knowledge recording

- At Kakadu the following major oral history projects were completed: the history of Mudginberri abattoir, particularly the role that Bininj played in the buffalo industry; recording landscape change from the records of Dave Lindner, a long-term resident of the Kakadu region; and traditional uses of the South Alligator floodplain. Similar work is planned for Anlarr (Nourlangie Camp), the old Jim Jim pub and Munmalary in 2010–11.
- Approved audio and video materials from Kakadu were transferred for long-term storage and protection in accordance with the partnership agreement between the National Archives of Australia and the Director.

KRA3: Joint management and working with Indigenous communities

Objectives

- Indigenous communities benefit from and play a lead role in the Australian Government's protected area management program
- Activities and investments contribute to meeting Closing the Gap targets

Actions

- Enable effective participation of traditional owners and Indigenous communities in park management^{PBS}
- Engage Indigenous staff and/or contractors to provide park services^{PBS}
- Provide opportunities for the establishment of Indigenous owned enterprises, including those which provide an Indigenous cultural experience to visitors
- Work together with boards of management, land councils and service delivery agencies to assist in meeting Closing the Gap targets

2009–10 results

Indigenous staffing and contractors

- Overall the number of directly employed Indigenous staff throughout the year remained steady in the jointly managed parks.^{PBS}
- The number of Indigenous staff (including intermittent and irregular employees) and contractors indirectly engaged to provide services at Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks increased by 33 per cent. The increase at Uluru–Kata Tjuta was partly due to the engagement of two externally funded workforce development coordinators. Ninety-seven Indigenous workers were employed under a memorandum of understanding with the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation.^{PBS}
- Anangu participation in the Mutitjulu Community Ranger Program increased significantly with 12 Anangu from the Mutitjulu Community employed regularly at Uluru–Kata Tjuta.
- Parks Australia continued to support the agreement between the Mutitjulu Community and the park in employing Anangu at Uluru–Kata Tjuta, including acknowledging and recompensing senior Anangu for their traditional knowledge and skills.

Training

- Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park employed four Indigenous trainees and Kakadu National Park has one Indigenous trainee position. Kakadu employed two Indigenous school-based apprentices.
- At Booderee, a broad range of training was provided to Wreck Bay Enterprises Ltd, the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community and park staff in accordance with the training strategy.
- The Junior Ranger program at Kakadu was continued. Jabiru and Gunbalanya area schools were involved in the program.
- At Kakadu, Bininj staff continued certificate level studies, numeracy and workplace English language and literacy training.

Contribution of Aboriginal enterprises

- Wreck Bay Enterprises Ltd (the enterprise arm of the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council) provided \$1.9 million of cleaning, road maintenance and entry station services to Booderee National Park.
- The Director and Wreck Bay Enterprises Ltd completed the agreement on the second round of outsourcing at Booderee, including management of the visitor centre, grounds maintenance and building services. Both parties agreed to delay final implementation until restructures were completed.^{PBS}
- Tourism experts were engaged to identify potential new tourism opportunities and provide support to Anangu in developing new tourism businesses at Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park.
- Bininj were engaged in delivering interpretive and environmental programs at Kakadu and as part of the Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program.

Boards of management

- At Booderee, the board met eight times and substantially completed a draft second management plan. The management plan sub-committee, made up of representatives of the board, park and community, met six times to assist the board in drafting the plan. Only minor amendments are required before the draft plan is released for public comment.
- The Kakadu National Park Board of Management met three times. Nominations for new board members were agreed.
- One regular and four special meetings of the Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management and seven meetings of the board’s consultative committees were held.
- Through the Central Land Council traditional owners were involved in finalising the fifth Uluru–Kata Tjuta management plan and in other significant projects.

KRA4: Use and appreciation of protected areas

Objectives

- Commonwealth reserves are valued for providing broader benefits to society such as a greater appreciation and understanding of Australia’s biodiversity, unique habitats and landscapes
- Australia’s protected areas are recognised as significant contributors to tourism

Actions

- Provide inspirational, satisfying and safe experiences to visitors to Commonwealth reserves^{PBS}
- Ensure visitor monitoring and reporting methods are consistent across the Commonwealth reserve estate
- Minimise visitor impacts on natural and cultural values
- Improve tourism and conservation partnerships
- Facilitate National Landscape experience development strategies that promote sustainable and appropriate tourism in protected areas

2009–10 results

Visitor numbers and satisfaction

- Visitor surveys were undertaken at Kakadu, Uluru–Kata Tjuta and Norfolk Island National Parks. All reserves recorded satisfaction from greater than 80 per cent of park users (Uluru 96 per cent, Kakadu 94 per cent, Norfolk Island 97 per cent).^{PBS}
- An estimated 1.45 million people visited Commonwealth terrestrial reserves, a 2.5 per cent increase from 2008–09. Increases in visitor numbers were recorded at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (3.8 per cent), Booderee (2 per cent) and Uluru–Kata Tjuta (10 per cent), while numbers were steady at Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling and decreased at Norfolk Island (10 per cent) and Kakadu (9 per cent).

Education/interpretation programs

- The Australian National Botanic Gardens hosted 9,520 school and tertiary students from 191 schools in education programs (59 per cent of students participated in Gardens-run programs and 41 per cent in programs run by their own teachers). Schools from every state and territory included the Gardens on their Canberra excursion itinerary.
- Booderee staff delivered 108 school holiday interpretation sessions, focusing on Aboriginal cultural values and conservation themes, with over 3,000 attendees. A further 60 interpretation sessions were delivered to primary schools, high schools, universities and special interest groups, with more than 2,500 attendees in total.
- Christmas Island staff held educational sessions on park and conservation management for students from the Christmas Island District High School, island residents and visiting tour groups including bird watching groups.
- Pulu Keeling staff continued educational activities with the Cocos (Keeling) Islands District School and community, specifically on invasive species but also incorporating other local conservation messages.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta staff delivered free interpretive events to visitors including the daily ranger-guided Mala Walk at Uluru.

Tourism and visitor facilities

- At Kakadu, the Director supported Aboriginal enterprise development and involvement in tourism ventures such as the Goymarr Tourist Information Centre through financial support for Biniŋ to attend tourism industry events and in-kind assistance to produce collective promotional material.
- The Minister officially opened the new Uluru viewing facility, Talinguru Nyakunytjaku, in October 2009.
- New welcome, walking track and road directional signs were installed at Norfolk Island and all walking tracks in the park and botanic garden were resurfaced. New brochures were produced on the walking tracks and on the island's plants and birds.

Awards

- Booderee won the 2009 award in the 'best Indigenous experience' category and was commended in the 'best tourist attraction' category at the National Tourism Awards. The park won the New South Wales Tourism Award for best tourist attraction and two awards in the 2009 Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Awards (for youth action and resource protection), giving further recognition to recycling, energy and water efficiency initiatives.

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Objective

- Parks Australia is recognised as a valued partner nationally and internationally in the conservation of biodiversity and collaborative research

Actions

- Effectively involve stakeholders and partners in park management activities^{PBS}
- Form new and effective partnerships with government agencies, neighbours and stakeholders
- Co-fund research projects with other agencies under equitable funding arrangements^{PBS}
- Play a leadership role in targeted collaborative biodiversity research, such as through Australia's Virtual Herbarium and the Australian Seed Bank Partnership

2009–10 results

- Constructive partnerships in managing Commonwealth reserves continued with state government parks agencies and other relevant departments; the Australian Government's Department of Defence, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service; the Transport and Tourism Forum and Tourism Australia, industry groups, universities, non-government organisations and community groups.^{PBS}
- Research partnerships continued with a range of organisations including 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}
- The Australian National Botanic Gardens continued membership of technical working groups under the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and Taxonomic Databases Working Group.
- The close collaboration between the Australian National Botanic Gardens seedstore and Greening Australia continued, including joint field collecting, seed storage and management. The ANBG also provided Greening Australia with space and irrigation for seedling production.
- The Australian National Herbarium continued to play a driving and coordinating role on behalf of the department for projects undertaken by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria. This included continued work with Australia's Virtual Herbarium, and the Australian Plant Census.

- Christmas Island staff established an island-based stakeholder working group, which met three times, to assist with the preparation of the Christmas Island Regional Recovery Plan. Consultations were held with the community and other stakeholders.
- The cat control program on Christmas Island continued with partners including the Shire and Christmas Island Phosphates. The partners are also developing an island-wide cat and rat management plan.
- The 50th meeting of the Norfolk Island National Park Advisory Committee was held, a milestone of 25 years' participation by five of the community members. A review of the advisory committee's operating procedures was completed which will guide the committee's future direction.
- At Kakadu, the partnership between the Australian and Northern Territory governments continued, with joint funding and planning to advance tourism in the park. Park staff also continued to work cooperatively with the Northern Territory Bushfires Council and other Northern Territory Government agencies, West Arnhem Shire and the Northern Land Council.
- A new Kakadu Research Advisory Committee was appointed for a five-year term in line with the board of management's term. The new members reviewed the committee's operations and began developing a strategic framework for research in the park for the next five years.
- Uluru staff facilitated several meetings of the Tourism Consultative Committee, the Film and Photography Consultative Committee and the Cultural Heritage and Scientific Consultative Committee. Parks Australia staff formed the Uluru Regional Employment Group to ensure a regional approach to training and employment of Indigenous job seekers.

KRA6: Business management

Objectives

- Robust and accurate business systems are in place which promote health and safety, maintain park infrastructure integrity and ensure work is undertaken within budget constraints
- Parks Australia's ecological footprint is minimised through adaptive management and supporting business practices

Actions

- Base planning and decision-making on the best available information, legal obligations and government and agency policies^{PBS}
- Ensure expenditure does not exceed budget
- Minimise the number of 'A' or 'B' findings from the annual Australian National Audit Office audit of Director of National Parks financial statements
- Establish and implement robust and effective management plans for Commonwealth reserves
- Minimise risks and the number and severity of reportable occupational health and safety incidents involving staff, contractors, volunteers and park users^{PBS}

- Ensure that accessible assets and infrastructure are maintained in a safe condition
- Use adaptive management regimes which respond to new information about impacts of climate change and to availability of improved technologies^{PBS}
- Audit energy use, water use and waste in Commonwealth reserves and implement actions to provide efficiencies and improvements

2009–10 results

Management planning

- Management plans are in place for Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Norfolk Island, Pulu Keeling and Kakadu National Parks. Draft management plans are nearly finalised for Booderee and Christmas Island National Parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.^{PBS}
- Reserve implementation schedules are in place for Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Norfolk Island, Pulu Keeling and Kakadu National Parks. Implementation schedules are not in place for the reserves with expired management plans.^{PBS}
- A technical audit on the implementation of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Management Plan found that 65 per cent of management prescriptions were fully completed during the life of the plan, 23 per cent were partially completed and 12 per cent were not commenced.^{PBS}

Climate change

- Climate change strategies were completed for Kakadu and Booderee National Parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Draft strategies were prepared for Uluru–Kata Tjuta and Norfolk Island National Parks. Policies and actions related to climate change monitoring, mitigation and adaptation are being incorporated into new management plans. The climate change strategies for each park address five key objectives:
 - understanding the implications of climate change
 - implementing adaptation measures to maximise the resilience of Commonwealth reserves
 - reducing each reserve's carbon footprint
 - working with communities, industries and stakeholders to mitigate and adapt to climate change
 - communicating the implications of climate change and Parks Australia's response.^{PBS}
- Greenhouse gas emissions associated with stationary and transport energy use were estimated to be 5,150 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This is a reduction of around 12 per cent compared with the average emissions over the past three years. Improvements in energy efficiency were largely related to stationary sources, including new solar panels at Kakadu, Norfolk Island and Booderee National Parks. The solar panels at Booderee have generated 4,088 kilowatt hours of electricity since November 2009. The closure of a glasshouse at the Australian National Botanic Gardens for renovations reduced energy use.^{PBS}
- Further information on greenhouse gas emissions is provided in the environmental sustainability report at Appendix B.

Financial and business management

- The Auditor-General issued an unqualified audit report for the 2009–10 financial statements of the Director of National Parks. There were no 'A' or 'B' findings from the Australian National Audit Office audit of the financial statements.
- Parks Australia recorded 189 occupational health and safety incidents over the year. This was higher than last year (165) but the second lowest over the past five years (139).^{PBS}
- Booderee National Park achieved a record revenue result from park use fees with an 8.7 per cent increase in camp fee revenue and a 5.8 per cent increase in entry fee revenue. Targeted camping and seasonal promotions, good weather and better compliance contributed to this best-ever result.
- Park use fees were re-introduced at Kakadu National Park in April 2010.

Risk and occupational health and safety

- There was a net reduction in the number of extreme and high risks in risk watch lists of 1 per cent from 2009–10.^{PBS}
- Staff sustained five major injuries (lacerations and fractures). Two park visitors died (one in Kakadu National Park and one undertaking the Uluru climb) and there were 15 major injuries to visitors.^{PBS}

KRA7: Biodiversity science, knowledge management and use

Objectives

- There is a comprehensive information base across Australia, including for the National Reserve System, that supports effective decision-making, spatial management and conservation
- Threatened native plant species occurring within Commonwealth parks and reserves are conserved in cooperation with national and international institutions

Actions

- Provide high quality, comprehensive and current information to the Australian community through publications and enhanced websites to facilitate and foster understanding of park values and Australia's natural and cultural heritage^{PBS}
- Undertake research designed to engage with end users and support evidence-based decision-making by environmental managers and policy makers^{PBS}
- Increase knowledge of Australia's biodiversity through research and training^{PBS}
- Make effective use of research investment in Commonwealth reserves
- Enhance *ex situ* conservation of Australia's rare and threatened biodiversity, through the activities of the Australian National Botanic Gardens and targeted projects

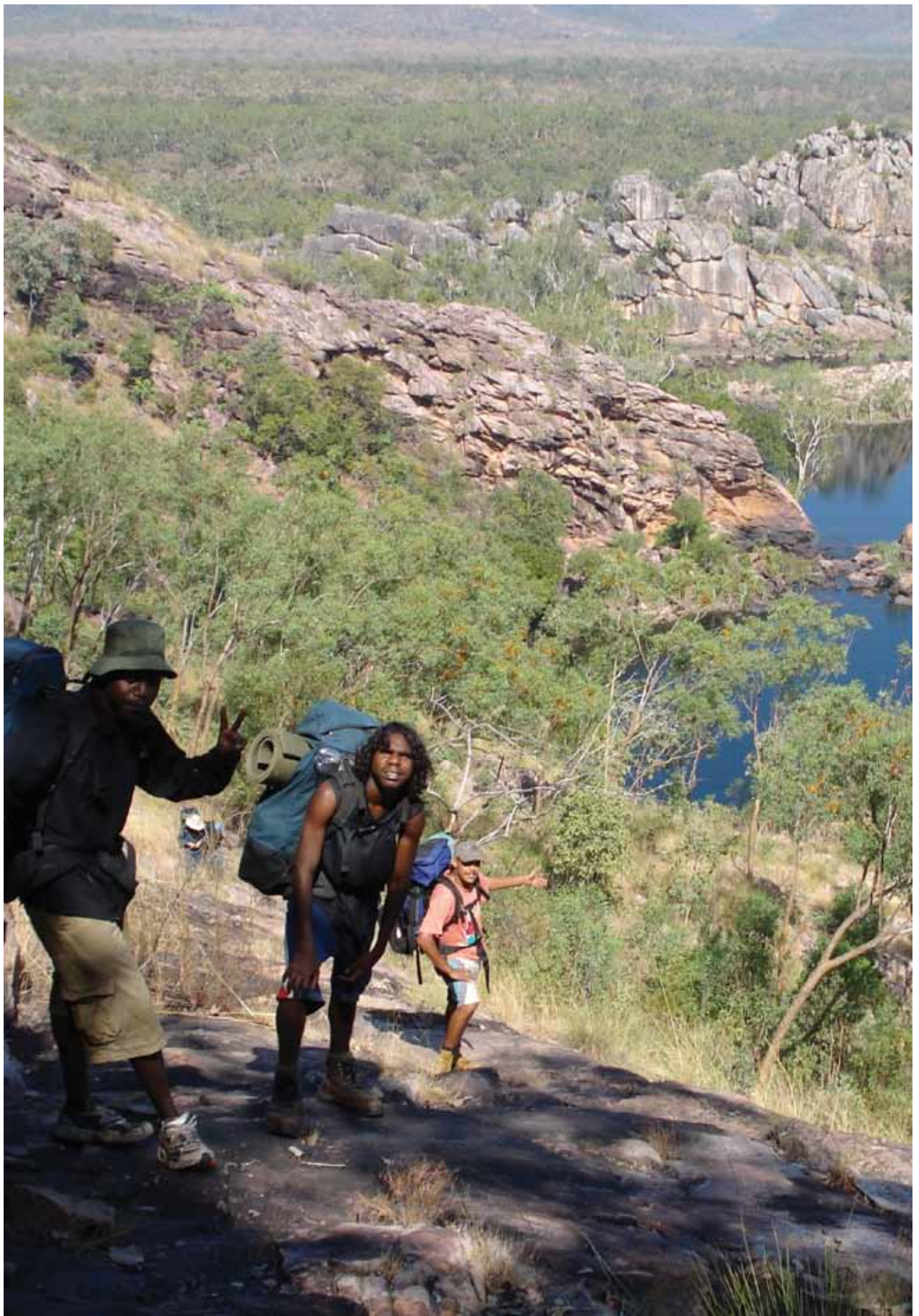
2009–10 results

Websites and publications

- The Parks Australia websites (environment.gov.au/parks and kakadu.com.au) received 25 per cent more visits than the previous year with 540,877 'unique' visits (an average of 1,481 per day). Use of online publications also increased with 105,181 'unique' views (an average of 288 per day).^{PBS}
- Estimates indicate a 20 per cent increase in use of the Australian National Botanic Gardens website (www.anbg.gov.au) since 2008–09.^{PBS}

Biodiversity knowledge

- The Australian National Botanic Gardens and Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research participated in national and international biodiversity information management and technical infrastructure projects including the Atlas of Living Australia, the Australian Faunal Directory, the Taxonomy Research and Information Network, the Australian Plant Census, Australia's Virtual Herbarium, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Encyclopedia of Life and the Taxonomic Databases Working Group.
- The Australian National Herbarium added data associated with 11,060 herbarium specimens. A total of 856,972 specimens are now recorded in the database and available to the public through the internet.
- Researchers associated with the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research completed 21 scientific papers or publications resulting from research undertaken at the Australian National Herbarium. Areas of study included Australian Orchidaceae, Amaranthaceae, Rutaceae, Myrtaceae, Malvaceae, Portulacaceae, weeds, Mimosaceae, Santalaceae and bryophytes.
- The Australian National Botanic Gardens updated the Australian Plant Image Index to make 6,481 additional images accessible on the internet. The ANBG also contracted to collect, database and manage images of weeds and deliver them to the department's Weeds Australia website.
- The Australian National Botanic Gardens made significant progress on developing 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 project is endorsed by Australian Government and state and territory herbaria.
- The Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research was contracted by the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority to document and manage translocation and conservation of three orchid species threatened by the Bulahdelah bypass highway realignment.



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 4: Risk management benchmarking scores for the Director of National Parks in 2009–10 compared to the average for 130 Australian Government agencies

External review

Occupational health and safety

Table 8: Five-year overview of safety incidents in terrestrial reserves

Compliance and enforcement under the EPBC Act

Table 9: Compliance and enforcement in terrestrial reserves during 2009–10

Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

Freedom of information

← Every year Kakadu National Park conducts a burning program to manage country and prevent late season wildfires. Pictured are young traditional owners Isaac Pamkal, Quinten McMahon and Richard Landr in Kakadu's remote Stone Country. Young traditional owners are walking on country to manage fire in this remote and now uninhabited part of the park. Photo Director of National Parks

Corporate governance

The Director of National Parks is responsible, under the EPBC Act, for the management of Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones established over Commonwealth-owned land, Aboriginal land leased to the Director, and Commonwealth marine areas. 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 with responsibility for administration of the EPBC Act. During 2009–10 that person was the Minister for Environment Protection, 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. During 2009–10 no Ministerial directions were given to the Director under the CAC Act and there were no directions continuing from previous years.

The Director is subject to directions given by the Minister responsible for administration of the CAC Act under section 47A of the Act on matters related to the procurement of property or services. The Finance Minister's (CAC Act Procurement) Directions 2009 require the Director to apply the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines when undertaking a procurement covered by the guidelines.

The Minister responsible for the CAC Act may under section 48 of the CAC Act make a General Policy Order specifying a general policy of the Australian Government that is to apply to the Director. No General Policy Orders were made during 2009–10 and there were no orders continuing from previous years.

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 services from the Director to manage Commonwealth reserves, and to perform the Director's other functions under the EPBC Act, in order to contribute to the department's Outcome 1. The Director is the sole provider of statutory functions and powers for managing Commonwealth reserves under the Act.

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 2009–10 the department provided \$50.1 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 2009–10.

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 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.

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 principal functions of a Commonwealth reserve board of management are to prepare management plans for the reserve in conjunction with the Director and to make decisions about management of the reserve that are consistent with its management plan. A board, in conjunction with the Director, is also responsible for 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 reserve management plans.

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 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 through ad hoc working groups.

Control arrangements

Director of National Parks Chief Executive Instructions

The Chief Executive Instructions direct Parks Australia staff in assisting the Director to carry out the Director's functions under the EPBC Act and ensure the corporation and its officers meet their obligations under the EPBC Act and the CAC Act. The instructions draw upon relevant corporate governance rules, policies and guidelines of the Australian Government and are supported by policies and procedures that 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 2009–10 no internal audits were undertaken. The committee endorsed the process for preparation of the 2009–10 financial statements.

Members of the committee at 30 June 2010 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 invited to attend committee meetings. Staff from the Australian National Audit Office, the department’s Finance Branch and the internal audit service provider attended meetings as observers.

Risk management

Risk watch lists (risk registers) for each reserve or business unit are periodically reviewed in accordance with the Director’s Risk Management Policy. Incidents in all workplaces, categorised under key result areas, are reported regularly to the executive team.

The Director has participated in the Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking scheme since 2002–03. The benchmarking scheme changed significantly this year, assessing ten elements of risk management instead of the previous five. The Director’s risk management system was rated average in 2002–03 and has risen since then. In 2009–10 the Director scored 7.2 out of a possible 10 compared to an average score for all Australian Government agencies of 6.3. For the last five years the Director has consistently scored above the average for all agencies.

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

Figure 4: Risk management benchmarking scores for the Director of National Parks in 2009–10 compared to the average for 130 Australian Government agencies (Source: Comcover 2010)



Indemnities and insurance

In 2009–10 the Director maintained comprehensive insurance cover for business operations through Comcover, the Australian Government's general insurance fund, including general liability, 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 2009–10 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 department's annual report contains more detailed occupational health and safety information.

The Director of National Parks maintains 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, Norfolk Island National Park and at the Australian National Botanic Gardens considered and addressed local issues.

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, managing and 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 hazardous activities registers

and job safety analyses. After five years of operation the ParkSafe policies were overhauled and consolidated into one policy with simplified forms for key planning and reporting processes. Issues to do with working alone in remote areas are being consolidated into an associated policy. ParkSafe is used as a model for field operations by other divisions of the department.

During 2009–10 Parks Australia recorded 189 occupational health and safety incidents (see Table 8). This was higher than the number recorded last year (165) but is the second lowest over the last five years. Unfortunately there was an increase in the number of major injuries for both staff and visitors.

Table 8: Five-year overview of safety incidents in terrestrial reserves

	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10
Staff, volunteers and contractors					
Minor injury or near miss ^(a)	68	77	57	41	56
Moderate injury ^(b)	22	12	21	31	15
Major injury ^(c)	2	0	0	1	5
Total	92	89	78	73	76
Visitors, permit holders and residents					
Minor injury or near miss ^(a)	88	80	84	60	70
Moderate injury ^(b)	46	35	42	21	26
Major injury ^(c)	10	3	6	7	15
Death	1	0	1	4	2
Total	145	118	133	92	113

(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).

More than 60 per cent of the staff incidents were strains, animal threats, bites and scratches, and vehicle incidents. Heat stress with associated disorientation, falls and sometimes death remains a predominant issue for visitors to Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park.

Unfortunately the visitor incidents for 2009–10 included two fatalities. Both incidents involved people who were unprepared for the long walks or climbs they had undertaken. Interactions between visitors and crocodiles in Kakadu National Park were a major concern with one attack (minor injuries to a visitor) and a number of visitors being stalked after ignoring numerous warning signs along rivers and billabongs. While there was a slight reduction in the number of highway rollovers in Kakadu the severity of the incidents increased, resulting in three deaths. These incidents are managed by the Northern Territory Police as highway accidents and are not included in parks' statistics.

As noted in last year's report, Comcare issued a prohibition notice under section 46 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991* in May 2008, relating to an incident concerning roadworks in Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park which Comcare had investigated. While this notice was lifted during the year, no staff will be directly involved in roadworks within the park. Comcare also investigated unusual cases of faulty flammable matchboxes in the Kakadu region but there were no matters to report under sections 29 or 47 of the Act.

Compliance and enforcement under the EPBC Act

Wardens and rangers are appointed under the EPBC Act to exercise enforcement powers in relation to the Act and its Regulations. 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. In accordance with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines and the Australian Government Investigation Standards, Parks Australia's wardens are trained in Certificate IV in Government (Investigations) and rangers are trained in relevant modules of the certificate.

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 matters were prosecuted and determined by courts during 2009–10:

- On 18 November 2009, four persons pleaded guilty to the charge of failing to have skin on a fish fillet under section 46B of the *Fisheries Act 1988* (NT) arising out of an incident that took place on 6 April 2009 in Kakadu National Park. No convictions were recorded and each person was fined \$400.
- On 7 October 2009, pursuant to section 19B of the *Crimes Act 1914*, one person was discharged without proceeding to conviction upon entering into a recognisance in the sum of \$500 on the condition that the person be of good behaviour for a period of 12 months. The charge related to an incident of taking, killing and eating a snake in Kakadu National Park in June 2008, which is an offence under section 354A of the EPBC Act.

Table 9: Compliance and enforcement in terrestrial reserves during 2009–10

	Members of the public	Tourism operators	Other commercial operators
EPBC Act and Regulation incidents detected	171	19	13
Offenders unknown	28	0	0
Verbal cautions issued	78	10	10
Warning letters issued	27	19	3
Infringement notices issued	38	0	0
Continuing investigations	0	0	0
Permit suspensions	0	0	0
Court cases pending	2	0	0
Cases taken to court	2	0	0
Convictions	0	0	0

Although not included in the table 1,232 notices of charges payable were issued of which 1,187 were issued in Booderee National Park and 45 in Kakadu National Park, where fees were re-introduced on 1 April 2010.

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 ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance is 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 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 2009–10.

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 Australian National Botanic Gardens 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.



6 Financial Statements

Director of National Parks financial statements and audit report
for the year ended 30 June 2010

← *Eucalyptus caesia* is a mallee eucalypt which grows in the wheatbelt area of Western Australia.

Photo ANBG Collection

Independent audit report



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts

Scope

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Director National Parks for the year ended 30 June 2010, which comprise: a Statement by the Director and Chief Financial Officer; Statement of Comprehensive Income; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Asset Additions and Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements, including a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

The Director's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Director 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 have 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 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 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, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
19 National Circuit BARTON ACT 2600
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

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 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 National Parks' financial position as at 30 June 2010 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
9 September 2010

Statement by the Director and Chief Financial Officer

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 2010 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, as amended.

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
9th September 2010

Signed

Michelle Callaway
Chief Financial Officer
9th September 2010

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the year ended 30 June 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	3A	26,000	24,758
Supplier expenses	3B	31,373	29,050
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	8,548	8,459
Write-down and impairment of assets	3D	672	321
Other		136	151
Total Expenses		66,729	62,739
LESS :			
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	15,205	11,727
Interest		872	1,114
Sublease rental income		201	196
Other		532	1,352
Total own-source revenue		16,810	14,389
Gains			
Sale of assets	4B	192	60
Other	4C	3,933	3,911
Total gains		4,125	3,971
Total own-source income		20,935	18,360
Net cost of services		45,794	44,379
Revenue from Government	4D	50,051	44,196
Surplus (Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government		4,257	(183)
Total comprehensive income (loss) attributable to the Australian Government		4,257	(183)

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

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
BALANCE SHEET
as at 30 June 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	38,353	27,633	26,497
Trade and other receivables	5B	2,755	1,257	1,512
Other	5C	98	56	114
Total financial assets		41,206	28,946	28,123
Non-Financial Assets				
Land and buildings	6A,C	65,349	65,506	66,144
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	6B,C	86,034	83,879	83,182
Intangibles	6D,E	152	93	—
Other	6F	460	358	381
Total non-financial assets		151,995	149,836	149,707
Total Assets		193,201	178,782	177,830
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	7A	4,842	2,914	2,340
Other	7B	6,508	2,222	2,658
Total payables		11,350	5,136	4,998
Provisions				
Employee provisions	8	6,948	6,224	5,326
Other		36	37	88
Total provisions		6,984	6,261	5,414
Total Liabilities		18,334	11,397	10,412
Net Assets		174,867	167,385	167,418
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		34,196	30,971	30,821
Reserves		67,473	67,473	67,473
Retained surplus		73,198	68,941	69,124
Total Equity		174,867	167,385	167,418

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

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the year ended 30 June 2010

	Retained Earnings		Asset Revaluation Reserves		Contributed Equity		Total Equity	
	2010 \$000	2009 \$000	2010 \$000	2009 \$000	2010 \$000	2009 \$000	2010 \$000	2009 \$000
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	68,941	69,124	67,473	67,473	30,971	30,821	167,385	167,418
Adjustment for errors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjusted opening balance	68,941	69,124	67,473	67,473	30,971	30,821	167,385	167,418
Comprehensive income								
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	4,257	(183)	-	-	-	-	4,257	(183)
Total comprehensive income (loss)	4,257	(183)	-	-	-	-	4,257	(183)
of which:								
Attributable to the Australian Government	4,257	(183)	-	-	-	-	4,257	(183)
Transactions with Owners								
<i>Contributions by Owners</i>								
Equity injection (refer Note 16)	-	-	-	-	3,225	150	3,225	150
Sub-total transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	3,225	150	3,225	150
Closing balance at 30 June	73,198	68,941	67,473	67,473	34,196	30,971	174,867	167,385
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	73,198	68,941	67,473	67,473	34,196	30,971	174,867	167,385

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 2010

	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Goods and services		19,290	12,624
Receipts from Government		50,051	44,196
Interest		830	1,172
Net GST received		2,198	1,860
Other		532	1,279
Total cash received		72,901	61,131
Cash used			
Employees		25,172	23,821
Suppliers		29,018	27,339
Other		138	202
Total cash used		54,328	51,362
Net Cash from operating activities	9	18,573	9,769
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		473	563
Total cash received		473	563
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		11,491	9,253
Purchase of intangibles		60	93
Total cash used		11,551	9,346
Net Cash used by investing activities		(11,078)	(8,783)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity		3,225	150
Total cash received		3,225	150
Net Cash from financing activities		3,225	150
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		10,720	1,136
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the reporting period		27,633	26,497
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	5A	38,353	27,633

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

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2010

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
BY TYPE		
Commitments Receivable		
Sublease rental income	1,129	1,260
GST recoverable on commitments	6,416	6,361
Total Commitments Receivable	7,545	7,621
Commitment Payable		
Capital Commitments		
Buildings; Infrastructure, plant and equipment ¹	4,728	2,673
Total Capital Commitments	4,728	2,673
Other Commitments		
Operating leases ²	65,894	66,776
Other commitments ³	1,910	3,114
Total Other Commitments	67,804	69,890
Net Commitments by Type	64,987	64,942
BY MATURITY		
Commitments Receivable		
Other Commitments Receivable		
One year or less	728	589
From one to five years	775	849
Over five years	6,042	6,183
Total Other Commitments Receivable	7,545	7,621
Commitments Payable		
Capital Commitments		
One year or less	4,728	2,673
Total Capital Commitments	4,728	2,673
Operating Lease Commitments		
One year or less	882	882
From one to five years	3,529	3,529
Over five years	61,483	62,365
Total Operating Lease Commitments	65,894	66,776
Other Commitments		
One year or less	1,502	2,649
From one to five years	408	465
Over five years	-	-
Total Other Commitments	1,910	3,114
Net Commitments by Maturity	64,987	64,942

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

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2010

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

Sublease rental income - The Director of National Parks has two subleases as follows:

- cafe within the Australian National Botanic Gardens which is subject to an annual increase of 4%; and
- land at Kakadu National Park which has no escalation clauses.

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
SCHEDULE OF ASSET ADDITIONS
for the year ended 30 June 2010

The following non-financial non-current assets were added in 2009-10:

	Land	Buildings	Other property, plant & equipment	Intangibles	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
By purchase - Government funding	245	2,441	8,805	60	11,551
Total additions	245	2,441	8,805	60	11,551

The following non-financial non-current assets were added in 2008-09:

	Land	Buildings	Other property, plant & equipment	Intangibles	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
By purchase - Government funding	-	1,945	7,310	93	9,348
By recognition	-	-	73	-	73
Total additions	-	1,945	7,383	93	9,421

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
INDEX OF THE NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2010

Note Description

- 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
- 2 Events after the Balance Sheet Date
- 3 Expenses
- 4 Income
- 5 Financial Assets
- 6 Non-Financial Assets
- 7 Payables
- 8 Employee Provisions
- 9 Cash Flow Reconciliation
- 10 Contingent Liabilities and Assets
- 11 Director's Remuneration
- 12 Related Party Disclosures
- 13 Executive Remuneration
- 14 Remuneration of Auditors
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- 17 Compensation and Debt Relief
- 18 Reporting of Outcomes

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 General Purpose Financial Statements.

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 Park's 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 2009; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The Financial Statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are 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 Statements are 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 Statement of Comprehensive Income when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.2 Significant Accounting Judgments and Estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the Director of National Parks has not made any judgments 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 New Accounting Standards

Adoption of new Australian Accounting Standard requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the effective date in the current period. No new standards, revised standards or interpretations that were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the Director and Chief Financial Officer and are applicable to the current reporting period had a financial impact on the entity.

Future Australian Accounting Standard requirements

No new standards, amendments to standards or interpretations that were issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board prior to the signing of the statement by the Director and Chief Financial Officer are expected to have an impact on the entity for future reporting periods.

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 impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Allowances 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 by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and transferred to the Director of National Parks.

1.5 Gains

Sale of Assets

Gains from disposal of non-current assets are 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.

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 received directly by the Department of the Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts and are transferred to the Director of National Parks. These amounts 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 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119) and termination benefits due within 12 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 Parks' 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 FMOs 2009-10. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

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. The Director of National Parks has no provision for separations and redundancies as at 30 June 2010.

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 Director of National Parks accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

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

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'.

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 Statement of Comprehensive Income.

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.

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 Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment (IP&E)

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of infrastructure 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 excluding leasehold improvements	Market selling price
Leasehold improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Infrastructure, plant & equipment	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, infrastructure, 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.

Depreciation

Depreciable infrastructure, 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:

	2010	2009
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 2010. 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.

1.15 Intangibles

The Director of National Parks' intangibles comprise internally developed software for internal use and water entitlements. Internally developed software is 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 (2008-09: 4-5 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2010.

Water entitlements are carried at cost where there is no active market. When an active market exists they are carried at fair value. These assets are assessed as having an indefinite useful life.

1.16 Taxation

The Director of National Parks is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax (FBT) 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.

1.17 Adjustment to Opening Balance and Restatement of 2008-09 Comparatives.

A detailed review of the Director of National Park's assets was undertaken in 2009-10. The review identified costs associated with a number of projects which were incorrectly classified as non depreciating assets under construction. In particular the following two errors were noted:

- costs associated with projects completed during the 2008-09 financial year were not transferred to depreciating assets; and
- costs associated with projects which were not proceeding or were not capital in nature were not appropriately expensed during the 2008-09 financial year.

In accordance with AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, the Director of National Parks has now restated the affected comparative figures in the 2009-10 financial statements. The net effect of these adjustments in the 2008-09 income statements is \$1,562,373.01 increase to expenses.

	Notes	2008-09 Actual	2008-09 Impact of Corrections	2008-09 Restated
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Statement of Comprehensive Income				
Supplier expenses	3A	28,674	377	29,050
Depreciation and amortisation	3B	7,421	1,037	8,459
Write down and impairment of assets	3D	173	148	321
Total Expenses		61,177	1,562	62,739
Surplus/(Deficit)		1,379	1,562	(183)
Balance Sheet				
Non Financial Assets				
Land and buildings	6A,C	65,580	(74)	65,506
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	6B,C	85,460	(1,581)	83,879
Intangibles	6D,E	-	93	93
Total Non Financial Assets		151,398	(1,562)	149,836
Net Assets		168,947	(1,562)	167,385
Equity				
Retained Surplus		70,503	(1,562)	68,941
Total Equity		168,947	(1,562)	167,385

Note 2: Events after the Balance Sheet Date

There were no 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

Note 3: Expenses	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 3A - Employee Benefits</u>		
Wages and salaries	19,715	18,957
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	1,206	1,003
Defined benefit plans	2,311	2,145
Leave and other entitlements	2,325	2,268
Separation and redundancies	187	78
Other employee expenses	256	307
Total employee benefits	26,000	24,758
<u>Note 3B - Suppliers</u>		
Goods and Services are made up of:		
Professional services	5,924	2,909
Service delivery charge	3,900	3,900
Repairs and maintenance	3,607	3,724
Property expenses	2,437	2,339
Park operation expenses	4,041	4,336
Information technology and communication	1,120	1,368
Other	5,879	6,186
Total Goods and Services	26,908	24,762
Goods and Services are made up of:		
Provision of goods - related entities	29	47
Provision of goods - external parties	3,497	3,445
Rendering of services - related entities	11,758	10,930
Rendering of services - external parties	11,624	10,340
Total Goods and Services	26,908	24,762
Other supplier expenses		
Operating lease rentals:		
Minimum lease payments	888	589
Contingent rentals	3,577	3,699
Total other supplier expenses	4,465	4,288
Total supplier expenses	31,373	29,050

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<u>Note 3C - Depreciation and Amortisation</u>		
Depreciation:		
Buildings	2,635	2,545
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	5,912	5,914
Total depreciation	8,547	8,459
Amortisation:		
Intangibles	1	-
Total amortisation	1	-
Total depreciation and amortisation	8,548	8,459

Note 3D - Write-down and impairment of assets

Financial assets		
Impairment of financial instruments	7	14
Non-financial assets		
Write down of buildings	78	61
Write down of infrastructure, plant & equipment	587	246
Total write-down and impairment of assets	672	321

Note 4: Income

Revenue

Note 4A: Sale of goods and rendering of services

Provision of goods - external parties	72	58
Rendering of services - related entities	4,844	2,842
Rendering of services - external parties	10,289	8,827
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	15,205	11,727

Gains

Note 4B - Sale of Assets

Infrastructure, plant & equipment		
Proceeds from sale	473	563
Carrying value of assets sold	(281)	(503)
Net gain from sale of assets	192	60

Note 4C - Other Gains

Resources received free of charge	3,933	3,911
Total other gains	3,933	3,911

Note 4D: Revenue from Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts		
Grants:		
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	50,051	44,196
Total revenue from Government	50,051	44,196

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 5: Financial Assets

	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 5A - Cash and Cash Equivalents</u>		
Cash on deposit	38,300	27,549
Cash on hand	53	84
Total cash and cash equivalents	38,353	27,633
<u>Note 5B - Trade and Other Receivables</u>		
<u>Goods and Services</u>		
Goods and services - related entities	692	138
Goods and services - external parties	756	244
Total receivables for goods and services	1,448	382
Other Receivables		
Net GST receivable from ATO	-	305
Other receivables	1,335	591
Total other receivables	1,335	896
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	2,783	1,278
Less: Impairment allowance account		
Goods and services	(22)	(15)
Other	(6)	(6)
Total impairment allowance account	(28)	(21)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	2,755	1,257

All receivables are expected to be received in less than 12 months.

Receivables (gross) are aged as follows:

Not overdue	1,829	1,130
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	285	16
31 to 60 days	1	58
61 to 90 days	108	45
More than 90 days	560	29
	954	148
Total receivables (gross)	2,783	1,278

The impairment 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	(28)	(12)
Total impairment allowance account	(28)	(21)

Reconciliation of the impairment allowance account:

Movements in relation to 2010

	Goods and services 2010 \$'000	Other receivables 2010 \$'000	Total 2010 \$'000
Opening balance	(15)	(6)	(21)
Amounts written off	-	-	-
Amounts recovered and reversed	-	-	-
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	(7)	-	(7)
Closing balance	(22)	(6)	(28)

Movements in relation to 2009

	Goods and services 2009 \$'000	Other receivables 2009 \$'000	Total 2009 \$'000
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)

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<u>Note 5C - Other Financial Assets</u>		
Accrued Revenue	98	56
Total other financial assets	98	56

All other financial assets are expected to be recovered within 12 months.
 No indicators of impairment were found for other financial assets.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 6: Non-Financial Assets	2010	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 6A: Land and Buildings</u>			
Land at fair value	6,826	6,581	6,581
Buildings on land			
- work in progress	779	1,409	603
- fair value	63,404	60,563	59,471
- accumulated depreciation	(5,660)	(3,047)	(515)
Total buildings on land	58,523	58,925	59,559
Leasehold Improvements			
- work in progress	-	-	4
Total leasehold improvements	-	-	4
Total land and buildings	65,349	65,506	66,144

No indicators of impairment were found for land, buildings and leasehold improvements.
No land and buildings are expected to be sold or disposed within the next 12 months.

Note 6B: Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment

Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment			
- work in progress	4,043	1,784	16,853
- fair value	94,514	89,059	67,654
- accumulated depreciation	(12,523)	(6,964)	(1,325)
Total infrastructure, plant and equipment	86,034	83,879	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.

No infrastructure, plant and equipment assets are expected to be sold or disposed within the next 12 months

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 (2009-10).

	Land	Buildings	Total Land & Buildings	Infrastructure Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2009					
Gross book value	6,581	61,972	68,553	90,843	159,396
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(3,047)	(3,047)	(6,964)	(10,011)
Net book value 1 July 2009	6,581	58,925	65,506	83,879	149,385
Additions					
by purchase	245	2,441	2,686	8,805	11,491
Depreciation expense	-	(2,635)	(2,635)	(5,912)	(8,547)
Disposals - by sale	-	(130)	(130)	(151)	(281)
Write-down and impairment recognised through the operating result	-	(78)	(78)	(587)	(665)
Net book value 30 June 2010	6,826	58,523	65,349	86,034	151,383
Net book value as of 30 June 2010 represented by:					
Gross book value	6,826	64,183	71,009	98,557	169,566
Accumulated depreciation	-	(5,660)	(5,660)	(12,523)	(18,183)
	6,826	58,523	65,349	86,034	151,383

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 (2008-09)

	Land	Buildings	Total Land & Buildings	Infrastructure Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'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	-	1,945	1,945	7,310	9,255
by recognition	-	-	-	73	73
Depreciation expense	-	(2,545)	(2,545)	(5,914)	(8,459)
Disposals - by sale	-	-	-	(503)	(503)
Write-down and impairment recognised through the operating result	-	(61)	(61)	(246)	(307)
Transfers	-	23	23	(23)	-
Net book value 30 June 2009	6,581	58,925	65,506	83,879	149,385
Net book value as of 30 June 2009 represented by:					
Gross book value	6,581	61,972	68,553	90,843	159,396
Accumulated depreciation	-	(3,047)	(3,047)	(6,964)	(10,011)
	6,581	58,925	65,506	83,879	149,385

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Note 6D: Intangibles			
Computer software			
Purchased - in use	8	8	8
Accumulated amortisation	(8)	(8)	(8)
Internally developed - in use	60	-	-
Accumulated amortisation	(1)	-	-
Total Computer Software	59	-	-
Water Entitlements	93	93	-
Total Water Entitlements	93	93	-
Total intangibles	152	93	-

No intangibles are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 6E - Analysis of intangibles

Table A - Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of intangibles (2009-10)

	Computer Software Purchased \$'000	Computer Software Developed \$'000	Water Entitlements \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2009				
Gross book value	8	-	93	101
Accumulated amortisation	(8)	-	-	(8)
Net book value 1 July 2009	-	-	93	
Additions				
Internally developed	-	60	-	60
Amortisation expense	-	(1)	-	(1)
Net book value 30 June 2010	-	59	93	152
Net book value as of 30 June 2010 represented by:				
Gross book value	8	60	93	161
Accumulated amortisation	(8)	(1)	-	(9)
	-	59	93	152

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

	Computer Software Purchased \$'000	Computer Software Developed \$'000	Water Entitlements \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2008				
Gross book value	8	-	-	8
Accumulated amortisation	(8)	-	-	(8)
Net book value 1 July 2008	-	-	-	-
Additions				
by purchase	-	-	93	93
Amortisation expense	-	-	-	-
Net book value 30 June 2009	-	-	93	93
Net book value as of 30 June 2009 represented by:				
Gross book value	8	-	93	101
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation and impairment	(8)	-	-	(8)
	-	-	93	93

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<u>Note 6F: Other Non-Financial Assets</u>		
Prepayments	460	358
Total other non-financial assets	460	358

All other non-financial assets are expected to be recovered in 12 months. No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

Note 7: Payables	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<u>Note 7A - Suppliers</u>		
Trade creditors and accruals	4,018	2,107
Operating lease rentals	824	807
Total supplier payables	4,842	2,914

Supplier payables expected to be settled within 12 months:

Related entities	692	199
External parties	4,150	2,715
Total supplier payables	4,842	2,914

Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

<u>Note 7B - Other Payables</u>		
Salaries and wages	364	282
Superannuation	62	51
Net GST Payable from the ATO	95	-
Unearned revenue	5,987	1,889
Total other payables	6,508	2,222

All other payables are expected to be settled within 12 months.

Note 8: Employee Provisions

Leave	6,910	6,177
Other	38	47
Total employee provisions	6,948	6,224

Employee Provisions are expected to be settled in:

No more than 12 months	4,664	4,050
More than 12 months	2,284	2,174
Total employee provisions	6,948	6,224

Note 9: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash Flow Statement	38,353	27,633
Balance sheet	38,353	27,633
Difference	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	(45,794)	(44,380)
Add revenue from Government	50,051	44,196
Non-cash items		
Depreciation/amortisation	8,548	8,459
Take up of assets for the first time	-	(73)
Write down of non-financial assets	665	307
(Gain) / Loss on disposal of non-current assets	(192)	(60)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in net receivables	(1,803)	45
(Increase)/decrease in GST receivables	400	210
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(102)	24
(Increase)/decrease in accrued revenue	(43)	58
Increase/(decrease) in unearned revenue	4,098	(540)
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	725	897
Increase/(decrease) in supplier payables	1,928	574
Increase/(decrease) in other payables	93	104
Increase/(decrease) in other provisions	(1)	(52)
Net cash from operating activities	<u>18,573</u>	<u>9,769</u>

Note 10: Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

No contingent assets or liabilities exist for the Director of National Parks for the current financial year (2008-09: 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:

	2010	2009
\$265,000 to \$279,999	1	-
\$280,000 to \$294,999	-	1
Total number of directors of Director of National Parks	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by the Director of National Parks	\$ 277,980	\$ 280,204

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 2009-10 (2008-09: 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 2009-10 (2008-09: Nil).

Note 13: Executive Remuneration

Note 13 A: Actual remuneration paid to Senior Executives

The number of senior executives who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$145,000 or more:

	2010	2009
\$145,000 - \$159,999	-	1
\$160,000 - \$174,999	1	-
\$190,000 - \$204,999	-	1
\$205,000 - \$219,999	1	-
\$265,000 - \$279,999	-	1
	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

Total expense recognised in relation to Senior Executive employment

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Short term employee benefits		
Salary (including annual leave taken)	257,991	386,960
Changes in annual leave provisions	11,032	14,938
Performance bonus	-	19,864
Other ¹	38,558	104,521
Total short-term employee benefits	<u>307,581</u>	<u>526,283</u>
Superannuation (post employee benefits)	42,261	88,228
Other long term benefits	29,586	(10,596)
Total	<u>379,428</u>	<u>603,916</u>

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 2009-10 except the Director of National Parks. Details in relation to the Director of National Parks have been incorporated into Note 11: Directors Remuneration.

Notes

1. "Other" includes travel, parking and other allowances.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 13 B: Average annualised remuneration packages for substantive Senior Executives employed at 30 June

	As at 30 June 2010			As at 30 June 2009		
	No. SES	Base Salary including annual leave	Total Remuneration Package1	No. SES	Base Salary including annual leave	Total Remuneration Package1
		\$	\$		\$	\$
Less than \$145,000	1	92,472	135,836	-	-	-
\$145,000 - \$159,999	-	-	-	1	100,916	146,922
\$190,000 - \$204,999	2	154,369	197,539	1	129,517	199,880
\$265,000 - \$279,999	-	-	-	1	156,527	252,773
	3			3		

Notes

1. Non Salary elements available to Senior Executives include:

- (a) Performance Bonus
- (b) Superannuation
- (c) Motor vehicle and other allowances

2. The Director of National Parks engaged a Senior Executive part way through the financial year consequently the Senior Executive was not reported within Note 13 A, however an annualised remuneration package was included in Note 13 B.

Note 14: Remuneration of Auditors

2010
\$'000

2009
\$'000

Financial Statement audit services are provided to
 Director of National Parks by the Auditor-General.

The fair value of the services provided was:

78

78

No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 15: Financial Instruments	Notes	2010 \$'000	2009 \$'000
<u>Note 15A - Categories of financial instruments</u>			
Financial Assets			
Loans and receivables			
Cash	5A	38,353	27,633
Trade and Other Receivables	5B	2,783	973
Carrying amount of financial instrument assets		41,136	28,606
Financial Liabilities			
At amortised cost			
Trade creditors and accruals	7A	4,842	2,914
Other payables	7B	5,987	1,889
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		10,829	4,803
<u>Note 15B - Net income and expense from financial assets</u>			
Loans and receivables			
Interest revenue		872	1,114
Write down - financial assets	3D	(7)	(14)
Net gain/(loss) loans and receivables		865	1,100
Net gain/(loss) from financial assets		865	1,100

There was no net income/expense from financial liabilities not at fair value from profit and loss (2008-09: Nil).

Note 15C - Net income and expense from financial liabilities

There was no net income/expenses from financial liabilities in 2009-10. (2008-09: Nil).

Note 15D - Fair value of financial instruments

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

Note 15E - Credit risk

The Director of National Parks is exposed to minimal credit risk as the majority of cash equivalents and other receivables are cash or trade receivables. 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 (2010: \$2,783,274 and 2009: \$973,769). The Director of National Parks has assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated \$28,141 in 2010 (2009: \$21,452) 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 quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired:

	Not Past Due Nor Impaired 2010 \$'000	Not Past Due Nor Impaired 2009 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2010 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2009 \$'000
Cash at Bank	38,353	27,633	-	-
Trade creditors and other receivables	1,829	825	954	148
Total	40,182	28,458	954	148

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2010:

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and other receivables	285	1	108	532	926
Total	285	1	108	532	926

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
Trade and other receivables	16	54	40	17	127
Total	16	54	40	17	127

Note 15F - Liquidity risk

The Director of National Park's financial liabilities are payables (due and payable). The exposure to liquidity risk from non-derivative financial liabilities 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 illustrate the maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities:

	On demand 2010 \$'000	within 1 year 2010 \$'000	1 to 5 years 2010 \$'000	> 5 years 2010 \$'000	Total 2010 \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	4,842	-	-	4,842
Other payables	-	5,987	-	-	5,987
Total	-	10,829	-	-	10,829

	On demand 2009 \$'000	within 1 year 2009 \$'000	1 to 5 years 2009 \$'000	> 5 years 2009 \$'000	Total 2009 \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	2,914	-	-	2,914
Other payables	-	1,889	-	-	1,889
Total	-	4,803	-	-	4,803

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 15G - 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. Funds transferred from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts included \$50.051m Revenue from Government Grant (2008-09: \$44.196m) and equity injection of \$3.225m in 2009-10 (2008-09: \$0.15m).

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 2009-10 (2008-09: 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

Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

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

Outcome 1

The Director of National Parks has only one outcome - *Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves through the provision of safe visitor access, then control of invasive species and working with stakeholders and neighbours.*

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2010	2009	2010	2009
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses				
Departmental	66,729	62,739	66,729	62,739
Total expenses	66,729	62,739	66,729	62,739
Income from non-government sector				
Departmental				
Sales of goods and services - External	10,361	8,885	10,361	8,885
Interest	872	1,114	872	1,114
Sublease rental income	201	196	201	196
Net gains from disposal of assets	192	60	192	60
Total costs recovered	11,626	10,255	11,626	10,255
Other Own Source Income				
Departmental				
Sales of goods and services - to related entities	4,844	2,842	4,844	2,842
Other gains	3,933	3,911	3,933	3,911
Other revenue	532	1,352	532	1,352
Total Departmental	9,309	8,105	9,309	8,105
Total other external revenues	9,309	8,105	9,309	8,105
Net cost of outcome	45,794	44,379	45,795	44,379

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



7 Appendices

Appendix A: Agency resourcing statement 2009–10

Appendix B: Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Appendix C: Freedom of information statement

Appendix D: Compliance index

← *King penguins (Aptenodytes patagonicus) roam the glacial moraine along the edge of Winston Lagoon, Heard Island. Photo Kate Kiefer*

Appendix A: Agency Resourcing Statement 2009–10

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.

SOURCE	Actual available appropriation \$'000	Payments Made \$'000	Balance Remaining \$'000
Opening balance/Reserves at bank	27,633	–	27,633
REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT			
Ordinary annual services¹			
Outcome 1	–	–	–
Total ordinary annual services	–	–	–
Other services²			
Non-operating	3,225	–	3,225
Total other services	3,225	–	3,225
Total annual appropriations	3,225	–	3,225
Payments from related entities³			
Amounts from the portfolio department	50,051	50,051	–
Total	50,051	50,051	–
Total funds from Government	50,051	50,051	–
FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES			
Interest	830	830	–
Sale of goods and services	19,290	12,800	6,490
Other	3,203	2,198	1,005
Total	23,323	15,828	7,495
Total net resourcing for DNP	104,232	65,879	38,353

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) 2010–11

2 Appropriation Bill (No.2) 2010–11

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 2009–10 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 2009–10 refer to Chapter 4 of this annual report under KRA 3 – Joint management and working with Indigenous communities and KRA 4 – Use and appreciation of protected areas.

(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 2009–10 refer to 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.

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 2009–10 Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Portfolio Budget Statements is the conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves through the provision of safe visitor access, the control of invasive species and working with stakeholders and neighbours. 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 2009–10 to achieve this outcome are described in Chapter 4 of this annual report and the State of the Parks Report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/09-10.

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 Indigenous 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 have been prepared for the Australian National Botanic Gardens and Booderee and Kakadu National Parks and are almost finalised for each of the Director's terrestrial reserves.

For a summary of activities undertaken in 2009–10 refer to 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 System for Comprehensive Activity Reporting (OSCAR) 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 OSCAR 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 environmental performance related to energy use is provided at Tables A1 and A2, for waste at Tables A3 and A4 and for water use at Table A5.

Environmental Performance: Energy Use

To reduce stationary energy use over 2009–10 a three kilowatt solar power system at Norfolk Island National Park and 30 new solar panels at the Booderee National Park offices were installed, reducing the amount of electricity drawn from the grid. Booderee's solar set up has generated 4,088 kilowatt hours since November 2009.

Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks rely heavily on diesel power generation as they are not on an electricity grid. The Australian National Botanic Gardens is also limited in its ability to reduce energy consumption due to its business requirements, such as maintaining plant and herbarium specimens at very specific conditions. To partially offset these energy requirements, the Gardens purchased 120,071 kilowatt hours of GreenPower in 2009–10 (approximately 10 per cent of purchased electricity).

Parks Australia regularly uses and advocates alternatives to air travel such as tele- and video-conferencing, to undertake weekly executive and branch meetings. A conscious effort is made to minimise business-related travel, recognising that sometimes face-to-face contact and visits to remote locations are necessary, particularly in respect to the three parks that are managed jointly with their Indigenous owners.

**Table A1: DNP Terrestrial Reserves – Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2006–10
– Stationary Energy Use**

	2006–07 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2007–08 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2008–09 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	Annual average 2006–09 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2009–10 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	% change compared with average
Australian National Botanic Gardens	1,660.1	1,569.0	1,630.5	1,619.9	1,233.3	-23.9
Booderee National Park	331.7	266.3	274.6	290.9	178.0	-38.8
Christmas Island National Park	55.1	51.4	44.0	50.2	48.8	-2.8
Kakadu National Park	1,555.1	1,353.1	1,346.3	1,418.2	1,263.9	-10.9
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	8.0	6.9	6.3	7.1	5.3	-25.4
Pulu Keeling National Park	14.8	14.1	16.6	15.2	14.8	-2.6
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	1,453.8	1,310.6	1,391.5	1,385.3	1,265.3	-8.7
Total	5,078.6	4,571.4	4,709.8	4,786.8	4,009.4	-16.2

Table A2: DNP Terrestrial Reserves – Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2006–10
– Transport Energy Use

	2006–07 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2007–08 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2008–09 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	Annual average 2006–09 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2009–10 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	% change compared with average
Australian National Botanic Gardens	39.4	37.3	32.2	36.3	25.0	-31.1
Booderee National Park	3.5	18.0	101.2	101.2*	73.1	-27.8
Christmas Island National Park	86.3	66.9	75.8	76.3	82.9	+8.7
Kakadu National Park	877.2	727.3	445.0	683.2	761.3	+11.4
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	20.9	19.4	22.0	20.8	17.5	-15.9
Pulu Keeling National Park	11.4	8.1	5.6	8.4	3.4	-59.5
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	186.7	149.6	126.7	154.3	171.7	+11.3
Total	1,225.4	1,026.6	808.5	1,080.5	1,134.8	+5.0

* The 2008–09 emissions figure for Booderee National Park is used as the annual average as reporting for previous years did not include some categories of diesel vehicles

Environmental Performance: Waste

Accurate measurements of greenhouse emissions related to waste remains challenging and estimates were not available for all reserves.

Overall paper usage in 2009–10 declined by 29 per cent compared with the previous reporting year and 33 per cent compared with the average use of the previous three years. There were significant increases in paper consumption in 2009–10 associated with educational activities. Several parks and reserves use 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper for their printing needs. In 2009–10, Parks Australia purchased an average of 3.9 reams per employee. This represents a decline in paper usage from previous years, and means that all of the parks and reserves are well under the departmental target of 12 reams per employee per year. Over time, technology is being upgraded in the parks which will provide more opportunities to print double-sided, reducing paper wastage further. The printer in the Norfolk Island office was upgraded this year to allow duplex printing. Increasing efforts are focused on providing web-based visitor and interpretative materials, which will further reduce printing and paper costs.

Opportunities for recycling are limited in Kakadu National Park, Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park and in the external territories. Recycling facilities are not available at all on Norfolk Island. Where facilities are available, for example at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, improvements in recycling have lead to the diversion of 58 tonnes from landfill. The Australian National Botanic Gardens has also installed compost bins in each building. Booderee National Park installed customised bin lids to minimise the contamination of recyclable waste, and increased its visitor education on waste-saving measures.

Table A3: DNP Terrestrial Reserves – Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2006–10 – Waste

	2006–07 waste to landfill (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2007–08 waste to landfill (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2008–09 waste to landfill (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2009–10 waste to landfill (tonnes of CO ₂ e)
Australian National Botanic Gardens	38.7	34.9	34.9	100.7
Booderee National Park	150.5	133.8	133.8	38.1
Christmas Island National Park	39.3	38.7	38.7	data not available
Kakadu National Park	249.0	249.0	249.0	data not available
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2
Pulu Keeling National Park	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.2
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	71.1	21.9	342.0	82.1

Table A4: DNP Terrestrial Reserves – Paper Consumption 2006–10 – Reams of paper

	Reams of paper 2006–07 (reams/ person)	Reams of paper 2007–08 (reams/ person)	Reams of paper 2008–09 (reams/ person)	Average reams of paper 2006 to 2009	Reams of paper 2009–10 (reams/ person)	% change compared with average
Australian National Botanic Gardens	325 (4.3)	270 (4.2)	240 (3.9)	278 (4.1)	300 (5.0)	+8
Booderee National Park	400 (10.8)	400 (13.7)	400 (13.0)	400 (12.5)	60 (2.1)	-85
Christmas Island National Park	50 (4.6)	50 (1.8)	50 (1.8)	50 (2.7)	50 (1.4)	0
Kakadu National Park	356 (4.3)	289 (4.0)	211 (3.1)	285 (3.8)	378 (5.6)	+33
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	39 (9.8)	67 (22.3)	65 (18.6)	57 (16.9)	45 (9.0)	-21
Pulu Keeling National Park	10 (2.5)	12 (3.9)	4 (2.0)	9 (2.8)	3 (1.5)	-67
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	408 (7.7)	160 (4.0)	304 (7.2)	291 (6.3)	82 (2.1)	-72
Total	1,588	1,248	1,274	1,370	918 (3.9)	-33

Environmental Performance: Water

Theme: Water

Protecting water quality is a high priority for Parks Australia. The quality of surface water, ground water and water holes is regularly monitored at the parks, and activities in each park must not interrupt the natural flow of water. Capacity to measure water consumption in the parks is improving but data are not yet consistently available.

Construction for the Australian National Botanic Gardens’ water extraction project commenced in April 2010 and is due for completion towards the end of 2010. The project is on schedule to be watering the living collection with non-drinking water by this summer. Using water from Lake Burley Griffin will reduce the Gardens’ operational costs and reliance on Canberra’s drinking water supply. The project is expected to free up around 170 megalitres of drinking water per year for use by Canberra residents and businesses.

At Booderee National Park, water saving devices such as waterless urinals and touch-pad showers have been installed across the park and we are exploring the potential for harvesting rainwater. Norfolk Island National Park is completely reliant on captured rainwater. The park has upgraded from an old 22,500 litre rainwater tank to a 46,000 litre tank, and it is working on reliably measuring the rainwater harvest.

Table A5: DNP Terrestrial Reserves – Water Consumption 2006–10

	kL 2006–08	kL 2007–08	kL 2008–09	kL 2009–10
Australian National Botanic Gardens	187,894	155,030	165,965	17,2431
Booderee National Park	12,043	5,965	9,551	not recorded
Christmas Island National Park	not recorded	not recorded	not recorded	13,242
Kakadu National Park	not recorded	26,808	not recorded	82,452
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	not recorded	not recorded	not recorded	not recorded
Pulu Keeling National Park	not recorded	not recorded	52	54
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	78,442	74,732	72,855	40,995

Appendix C: Freedom of information statement

The Director of National Parks received no applications pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). No applications were made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

The FOI Act extends to the Australian community the right to obtain access to information in the possession of the Australian Government. Access is limited only by exemptions necessary for the protection of essential public interests and the private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom information is collected and held by departments and statutory authorities.

Section 8 of the FOI Act requires departments and statutory authorities to make available information about their functions, organisations and operations. This information is included in other parts of this annual report.

Details of the categories of documents each agency maintains, and the facilities for public access, are also required under section 8 of the FOI Act.

For information about the Director of National Parks' functions and the organisation structure, see Figure 3 and Chapter 3 of this report.

Arrangements for outside participation in decisions, policy and administration

Public participation in the management of Commonwealth reserves under the EPBC Act is facilitated through a number of consultative mechanisms, including making declaration proposals and management plans available for public comment.

For Commonwealth reserves on Aboriginal-owned land (Kakadu, Uluru–Kata Tjuta and Booderee National Parks), the EPBC Act provides for both consultation with, and involvement of, representatives of the Aboriginal landowners in relation to management of the reserve. The consultative processes are outlined in Chapter 7 of this report.

Categories of documents

Categories of documents held by the DNP include:

- files relating to all aspects of the activities and functions of the Director;
- studies, reports and surveys;
- agenda papers and minutes of meetings; and
- procedures manuals.

Lists of available publications may be obtained by contacting the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts Community Information Unit on 1800 803 772, or visiting the website at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications.

Freedom of information procedures and initial contact points

Formal freedom of information requests should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Coordinator

Legal Section

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

GPO Box 787

Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6275 2721

Fax: (02) 6274 1587

Email: foi@environment.gov.au

Appendix D: Compliance index

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (Report of Operations) Orders 2005*.

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Glossary and shortened forms

Anangu	Western Desert Aboriginal person or people (generally those Aboriginal people with traditional affiliations to the Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park)
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ANBG	Australian National Botanic Gardens
Benthic	Marine organisms that live on, in or near the ocean floor
Bininj	Traditional owners of Aboriginal land and traditional owners of other land in Kakadu National Park, and other Aboriginals entitled to enter upon or use or occupy the Park in accordance with Aboriginal tradition governing the rights of that Aboriginal or group of Aboriginals with respect to the Park
CAC Act	<i>Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997</i>
Cetaceans	Whales, porpoises and dolphins
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA)	Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
Endemic	(Of a taxonomic group) confined to a given region
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
FOI Act	<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>
GIS	Geographic information system
GPS	Global positioning system
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IMCRA	Integrated Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA)	Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment
KRA	Key result area
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 1979)
MoU Box area	An area within Australian waters covered by a Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia that includes Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island and is open to traditional Indonesian fishers
Pelagic	Species or activities that normally live or occur near the ocean surface or the water column
Korea–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (ROKAMBA)	Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Korea for the Protection of Migratory Birds
Seamounts	Large cone-shaped remnants of extinct volcanoes rising from the ocean floor
Terrestrial	Relating to the land or land-dwelling
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971)
World Heritage Convention	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972)

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