

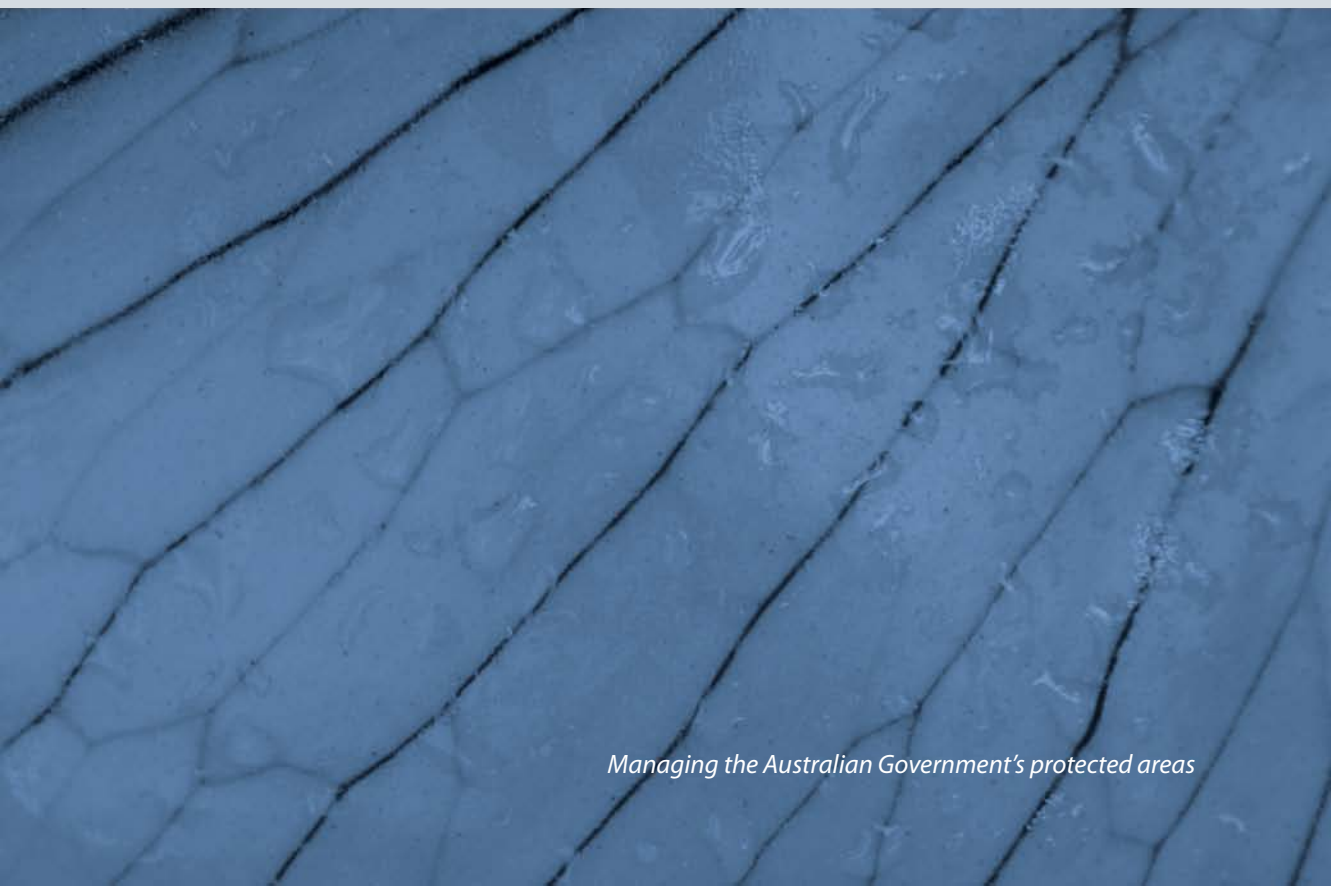


Australian Government
Director of National Parks



Director of National Parks

Annual Report 2010–11



Managing the Australian Government's protected areas

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Uunguu Indigenous Protected Area – *Peter Morris*

Land crab – *Parks Australia*

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Geographic Coordinate System on the GDA94 Datum.



Australian Government
Director of National Parks



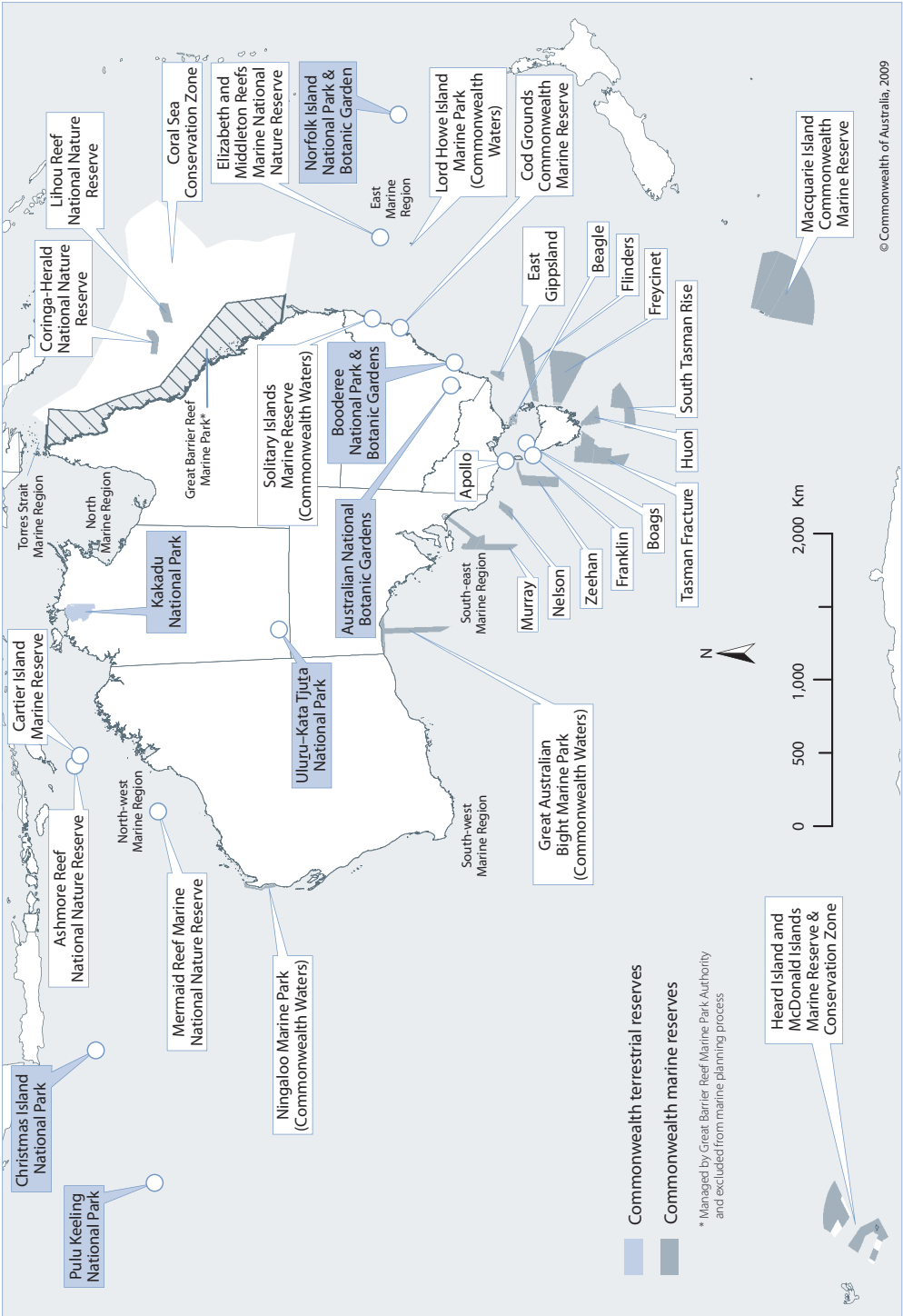
Director of National Parks

Annual Report 2010–11



Managing the Australian Government's protected areas

Figure 1: Locations of Commonwealth parks and reserves which are the responsibility of the Director of National Parks in 2010–11



Our mission

To assist the Minister and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 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 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio, Parks Australia is committed to professionalism as a major public service institution serving the Australian Government and Minister in accordance with the values of the Australian Public Service and specific departmental values including:

- 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 operations
- accepting responsibility and being accountable
- acting with integrity and achieving results.

We achieve our objectives 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.

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 terrestrial and marine protected area estates. The Director is assisted by Parks Australia, a division of the Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, in managing terrestrial reserves. The department's Marine Division and the Australian Antarctic Division are responsible for managing marine reserves.

In 2010–11 the Director of National Parks:

- managed seven terrestrial reserves comprising six national parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens
- managed 26 marine reserves and two conservation zones through the Marine Division and the Australian Antarctic Division
- managed Calperum and Taylorville Stations through a contract with Austland Services Pty Ltd
- employed 281 full-time equivalent staff around Australia
- recorded a total price output of \$66.7 million.

Major highlights and issues for 2010–11

- A number of significant milestones were reached including:
 - the 25th anniversary of the handback of Uluru and Kata Tjuta to their Anangu traditional owners
 - the 40th birthday of the Australian National Botanic Gardens
 - the 25th birthday of Norfolk Island National Park.
- The Australian National Botanic Gardens project to improve non-potable water infrastructure was completed in March 2011, removing the need for the Gardens to rely on Canberra's domestic water.
- Booderee National Park won a Virgin Global Responsible Tourism award in London for the 'best conservation of cultural heritage', recognising the unique partnership between Parks Australia and the Wreck Bay community.
- The World Heritage Committee added the Koongarra Project Area to the Kakadu World Heritage listing and the process has begun to incorporate Koongarra into Kakadu National Park.
- The Director entered into a partnership with Taronga Zoo to establish off-island captive populations of Christmas Island's blue-tailed skink and the recently rediscovered Lister's gecko.
- The purchase of the 527,295 hectare Henbury Station in the Northern Territory with Caring for our Country support was a significant addition to the National Reserve System, enabling a pioneering project to trial funding nature conservation through the emerging carbon economy.

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1 | Director's review

The year in review

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Certification

← *Mala is the Pitjantjatjara name for the Rufous hare wallaby, now thriving in Australia's Red Centre thanks to the hard work of Anangu and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park rangers. The critically-endangered mala were reintroduced to a special enclosure at the park in 2005 to boost numbers. A recent survey by rangers and traditional owners found numbers had increased by 108 in 2010. Photo: Parks Australia*

The year in review

We cover a fascinating and incredibly important array of activities and investments making a significant difference to nature conservation in Australia. Almost all our work is done in collaboration with other agencies and organisations and this year was no exception.

The year began with the government calling a federal election for 21 August 2010. The new Minister, the Hon Tony Burke MP, was appointed on 14 September and the functions of sustainability, population and communities were added to the portfolio.

We celebrated a number of significant milestones during the year. In October the Australian National Botanic Gardens celebrated its 40th birthday with a month of events. The botanic gardens have matured as a leader in science, conservation and community education and are a much loved retreat for locals and visitors.

The 25th anniversary of the handback of Uluru and Kata Tjuta to their Anangu traditional owners was celebrated on 26 October 2010 with the first ever park cultural festival. The festival, *Tjukurpa munu manta kunpungku kanyintjaku—Keeping culture and country strong together*—gave Anangu and park staff the chance to reflect on their achievements over the last 25 years.

Norfolk Island National Park turned 25 in January and we worked with the island's philatelic group to release a commemorative series of stamps featuring four endangered island plants now on the road to recovery—another conservation success story.

In its second year Bush Blitz—a three-year, multi-million dollar partnership between the Australian Government, BHP Billiton, Earthwatch Australia and TERN AusPlots–Rangelands—undertook five surveys in National Reserve System properties across South Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. This included the first Bush Blitz conducted on an Indigenous Protected Area in the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape at Lake Condah. Bush Blitz has unearthed a staggering 650 species new to science since the program began.

We have now fully implemented last year's restructure of Parks Australia. This allows a greater science focus to our work, with a dedicated team in the Parks and Biodiversity Science Branch developing and coordinating cross-divisional policies, strategies and projects for Commonwealth parks and reserves. One major area of work is developing an integrated web-based information system that includes a database of our research and monitoring activities.

Regular teleconferences and face-to-face meetings of reserve-based natural resource managers are helping make better use of scientific expertise and the approaches available to us. The boards of management for both Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta have advisory committees with a strong scientific focus to help support management of these magnificent World Heritage places.

In a new scientific partnership we have joined forces with Sydney's Taronga Zoo to boost the survival chances of endemic native reptiles on Christmas Island. Building on a captive-breeding program established by Christmas Island National Park, Taronga is establishing off-park populations of the blue-tailed skink and Lister's gecko. These reptiles will then be reintroduced to their native habitat on the island once current threats have been understood and overcome.



*Chinese vice-president Xi Jinping met with traditional owners including Jeffrey Lee when he visited Kakadu National Park.
Photo: Parks Australia*

The unexpected challenges of dramatic weather events affected activities during the year. Cyclone Carlos vented its fury on Darwin in February with winds of up to 100 kilometres an hour lashing the city and heavy rains that closed schools, tourist attractions and the airport. The Darwin office was closed for two days and over a metre of water closed the Arnhem Highway to Kakadu.

This damage and loss does not compare with that caused by the earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand in February. We have strong relationship with New Zealand's Department of Conservation and I conveyed, to Alistair Morrison, the Chief Executive, our initial and ongoing thoughts and hopes for the safety of his staff and their families and to New Zealand for their recovery. Our relationship with the Department of Conservation has been formed in regional, national and international forums. It has provided amazing opportunities such as the cultural exchange held in September when a delegation from New Zealand including Sir Tumu te Heuheu, paramount chief of Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Sir Archie Te Atawhai Taiaroa, senior Māori leader (who sadly passed away shortly after his visit) met traditional owners in Kakadu and Arnhem Land.

A continuing priority for us is developing new infrastructure to support the management and appreciation of our reserves. This year we completed a project to drought-proof the Australian National Botanic Gardens, with the taps to a non-potable water supply from Lake Burley Griffin being turned on in March. The gardens will no longer have to rely on Canberra's domestic drinking water to irrigate its collection of over 76,000 Australian plants.

Significant road works were also undertaken during 2010–11, including resealing at Uluru–Kata Tjuta to meet public safety standards and continued access to major visitor areas. Flooding as a result of the heavy wet season meant extensive repairs were necessary to both sealed and unsealed roads in Kakadu.

We also successfully launched an electronic ticketing system for independent travellers to Kakadu who can now buy their park passes online.

A personal highlight for me was leading the Australian Government delegation to the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. The delegation helped finalise 20 ambitious but achievable global biodiversity targets for the next 10 years. These included protecting 17 per cent of land and 10 per cent of oceans by parks and other conservation methods, aiming to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020.

After more than eight years of negotiations the meeting also adopted the Nagoya Protocol—a new international legal regime governing access and benefit sharing from the use of biological resources, including protection for the owners of traditional knowledge used to identify or develop a new product. Parks Australia has represented the department in this process and manages the Australian Government's globally recognised regulatory regime covering Commonwealth lands and waters.

Another highlight during the year was the visit to Kakadu by the Chinese Vice President, Xi Jinping, with senior party officials and a large Chinese media team. Traditional owner members of the Kakadu National Park Board of Management welcomed the vice president and we fitted as much as possible into his tour of the park. This provided great publicity for the park in a key emerging market.

Massive global attention focused on Uluru as Oprah Winfrey's Ultimate Australian Adventure reached our screens during the summer. Oprah told her millions of fans worldwide about her awe-inspiring experience watching the sunset at Uluru and her respect for Anangu culture.

Booderee National Park continued to be a tourism award winner, beating destinations from around the world to win a Virgin Global Responsible Tourism award in London. The award is for the 'best conservation of cultural heritage' and recognises the unique partnership between Parks Australia and the Wreck Bay community. Talinguru Nyakuntjaku at Uluru received an engineering excellence award for cultural and environmental sensitivity in a World Heritage area. This high-capacity, low-impact viewing area was developed in close collaboration with traditional owners and the local Anangu community to deliver our largest culturally and environmentally sensitive infrastructure project.

Parks Australia continues to engage with the rapidly changing world of social media. We are now on Facebook, have a successful blog at parksaustralia.govspace.gov.au and actively connect with the public through video-sharing site Vimeo and photography site Flickr. We are constantly looking for ways to inspire people from across the planet about our parks and social media is a highly effective way to do this.

The ongoing assessment of Australia's marine bioregions in the south-west, north-west and east continued through the Marine Division of the department. In early May the Australian Government released for public consultation a draft South-west Marine Bioregional Plan and a proposal for a South-west Network of Commonwealth Marine Reserves. The proposed network of marine reserves covers more than 538,000 square kilometres, incorporating breeding and feeding grounds for species such as the Australian sea-lion, southern right whales and blue whales. It also includes the Perth Canyon, a deep-sea canyon similar in size to the Grand Canyon.

Financial matters

We recorded a significant surplus, arising primarily from the recognition of assets for the first time as part of the triennial asset revaluation process. The overall increase in our asset base from the revaluation will add to outyear pressures from the associated increase in forecast depreciation expenditure.

Our financial control framework remains sound and is well regarded by internal and external auditors, continuing our history of good financial performance. This year was the third consecutive year with no adverse audit findings. I would like to acknowledge the contribution from all of our staff involved in financial management and control for this excellent result.

Entry fee revenue in all three jointly managed parks was below budgeted projections, largely as a result of declining visitation to Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks. We are working closely with Tourism Australia and Tourism NT to promote and increase visitation to both parks.

Revenue from Government was lower than the previous financial year as a result of the full year impact of the replacement of the park use fee subsidy for Kakadu by the re-introduced park use fee. Funding for the completed mine rehabilitation project in Kakadu terminated in 2009-10 and this is also reflected in the lower revenue figure in 2010-11.

Our people

The success of our organisation depends significantly on the commitment and experience of our staff and our ability to effectively deal with change. We have had a relatively stable management team over the year with one senior staff member Peter Taylor, who retired in November after many years in the department and the last five in Parks. His passion, experience and capacity to bring people together and his humour and enthusiasm for parks are widely missed. Gerard Early, a Deputy Secretary and biodiversity stalwart also retired. His leadership and support for conservation of biodiversity in the portfolio, and government more broadly, was exceptional.

In March we welcomed Mark Taylor as the new head of the Parks and Protected Areas Programs Branch. Mark has a long history in arts policy including Indigenous arts, most recently in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Mark brings valuable new skills and perspectives to our work. We also welcomed Scott Suridge back to Booderee after a two-year break to work in the Northern Territory's Nauiyu (Daly River) Community, and thank Martin Fortescue for capably managing the park in Scott's absence. I was pleased with the appointment of Mike Misso as the new manager of Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling National Parks.

Australia Day awards went to Ben Phillips for leading the delivery of Australia's policy and regulatory regime for access and benefit sharing of biological resources, in particular the critical and sustained support over five years for the negotiation and recent finalisation of the Nagoya Protocol. Awards also went to Coral Rowston for designing and leading a major revitalisation of Norfolk Island National Park, the Botanic Gardens and Phillip Island and to Hilary Schofield for leading Parks Australia's contribution to the National Landscapes initiative promoting Australia's world-class nature-based visitor experiences.

Parks Australia and particularly Booderee lost a special colleague in September. Uncle Barry Moore was best known for his great bush tucker tours and school holiday programs, generously sharing his wide knowledge with school children and park visitors.

In November Booderee hosted a Parks Australia Forum where our senior managers met to discuss how to do our business better. These gatherings reinforce the relationships and structures that make our organisation strong and ensure we have a shared sense of priorities and focus for the future.

Looking ahead

We finished the year with a significant milestone—the addition of Koongarra to the Kakadu World Heritage Area. In the year ahead we will be working with the Northern Land Council to deliver the government's commitment to see this spectacular area protected as part of Kakadu National Park.

We will continue to drive our science agenda forward during the next year and to use the best available information to improve park management and build on the successful partnerships that were established, both within the portfolio and externally.

A focus over the next year will be developing a regional recovery plan for Christmas Island. This will coordinate and consolidate our efforts to conserve the island's many threatened plants and animals in the next 10 years. We will be able to maintain our efforts to control the yellow crazy ant infestation on Christmas Island thanks to a \$4 million injection from the Australian Government's 2011–12 Budget. This funding will also enable vital research in developing a suitable long-term biological control agent to continue.

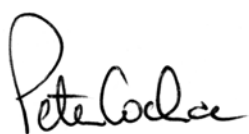
The effects of a high Australian dollar and uncertainty in our major international visitor markets translated into a significant decline in visitor numbers to Kakadu and Uluru over the year. This directly affected our revenues. We are working hard with our tourism colleagues federally and in the Northern Territory to promote and attract visitors from existing and new markets and to ensure we can continue to deliver rewarding visitor experiences and effectively protect the magnificent properties we manage.

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 2011



When Peter Cochrane was in Nagoya, Japan leading the Australian Government delegation to the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity he accepted the Future Policy 2010 Silver Award on behalf of the Australian Government recognising the policy work on the protection and health of the Great Barrier Reef. Photo: Franz Dejon



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: World Heritage for Koongarra—a traditional owner's battle

Protecting unique island ecosystems

Conserving Australia's biodiversity through a National Reserve System

Case study: Henbury Station—a stunning new model for conservation management

Case study: A conservation milestone in the Kimberley

Protecting the marine environment

Understanding and studying Australia's biodiversity

Case study: First Victorian Bush Blitz conducted on Aboriginal-owned lands

Australia's National Landscapes

The Minister

Following the 2010 Australian federal election and a subsequent change in ministerial responsibilities, the Hon Tony Burke MP was appointed Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities on 14 September 2010, with responsibility for the Director of National Parks. The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP served as Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, with responsibility for the Director of National Parks from 1 July 2010 to 13 September 2010.

The Minister's responsibilities in relation to the Director include; assessing proposals for establishing Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; 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.



Environment Minister Tony Burke with Hezekial Jingoonya and visitor services officer Tim Rogers talking in Kitchen Cave. Visitors to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park can learn more about the cave during the Mala Walk, one of the most popular walks in the park.

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 apply to the Director. No General Policy Orders were issued to the Director in 2010–11.

The EPBC Act provides for the proclamation and management of Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones. The term ‘Commonwealth reserve’ includes all 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 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. 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
- protect, conserve and manage biodiversity and heritage in Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones
- contribute to the protection, conservation and management of biodiversity and heritage in areas outside Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones
- cooperate with any country in matters relating to the establishment and management of national parks and nature reserves in that country
- provide, and assist in the provision of, training in knowledge and skills relevant to the establishment and management of national parks and nature reserves

- carry out alone, or in cooperation with other institutions and persons, and arrange for any other institution or person to carry out research and investigations relevant to the establishment and management of Commonwealth reserves
- make recommendations to the Minister in relation to the establishment and management of Commonwealth reserves
- administer the Australian National Parks Fund
- undertake any other functions conferred on the Director under the EPBC Act or any other Act
- do anything incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the functions mentioned above.

As at 30 June 2011 seven Commonwealth terrestrial reserves (national parks and botanic gardens), 26 Commonwealth marine reserves (marine parks, marine reserves and marine nature reserves) and two conservation zones (the Coral Sea Conservation Zone and Heard Island and McDonald Islands Conservation Zone) were declared under the EPBC Act and were the responsibility of the Director.

Terrestrial reserves are managed by staff of Parks Australia. In 2010–11, 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 in Figure 1.

In addition to managing Commonwealth reserves, the Director is 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 wellbeing of regional Australia.

Non-statutory functions

The Director has also been delegated functions and powers by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and the Secretary of the department 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. The Director 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 2010–11 due largely to the recognition of assets for the first time as part of the triennial asset revaluation process. In addition project preparation and planning delayed asbestos rehabilitation works in Kakadu and Uluru. Lower than expected depreciation expenditure primarily due to unusual weather conditions in the Northern Territory delayed some projects, also contributing to the surplus.

Overall, income for 2010–11 was up by 17.5 per cent against budget and expenditure was down by 6.5 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.

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 2010–11.

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 2010–11

Business area	Income	Expenses
Jointly managed parks	Up \$10.847 million due to recognition of assets for the first time as part of the asset revaluation process, partially offset by lower than expected entry fees at Booderee, Kakadu and Uluru.	Down \$0.645 million due to underspends in employee, operating lease, professional services and information technology expenses, partially offset by overspends in acquisition of goods, staff travel and learning and development.
Other parks and reserves	Up \$0.656 million due to recognition of assets for the first time as part of the asset revaluation process, partially offset by the carryover of unearned revenue at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.	Down \$0.499 million due to underspends in employee expenses. In addition, underspends in depreciation as a result of reduced capacity to deliver capital projects and earthworks at Christmas Island for the rehabilitation works.
Governance, corporate services and executive	Up \$0.929 million due in part to higher interest rates on retained revenues which increased due to delays in operating expenditure and capital works.	Down \$3.465 million primarily due to continued project planning for asbestos remediation works.

Table 2: Overview of financial results 2010–11

		2010 Actuals \$000s	2011 Actuals \$000s	2011 Budget \$000s	2011 Variance \$000s
Jointly managed parks ^(a)	Income	40,681	49,646	38,799	10,847
	Expenses	(41,732)	(38,185)	(38,830)	645
	Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,051)	11,461	(31)	11,492
Other terrestrial parks and reserves ^(b)	Income	18,360	17,425	16,769	656
	Expenses	(17,152)	(16,458)	(16,957)	499
	Surplus/(Deficit)	1,208	967	(188)	1,155
Total for terrestrial parks and reserves	Income	59,041	67,071	55,568	11,503
	Expenses	(58,884)	(54,643)	(55,787)	1,144
	Surplus/(Deficit)	157	12,428	(219)	12,647
Governance, corporate services and executive ^(c)	Income	11,945	16,280	15,351	929
	Expenses	(7,845)	(12,051)	(15,516)	3,465
	Surplus/(Deficit)	4,100	4,229	(165)	4,394
Total for Director of National Parks	Income	70,986	83,351	70,919	12,432
	Expenses	(66,729)	(66,694)	(71,303)	4,609
	Surplus/(Deficit)	4,257	16,657	(384)	17,041

(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.

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

	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
Number of staff (full-time equivalent)					
Management of terrestrial reserves	270.6	274.0	293.0	290	281.4
Management of marine reserves	17.5	16.3	16	15	13.7
Area of Commonwealth reserves (hectares)					
Terrestrial reserves area (number of reserves)	2,130,774 (7)	2,130,774 (7)	2,130,774 (7)	2,130,774 (7)	2,130,774 (7)
Marine reserves area (number of reserves)	27,245,678 (14)	49,844,075 (26)	49,844,075 (26)	49,844,075 (26)	49,844,075 (26)
Visitors to Commonwealth terrestrial reserves					
Number of visitors	1,485,727	1,466,560	1,410,021	1,445,381	1,368,868
Safety incidents recorded^(a)—Commonwealth terrestrial reserves					
Minor injury or near miss	157	141	101	126	126
Moderate injury	47	63	52	41	54
Major injury	3	6	8	20	25
Death	0	1	4	2	4
Compliance and enforcement—Commonwealth terrestrial reserves					
EPBC Act incidents detected	372	197	126	203	105
Warnings and cautions issued	287	131	56	147	58
Infringement notices issued	38	59	20	38	42
Cases taken to court	17	3	0	2	1
Court convictions	13	3	1	0	0
Court cases pending at year end	4	2	1	2	0
Financial summary—Commonwealth terrestrial reserves (\$ millions)					
Operations					
Total operating expenditure ^(b)	59.29	62.05	61.25	58.88	54.64
Total operating revenue ^(c)	62.99	63.03	62.63	59.04	67.07
Financial position					
Current assets	19.51	28.50	29.30	41.67	44.91
Non-current assets	139.11	149.33	151.04	151.53	219.73
Current liabilities	9.47	9.77	10.91	17.80	11.94
Non-current liabilities	0.58	0.64	0.49	0.53	0.82
Total equity	148.57	167.42	168.95	174.87	251.87
Financial summary—Commonwealth marine reserves (\$ millions)					
Total operating expenditure	5.53	4.51	4.55	2.80	3.51
Total operating revenue	5.53	4.51	4.55	2.80	3.51

(a) Includes staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors, permit holders and residents.

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

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

Table 4: Overview of individual reserves in 2010–11

Reserve name	Area (hectares)	Year declared	IUCN category ^(a)	Operating cost (\$000s)	Capital expenditure ^(b) (\$000s)	External revenue ^(c) (\$000s)	Payment to traditional owners (\$000s)
Jointly managed national parks							
Booderee National Park	6,379	1992	II	6,800	903	1,247	553
Kakadu National Park	1,979,767	1979	II	17,913	11,511	3,207	1,637
Uluru—Kata Tjuta National Park	132,566	1977	II	13,472	2,339	7,250	1,708
Other Commonwealth terrestrial reserves							
Australian National Botanic Gardens	85	1991	IV	9,777	3,561	2,106	
Christmas Island National Park	8,719	1980	II	4,493	75	1,185	
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	656	1986	II	1,149	440	35	
Pulu Keeling National Park	2,602	1995	II	511	0	51	
Commonwealth marine reserves^(d)							
Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve	58,337	1983	Ia	8	88		
Cartier Island Marine Reserve	17,238	2000	Ia	0			
Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve	314	2007	Ia	126			
Coringa—Herald National Nature Reserve	885,249	1982	Ia	0			
Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve	187,726	1987	Ia	141			
Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	1,937,162	1998	VI	113			
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve	6,465,845	2002	Ia	81			
Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve	843,670	1982	Ia	0			
Lord Howe Island Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	300,287	2000	IV	67			
Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve	53,987	1991	Ia	87			
Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	243,513	1987	II	81			
Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters)	15,233	1993	VI	100			
South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network (includes Macquarie Island Commonwealth Marine Reserve)	38,845,800	2007	1a, II, IV, VI	310			

(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) Includes assets recognised for the first time as part of the asset revaluation process.

(c) External revenue represents total revenue from the income statement less revenue from government and assets recognised for the first time.

(d) In addition to the operating costs for each individual reserve (eg on annual service delivery contracts, travel, research and monitoring projects) a total of \$2,306,000 was spent across the 25 reserves managed by Marine Division on professional services, performance assessment, training, communications, workshops, 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 into park management.

Kakadu National Park is an Aboriginal living cultural landscape. A strong relationship exists between Bininj and their country in 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. The entire park is listed as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention and many species in the park are protected under international agreements.

In June 2011 the UNESCO World Heritage Committee included Koongarra, a 1,200 hectare site within the boundaries but never under the protection of Kakadu National Park in the Kakadu World Heritage Area. The incorporation of Koongarra into the park will ensure it has full protection under the EPBC Act (see case study page 18).

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 identified as part of a National Landscape. Parks Australia works 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 contributes significantly 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.

Case study: World Heritage for Koongarra—a traditional owner's battle

For more than two decades, Kakadu traditional owner Jeffrey Lee has refused to consent to uranium mining on his traditional lands of Koongarra, a 1,200 hectare site within the boundaries but never under the protection of Kakadu National Park.

Koongarra is a stunning woodland area overlooked by Nourlangie Rock, one of Kakadu's most popular visitor destinations with ancient rock art galleries, first settlement paintings and stunning views and walks. With burial sites and its own rock art, Koongarra faces east to Lightning Dreaming, home of the powerful creation ancestor Namarrgon or Lightning Man, who is responsible for the dramatic electrical storms on the Arnhem plateau.

Koongarra was excluded from the park boundaries in 1979 because of its potential uranium resources — and from later inclusion by UNESCO in the Kakadu World Heritage Area. A subsidiary of the French mining company Areva holds outstanding applications for exploration permits and mineral leases over the property — but under Aboriginal Lands Right law, has not been able to explore or mine without Aboriginal consent.

Jeffrey is the last surviving member of the Djok clan, the key traditional owners of Koongarra — although other clans have traditional responsibilities in the area.

Two years ago through the Northern Land Council, he and other traditional owners wrote to then Environment Minister Peter Garrett, saying they wanted the threat of mining removed forever by making Koongarra part of Kakadu National Park. The national newspaper, *The Age*, reported it as a generous offer — a gift casting aside possibly huge mining royalties and asking no compensation.

Jeffrey Lee's plea was answered in the 2010 election campaign, with a commitment by the Gillard Government to incorporate Koongarra into Kakadu — a commitment supported by the Coalition shadow minister and the Northern Territory Government.



Environment Minister Tony Burke and Djok traditional owner Jeffrey Lee. Photo: Parks Australia

Over the past year Jeffrey Lee has continued his fight with some frustration at the impediments he has had to overcome.

He has watched while the Government and the Director of National Parks have carefully afforded Areva natural justice while moving through the legal steps towards Koongarra's incorporation. The company has so far reserved its right for legal action to protect its interests.

So in June 2011, when the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was to consider including Koongarra as part of the Kakadu World Heritage Area and Areva threatened legal action, Jeffrey took action again.

In a recorded video message he successfully petitioned Environment Minister Tony Burke to support his travel to Paris to put his story to the World Heritage Committee.

"I want to ensure that the traditional laws, customs, sites, bush tucker, trees, plants and water at Koongarra stay the same as when they were passed on to me by my father and great-grandfather," Jeff told the committee.

The World Heritage Committee included Koongarra in the Kakadu World Heritage area.

Jeffrey's battle is not yet over. He is now working with the Government and the Northern Land Council on what he hopes are the final steps — the incorporation of Koongarra into Kakadu National Park, with all the protection the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* offers.

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 bay's southern Bherwerre Peninsula, Bowen Island and the waters and seabed in the southern part of the bay.

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

Parks Australia's relationship with Indigenous communities in the jointly managed parks continues to develop. Staff are building 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 used 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 support Indigenous owned and operated enterprises and provide opportunities for Indigenous communities and residents to be involved in training and employment.

More information on Commonwealth jointly managed reserves, including performance results for 2010–11, can be found in the *State of the Parks* report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/10-11.

Protecting unique island ecosystems

Parks Australia manages three national parks 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 over 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. Establishing the park has not, however, prevented the continuing incursion of exotic species, disrupting the functioning of the island's natural ecological processes. Yellow crazy ants have severely reduced numbers of red crabs and pose a significant threat to many other species. A major control program is in place and has been accelerated, with some encouraging results.

The presumed extinction of the endemic pipistrelle bat in 2009 focused attention on the need for a more integrated approach to managing the island's biodiversity. The final report of an expert working group appointed in 2009 was released in September 2010 and stressed the need for measures such as improved quarantine procedures to avoid further extinctions. A response to the report's recommendations is being prepared.

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 consists of North Keeling Island and its marine area extending to one and a half 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 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 now not found elsewhere in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. 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 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 before 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, 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 is strongly focused 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 2010–11, can be found in the *State of the Parks* report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/10-11.

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.

During 2010–11 Caring for our Country contributed over \$22.2 million to the National Reserve System towards the purchase of 19 properties, covering more than 772,280 hectares, and over \$1.4 million to strategic projects for establishing protected areas on private lands.

A particular highlight was the addition of Henbury Station, a 527,295 hectare property located in Australia's arid centre, to the National Reserve System. The Caring for our Country initiative assisted the purchase of Henbury by the pastoral company RM Williams Agricultural Holdings which will manage the property for nature conservation and generate income through carbon sequestration (see case study page 22).

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 controlling threats such as weeds, feral animals and wildfire.

Case study: Henbury Station—a stunning new model for conservation management

When Marina Walkington and Tim Bond visited Henbury Station just after the wet summer of 2010, they knew that the hard work ahead to add the Central Australian property to the National Reserve System would be well worth it.

“It’s just a fantastic property,” says Marina who heads up the team charged with assessing potential properties for addition to the National Reserve System. “It’s large and it’s diverse; the colours in the landscape are stunning; and the whole place was exploding with life following recent heavy rains.”

The Henbury Conservation Project is the brainchild of R.M. Williams Agricultural Holdings which is pioneering a new approach to produce carbon credits to fund ongoing nature conservation.

With Caring for our Country support, the company purchased the

\$13 million pastoral property where, after the removal of cattle, it will actively manage fire, water, weeds and feral animals to support the regeneration of native vegetation.

Home to two large rivers and a host of threatened plants and animals, Henbury is now part of the Northern Territory Ecolink wildlife corridor and will be managed forever as a conservation property in the National Reserve System.

At over 500,000 hectares the station is the largest land purchase yet supported by the Australian Government — enabling the link between nature conservation and the emerging carbon economy to be explored in a practical way. As an innovative pilot for carbon farming — an Australian first — it has had a long gestation from initial concept to its launch by Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke some two years later.

“This addition took an immense amount of work by many people. There were long nights and long negotiations — there were business people involved, government agencies, biologists, lawyers, auditors, Indigenous people, photographers,” Marina says. “But it’s visionary and it’s a ‘first’, so it was important to get it right.



The Finke River runs through Henbury Station in Australia's Red Centre providing permanent waterholes—refuges for plants and animals in an otherwise arid environment.

Photo: Parks Australia

"The Northern Territory government has long been aware of the conservation value of this property. Their biologists had flagged the property as significant — with one of the most important features being the Finke River which flows through it leaving a number of permanent waterholes that provide refuges for ancient and threatened species. The National Reserve System was interested because of its biodiversity, condition and location in the very poorly reserved Finke bioregion."

A battered metal sign at the Henbury homestead commemorates Indigenous people's long association with the property — they were amongst its earliest workers.

"The new owners have guaranteed access for traditional ceremony and hunting," Marina says. "And they're talking with the Indigenous community about the role they might play in the property's ongoing management."

On a cool July morning at the property's beautiful Three Mile Waterhole, Environment Minister Tony Burke launched the Henbury Conservation Project describing it as 'the great opportunity for environment protection the world's been looking for — a model where carbon markets drive magnificent biodiversity'.



From left, traditional owner Bruce Breden and Environment Minister Tony Burke at the launch of the Henbury Conservation Project. Photo: Daniel Griffiths

Five new Indigenous Protected Areas, totalling 2.36 million hectares, were declared in 2010–11. They included Uunguu Indigenous Protected Area covering 343,797 hectares at the northern tip of Western Australia's Kimberley, a biologically important zone that supports populations of small mammals (see case study this page), and Apará Makiri Puntí Indigenous Protected Area (around 1.1 million hectares) on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands in northern South Australia, which includes the western end of the Musgrave Ranges and extensive sand dune and sand plain country studded with small hills and rocky outcrops.

Outputs of the National Reserve System and Indigenous Protected Area programs, including performance results for 2010–11, are reported in the department's annual report.

Case study: A conservation milestone in the Kimberley

Stretching over more than 3,400 square kilometres of spectacular north Kimberley coastline, Uunguu Indigenous Protected Area was formally declared in May 2011.

The Wunambal Gaambera people made the declaration just after the Federal Court of Australia granted them native title over 26,000 square kilometres of the Kimberley. Hundreds of traditional owners travelled across the Kimberley for the historic ceremonies.

Senior Wunambal man Sylvester Mangolomara said the declaration made his people proud.

"Country is important for us because if you just walk away from it, it will all die and the spirits will go to another place where people will look after them. This country is life to us people. We gotta keep looking after the land otherwise it most probably won't take care of us," he said.

Uunguu means 'living home' and the area abounds with significant and threatened species including dugong and marine turtles, sand goanna, bush turkey, euro and rock wallabies.



Uunguu Indigenous Protected Area on the spectacular Kimberley coastline. Photo: Peter Morris



Traditional owner Sylvester Mangolomara says the declaration of Uunguu Indigenous Protected Area will help his people manage their country. Photo: Peter Morris

There are countless significant rock art sites in the region forming one of the most stunning open air art galleries in Western Australia.

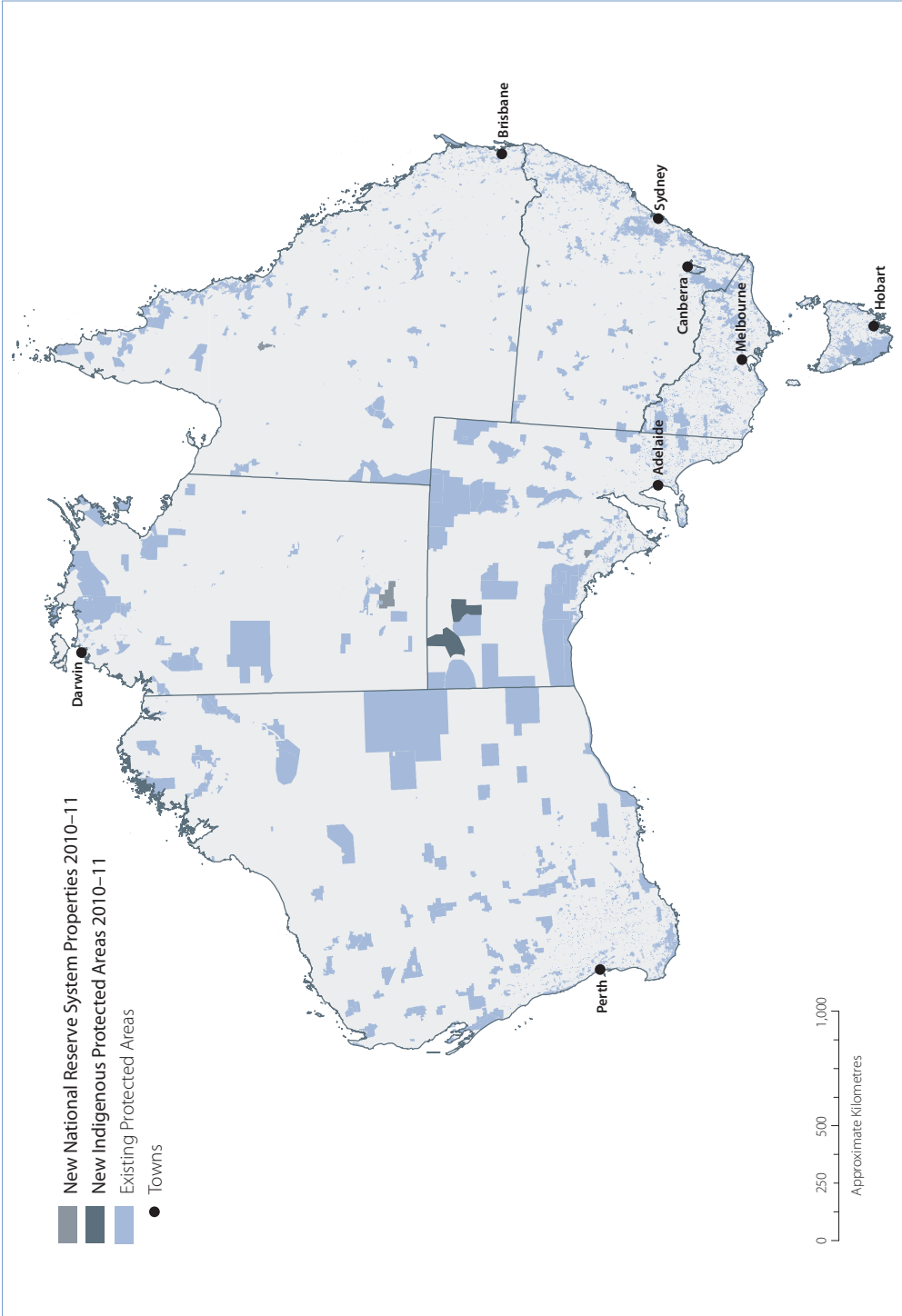
The declaration of an Indigenous Protected Area is the first step of a 10-year healthy country plan which traditional owners have been working on since the 1990s. The plan and its priorities are guiding the Uunguu rangers in their daily work, managing fire, weed and feral animal control, fencing, visitor management, cultural heritage conservation and monitoring the health of plants and animals.

The Australian Government has invested \$740,000 over three years to help the rangers manage this Indigenous Protected Area. Male and female Uunguu rangers are also supported through the Australian Government's Working on Country program and an historic 10-year agreement with Bush Heritage Australia. The Kimberley Land Council is working with the Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation to help develop their healthy country management.

The traditional owners aspire to make most of their country granted under native title an Indigenous Protected Area. Their neighbours in Dambimangari country are also working towards declaring an Indigenous Protected Area— potentially creating a Kimberley wildlife corridor stretching for more than 53,000 square kilometres, and making a significant contribution to the Kimberley National Landscape.

There are now 45 Indigenous Protected Areas across Australia covering nearly 26 million hectares. In 2010–11 the program added 2.36 million hectares to the National Reserve System — Australia's most secure way of protecting habitat for future generations.

Figure 2: Acquisitions under the National Reserve System program and declared Indigenous Protected Areas as at 30 June 2011



The Director is also responsible for managing 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 and 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 2010–11, can be found in the *State of the Parks* report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/10-11.

Protecting the marine environment

Commonwealth marine reserves

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 over 32,000 kilometres. Australia's marine jurisdiction is larger than the mainland and covers 14 million square kilometres of ocean.

The Director is responsible for a network of 26 Commonwealth marine reserves and two marine conservation zones that have been declared under the EPBC Act. The reserves extend from southern sub-Antarctic waters through temperate southern waters to the tropical north.

Management of the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve is delegated to the Australian Antarctic Division, in recognition of the division's 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 to determine the need for permanent protection. Two conservation zones have been declared in 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 was declared in 2009 and covers 972,000 square kilometres east of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

More information on the management of Commonwealth marine reserves, including performance results for 2010–11, can be found in the *State of the Parks* report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/10-11.

Marine bioregional planning

The Australian Government is conducting a marine bioregional planning process in Commonwealth waters from the edge of state/territory waters three nautical miles from the Territorial Sea Baseline and extending to the outer limits of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone, 200 nautical miles from the Territorial Sea Baseline. Marine bioregional planning focuses on building knowledge of Australia's oceans and improving conservation and sustainable use of marine resources to improve management of whole marine ecosystems, including the interactions of people and industry with marine environments and species.

Marine bioregional planning is underway in Australia's five marine regions—South-west, North-west, North, East, and South-east. Bioregional planning will help improve the way decisions relating to protecting marine biodiversity and sustainable use of our oceans and their resources by marine-based industries are made under national environment legislation.

As part of the marine bioregional planning process, new Commonwealth marine reserves are being identified. These reserves will play an important role in the long-term conservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity in our oceans. The new reserves will also meet Australia's international and national commitments to establish a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas by 2012.

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

Understanding and studying Australia's biodiversity

Commonwealth botanic gardens

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

The Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) is a major national scientific, educational and recreational resource located in Canberra. The ANBG was one of the first botanic gardens in the world to adopt the study and display of indigenous species as a principal goal. The living collection currently contains one-third of the nation's known flowering plant species which makes the ANBG the custodian of one of the largest collections (in terms of species) of Australian plants with an emphasis on threatened species.

The ANBG provides a diverse range of education and public programs to raise awareness of the value of Australia's unique flora. In October 2010 the ANBG celebrated its 40th anniversary with events including an open day that attracted 5,000 people, a gala dinner and several exhibitions.

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

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

More information on the work of these botanic gardens, including performance results for 2010–11, can be found in the *State of the Parks* report at www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/10-11.

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 Australian National Biodiversity Research and the Australian Biological Resources Study.

The Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, formerly the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, is a joint venture between the ANBG and CSIRO Plant Industry. Its principal function is to document the identity, origin, occurrence, distribution and human impact of Australia's native and introduced plant species. The centre's cornerstone is the Australian National Herbarium which houses approximately 1.2 million plant specimens, documenting the diversity of Australian flora and providing voucher specimens for research, environmental studies and for the ANBG living collection. The herbarium is a major contributor to national projects aiming to disseminate biodiversity information, notably Australia's Virtual Herbarium and the Atlas of Living Australia, as well as international projects such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

In December 2010 the agreement between the Director and CSIRO that underpins the Centre was renewed for a further 10 years. As well as a new name, a new strategic plan for the Centre was put in place and a new Director appointed in January 2011.

The aim of the Australian Biological Resources Study is to provide national support and leadership for naming and classifying 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. The Australian Biological Resources Study provides national references for species names through taxonomic publications, electronic databases and identification tools and, through the National Taxonomy Research Grant Program, 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 and is helping address the decline in Australia's taxonomic capability through training and mentoring new scientists and supporting research.

In its second year the Bush Blitz project undertook five surveys across four states. The results will contribute to knowledge of biodiversity in the National Reserve System and help managers develop adaptive management strategies. The first Victorian survey, the first on an Indigenous Protected Area, was held on Gunditjmara-owned lands in the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape in south-west Victoria (see case study page 30).

Outputs of the Australian Biological Resources Study, including performance results for 2010–11, are reported in the department's annual report.

Managing access to genetic resources

The Director is responsible for developing Australian Government policy on managing Australia's genetic resources, including regulating access to resources in Commonwealth areas and benefit sharing arrangements. Parks Australia 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 promotes 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.

Case study: First Victorian Bush Blitz conducted on Aboriginal-owned lands

Kate Gillespie from the Australian Biological Resources Study is Bush Blitz's field team leader:

In March 2011 I packed my swag for another two-weeks of 'roughing' it and biodiversity discovery, this time on Gunditjmara-owned lands in the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape in south-west Victoria.

Since the program began in 2009 we've conducted 10 Bush Blitz 'snapshot' surveys, and I still get excited about the new species we might discover. We know so little about the plants and animals that inhabit this vast continent that we always find something that is new to science. Incredibly, we've found around 650 species that are new to science since the program began — and we know there's a lot more to find.

Bush Blitz is a three-year, multi-million dollar partnership between the Australian Government, BHP Billiton, Earthwatch Australia and TERN AusPlots–Rangelands to document the plants and animals protected in Australia's National Reserve System. It involves scientists from museums, herbaria, universities and other research institutions across Australia.

At Budj Bim, I was joined by a team of 40 scientists as well as Indigenous rangers and volunteers to undertake a comprehensive plant and animal survey on these Aboriginal lands — Lake Condah, Kurtonitj, Allambie, Muldoons, Vaughans, and Tyrendarra.

It was Bush Blitz's first Victorian survey and, significantly, the first on an Indigenous Protected Area. A special aspect of this survey was the chance that scientists had to exchange knowledge with traditional owners and to have the landscape interpreted through their eyes.

Aboriginal people have a long knowledge of the area's rich natural resources, and evidence of their occupation can be found in the ancient remains of stone houses and eel traps, now protected in the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape.

Lucky for our science team, much of the ground is too rocky to be useful for modern agriculture, so plants and animals have remained relatively protected and undisturbed in many of these areas — providing us with a sampling wonderland!

Scientists from Museum Victoria, the National Herbarium of Victoria, the South Australian Museum, and the University of New South Wales found an impressive range of plant and animal species — some of which we suspect are new to science.



*Bush Blitz graduate Berlanda Bowler with a mountain katydid – one of many interesting finds at the Lake Condah Bush Blitz.
Photo: Berlanda Bowler*

One highlight was two species of blind cave-dwelling crustaceans, which we believe are new to science. These subterranean creatures were found in the water-filled rocky sinkholes that dot this volcanic landscape by South Australian Museum scientist Remko Leijes who specializes in this widespread and diverse, yet only recently studied, groundwater fauna.



Spotted marsh frog – one of seven species of frogs in the Lake Condah region. Photo Julian Finn

Lake Condah is near coastal Portland, so we were particularly surprised to find a population of the large, long-horned grasshoppers known as mountain katydids (*Acripeza reticulata*) which are more usually found in cold high-altitude areas.

Researchers are currently going through the painstaking process of sorting and describing the thousands of specimens collected during the Bush Blitz survey. We expect their findings will be reported and published by Bush Blitz in 2012.

In October 2010, after six years of negotiations, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization was adopted at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The protocol establishes a legally-binding framework for access to genetic resources for biotechnology research and development and other research activities. It also provides a framework for sharing any benefits from using genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge. The department has assumed responsibility from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for overseeing the signing and ratification process following the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol.

Outputs of the program to manage access to genetic resources, including performance results for 2010–11, 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 agency for the Australian Government, works to enhance Australia's reputation as a positive and strategic party to the convention. Activities such as enhancing and sharing knowledge of Australia's biodiversity and promoting nationally consistent management of access to genetic resources contribute to implementing Australia's obligations under the convention. The ANBG supports national coordination of the role of Australia's botanic gardens in conserving biodiversity through national forums such as the Council of Heads of Australia's Botanic Gardens.

Australia's National Landscapes

In October 2005 Tourism Australia and Parks Australia formed a unique partnership to create Australia's National Landscapes. This national strategic approach seeks to differentiate Australia's iconic natural and cultural destinations, and improve the delivery of quality visitor experiences in protected areas and surrounding regions. By highlighting our tourism assets, the program aims to promote and support the conservation of some of the world's most distinct and rich environments.

Since the announcement of Australia's Red Centre as the first National Landscape in December 2006, others followed in June 2008—the Australian Alps, the Great Ocean Road, Kakadu, Australia's Coastal Wilderness, Greater Blue Mountains, Flinders Ranges and Australia's Green Cauldron. In 2009 Kangaroo Island joined the program followed by the Kimberley in 2010, Ningaloo-Shark Bay and the Great South West Edge (Western Australia) in 2011. Candidates in Queensland and Tasmania are actively working toward recognition as future National Landscapes.

To date, National Landscapes has been instrumental in developing a new tourism conservation product in the Flinders Ranges, improved interpretation of Australia's Green Cauldron flora and fauna and stimulating formal agreement on sustainability practices in the Australian Alps. The long-term vision in each of the landscapes is for visitors and tourism operators to contribute to improving environmental outcomes. This may involve enhancing local sustainability practices, undertaking environmental accreditation, taking action to retain the scenic values and sense of place or contributing to conservation projects.

The delivery of Experience Development Strategies for each National Landscape will provide a focused tool for destination management planning to improve the stock of world class experiences and their delivery to the global Experience Seeker (international) market. Strategies have been completed for the Australian Alps and Australia's Coastal Wilderness. The National Long-term Tourism Strategy is also supporting two Experience Development Strategy pilot projects to compare application to a landscape and urban (non-landscape) environment.

Engaging visitors in the conservation of our World Heritage areas, our national parks and other protected areas improves understanding and support for conservation and protection. Parks Australia continues to work with each landscape to profile environmental and cultural values, current conservation priorities or local volunteering opportunities. In addition, Parks Australia works with conservation agencies to identify practical opportunities for conservation partnerships in National Landscape regions.

→ *The spectacular aqua blue water of Murrays Beach at Booderee National Park is sheltered by Bowen Island – creating a large natural aquarium. Photo: June Andersen*





3 Organisational structure

Figure 3: Parks Australia organisation chart at 30 June 2011

The executive team

Senior management team

Staffing overview

Table 5: Staffing (full- and part-time) profile at 30 June 2011

Boards of management

Booderee National Park

Kakadu National Park

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park

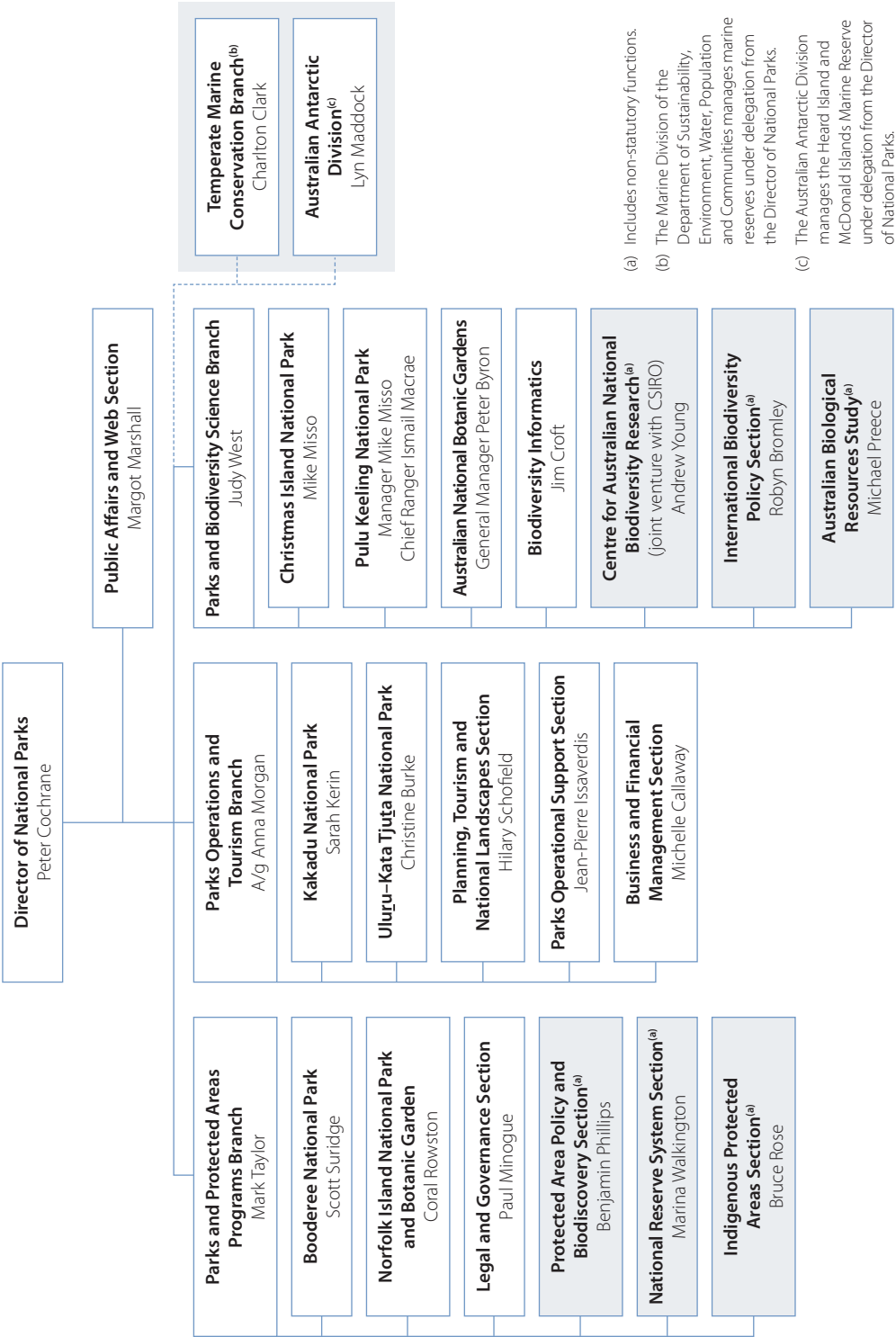
Table 6: Booderee National Park Board of Management

Table 7: Kakadu National Park Board of Management

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

← The children from Gunbalanya, Jabiru and Pine Creek schools participating in the Kakadu Junior Rangers program. Park staff held weekly sessions with the students, visiting ranger stations, recording data about captured crocodiles and releasing them, making silicone drip lines used in rock art protection and learning about managing weeds. Photo: Parks Australia

Figure 3: Parks Australia organisational chart as at 30 June 2011



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 include building relationships with traditional owners of jointly managed parks, the tourism industry and other stakeholders. For the agency, improving performance and reporting, corporate governance, accountability and risk management remain a strong focus. Emerging priorities include the

links between healthy parks and healthy people and working at a whole of landscape scale.

Peter is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and an inaugural member of the World Protected Areas Leadership Forum.

He 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.



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.



Mark Taylor

Assistant Secretary, Parks and Protected Areas Programs Branch

Mark has over 20 years experience working in the Australian Government in a number of agencies, but most significantly in the field of Arts policy and program management. He has had a long involvement in developing national policies and programs and in sector and international engagement. More recently this work has included initiatives to build a Commercial Code of Conduct for the Indigenous Visual Art sector, in arts education and in building

corporate and third-sector engagement with the cultural sector. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Literature and a Graduate Diploma in Education.



Anna Morgan

Acting Assistant Secretary, Parks Operations and Tourism Branch

Anna joined the Australian Government environment 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 developing heritage amendments to national environment legislation, the Indigenous Protected Areas program and provided secretariat support to departmental Indigenous advisory committees. Before her current role with Parks Australia, Anna was involved in developing the national Working on Country program and overseeing 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.

Marine division



Charlton Clark

Assistant Secretary, Temperate Marine Conservation Branch

Charlton has responsibility for managing the 25 Commonwealth marine reserves delegated to the Marine Division. He is also responsible for identifying new reserves through the marine bioregional planning process, in the South-west and East marine regions. Before commencing his current role in October 2008, Charlton managed the aviation operations at the Australian Antarctic Division, including establishing an air service between Australia and Antarctica. He has a background in program and risk management and has worked in Antarctica on several occasions.

Before joining the department Charlton spent 10 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

The executive team and senior staff meet regularly to 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 on 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 2010–11.

The Director of National Parks employed, as at 30 June 2011, 281 full time equivalent staff. The majority are located at Booderee, Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens. A small office in Darwin supports park operations. There are also small offices in remote locations including Norfolk Island, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The central office of Parks Australia is 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. Internal and external training is available on a 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 a study support scheme for staff to complete formal external training.

Staff on remote islands are given opportunities to travel to the mainland for training and development and departmental staff visit reserves to provide training on issues such as occupational health and safety and geographic information system applications. Online study programs offered by a number of educational institutions are 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 fundamental for managing these parks. Staff encourage interest from school children in park management and conservation through Junior Ranger programs where primary school students are introduced to 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. Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park employs three specified Indigenous trainees and

Kakadu National Park has one specified Indigenous trainee position. Kakadu National Park employs three Indigenous school-based apprentices. These apprentices complete secondary school through paid apprenticeships, gaining nationally accredited training in conservation and park management.

The Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program, funded by Working on Country, also provides resources allowing Kakadu to host 11 community rangers in park related employment.

Table 5: Staffing (full- and part-time) profile at 30 June 2011

		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	10	1	10	9	3	2	2	48
	Female	9	7	10	14	9	2	6	1	58
	Total	20	17	11	24	18	5	8	3	106
Booderee	Male	6	5	3	2	3	1	0	0	20
	Female	4	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	9
	Total	10	7	3	3	5	1	0	0	29
Christmas Island	Male	13	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	20
	Female	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
	Total	21	3	3	2	1	0	0	0	30
Darwin Office	Male	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	0	6
	Female	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	7
	Total	0	2	2	4	3	1	0	1	13
Kakadu	Male	27	10	5	3	3	0	0	0	48
	Female	17	5	4	5	1	1	1	0	34
	Total	44	15	9	8	4	1	1	0	82
Norfolk Island	Male	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Female	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
	Total	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
Pulu Keeling	Male	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Uluru–Kata Tjuta	Male	10	6	6	2	2	0	0	0	26
	Female	15	4	2	1	1	1	0	0	24
	Total	25	10	8	3	3	1	0	0	50
Grand Total		123	56	37	45	34	9	9	4	317

Note: these figures represent individual staff members, including those working part-time, and is not expressed as full time equivalents.

Boards of management

Boards of management have been established under the EPBC Act for Booderee, Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks. Tables 6, 7 and 8 show members of each board at 30 June 2011.

In conjunction with the Director, each board prepares management plans for the reserve, makes decisions about 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

Former 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 region including Tomikan and Wandanian, Monaro/Ngargo and Jaithmathang. He plays an important role in the Australian Alps Traditional Owner Reference Group and the

New South Wales Office of Environment and Heritage Cultural Heritage Reference Group. Paul is a great advocate for maintaining links with country through knowledge of traditional dance, song and teachings.

Paul’s term as chair of the Booderee National Park Board of Management concluded in January 2011. During his term he played a key role in overseeing preparation of the park’s second management plan released for public comment in May 2011. We thank Paul for his efforts during this important period for the park.

Table 6: Booderee National Park Board of Management

Chair	vacant (appointment pending)
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—membership concluded January 2011) Captain Jaimie Hatcher AM RAN (HMAS <i>Creswell</i>) Ms Sheryl Klaffer (Jervis Bay Territory Administration) Dr Todd Minchinton (conservation science expert) Associate Professor Robyn Bushell (ecotourism expert) Mr Peter Cochrane (Director of National Parks)

Kakadu National Park

New members of the Kakadu National Park Board of Management were appointed by the Minister in September 2010. We welcome new members to the board and thank previous board members for their work.



Mick Markham

Chair, Kakadu National Park Board of Management

Mick Markham has been actively involved with the Kakadu National Park Board of Management since 1995 and previously served a five year term as Deputy Chair. Mick is a traditional owner of the Bolmo clan, which is one of the three clan groups of the Jawoyn people covering the Gunlom land trust area in the southern part of Kakadu.

Mick's active involvement in the Werenbun community and enterprise development for the Werenbun Aboriginal Corporation over the past 20 years has resulted in increased employment and training opportunities for Gunlom land trust members and Indigenous people in the Katherine and Kakadu regions.

Mick has a strong interest in encouraging and supporting effective joint management through employment opportunities for Bininj/Munguy so they develop skills and experience in the administration, control and management of the park.

Table 7: Kakadu National Park Board of Management

Chair	Mr Mick Markham (traditional owner nominee)
Members	Mr Ryan Baruwei (traditional owner nominee)
	Mr Jonathan Nadji (traditional owner nominee)
	Mr Alfred Nayinggul (traditional owner nominee)
	Mr Michael Bangalang (traditional owner nominee)
	Mr Graham Kenyon (traditional owner nominee)
	Ms Yvonne Margarulu (traditional owner nominee)
	Ms Violet Lawson (traditional owner nominee)
	Mr Jeffrey Lee (traditional owner nominee)
	Vacant (traditional owner nominee)
	Vacant (nature conservation expertise)
	Mr Rick Murray (tourism industry expertise)
	Vacant (Northern Territory Government nominee)
	Mr Peter Cochrane (Director of National Parks)
	Ms Anna Morgan (Parks Australia)

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park



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

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

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

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)
	Vacant (Traditional owner nominee)
	Vacant (Northern Territory Government nominee)
	Mr John King (Minister for Tourism nominee)
	Mr Peter Cochrane (Director of National Parks)
	Vacant (Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities nominee) (nomination pending)



4 Planning, reporting and performance

Director of National Parks strategic planning and performance assessment framework

Portfolio Budget Statements

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities strategic plan

Parks Australia Divisional Plan

Management plans

Management plan implementation schedules

Management plan prescriptions not implemented

Performance reporting

Case study: Christmas Island National Park—saving species from extinction

Case study: Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park—a turning point for tourism

Case study: Booderee—helping PNG rangers safeguard the Kokoda Track

Case study: Norfolk Island National Park – keeping our visitors satisfied—the information challenge

Case study: Park management—a community affair on the Cocos Islands

Case study: Australian National Botanic Gardens—40 years and still growing strong

← Sooty tern—with their black back and white underside, you might see these birds in large noisy flocks of thousands returning to one of Norfolk's offshore islands to breed. Photo: Fusion Films

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 elements are described in this chapter including a summary of performance for 2010–11.

Portfolio Budget Statements 2010–11

These documents detail Budget initiatives and appropriations against specific outcomes and outputs. The annual report completes the budget cycle by reporting on achievements for outcomes and outputs in the year under review. The Director of National Parks was included in the 2010–11 Portfolio Budget Statements for the then Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio (now the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities) 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/10-11).

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities strategic plan 2011–15

The department's strategic plan provides the basis for business planning at the departmental level and is reviewed annually to assess progress against priorities. Management of Commonwealth reserves in accordance with internationally agreed principles is identified as a priority in the plan.

Parks Australia Divisional Plan

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

KRA 1—Natural heritage management

KRA 2—Cultural heritage management

KRA 3—Joint management and working with Indigenous communities

KRA 4—Use and appreciation of protected areas

KRA 5—Stakeholders and partnerships

KRA 6—Business management

KRA 7—Biodiversity science, knowledge management and use.

Not all key result areas are equally relevant to all reserves. For example, KRA 3—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 plan 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/10-11.

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 providing 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 2011, the Director was responsible for managing seven Commonwealth terrestrial and 26 Commonwealth marine reserves. Three terrestrial reserve management plans are in place. A draft management plan for Booderee National Park was issued for public comment in May 2011 and draft plans are being prepared for Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling National Parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Marine bioregional plans are being developed for Australia's marine jurisdiction through the department's Marine Bioregional Planning Program. In that process new Commonwealth marine reserve networks will be declared that will incorporate existing marine reserves. Following their declaration under the EPBC Act, network management plans will be developed.

Three marine reserves have management plans in place—the Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve, the Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) and the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve.

Management plans for the remaining 23 Commonwealth marine reserves have expired and the reserves are being managed under interim arrangements consistent with Australian IUCN management principles. Interim management arrangements will remain in place until the new reserve networks and management plans are developed.

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. Three 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. No management plan prescriptions were identified during the year as not to be implemented.

Performance reporting

The following summary for 2010–11 uses key result areas, outcomes and indicators identified in the Parks Australia Divisional Plan and key performance indicators and deliverables identified in the 2010–11 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/10-11 and at Appendix B: Portfolio Budget Statements reporting 2010–11.

KRA 1: 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 to 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}

2010–11 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. A new draft plan for Booderee National Park was released for public comment on 4 May 2011. New draft plans for Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling National Parks and the ANBG are being finalised.

- The Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden Climate Change Strategy 2011–16 was finalised and adopted.
- Preparation of the draft Christmas Island Regional Recovery Plan, incorporating ecosystem and species recovery actions, continued.

Botanic gardens management

- The non-potable water infrastructure improvement project for the ANBG was completed within budget in March 2011. This has secured a more reliable and sustainable water supply for irrigating the living collection and released 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 ANBG, Australian National University, University of Queensland and the Friends of the Gardens continued, focusing on how climate change will affect the reproductive ecology and demography of Australian alpine flora.
- The grassy woodlands garden at the main entrance of the ANBG was redeveloped to showcase local flora and create a sense of arrival to the gardens. The redevelopment was opened in October 2010 as part of the 40th anniversary celebrations.
- Design of an arid garden with a 'Red Centre' theme on the rehabilitated site of the old gardens nursery was initiated, with the first stage of construction scheduled to commence in 2011–12.
- Management of morning glory (*Ipomea cairica* and *I. indica*) at the Norfolk Island Botanic Garden continued.

Significant species management

- Park managers nominated 36 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 four are increasing, 13 remain steady, seven are decreasing, one may be extinct, two may be locally extinct and for nine 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/10-11 and at Appendix B: Portfolio Budget Statements reporting 2010–11.
- Species monitoring at Booderee National Park again focused 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*), threatened eastern bristlebirds (*Dasyornis brachypterus*) and on shorebirds. The monitoring indicated continuing positive results from fox baiting. The apparent local extinction of the formerly common greater glider (*Petauroides volans*) was discussed with researchers to identify monitoring approaches and a possible re-introduction plan.
- Christmas Island National Park commenced a further island-wide biodiversity survey in May 2011 that included the addition of scientifically rigorous sampling methodologies for additional native and exotic species.
- Building on the successful on-island captive breeding program for Christmas Island's declining native reptiles, the Director signed an agreement with Taronga Zoo in May 2011 to establish off-island insurance populations for the blue-tailed skink (*Cryptoblepharus egeriae*) and the recently rediscovered Lister's gecko (*Lepidodactylus listeri*) (see case study page 50).

Case study: Christmas Island National Park— saving species from extinction

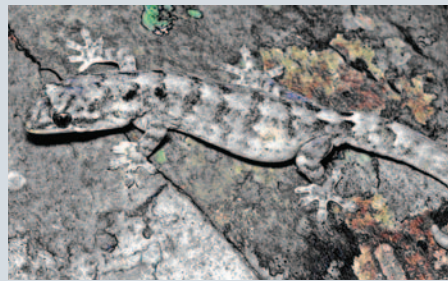
Zoologist Mike Smith arrived on Christmas Island in November 2008, fresh from an academic career at Melbourne's Arthur Rylah Institute — and what was to prove an extremely useful post-doctorate, breeding frogs in the USA.

He found a park community grappling with the imminent extinction of the pipistrelle bat and quickly concluded that the island's reptiles were also in imminent risk of dying out.

Within weeks Mike and team members Brendan Tiernan and Dion Maple made some great discoveries. On the island's rugged far south-west tip, Mike found a Lister's gecko, thought to be extinct and Brendan discovered a coastal skink last seen in 2004. Dion found a Christmas Island blind snake on the western central plateau, another species not seen for decades

Inspired that all was not lost for Christmas Island's threatened ecosystems, Mike and his team began devising a captive breeding program for the nationally vulnerable Lister's gecko and dramatically declining blue-tailed skink. It was no mean task on a remote island with no scientific labs, no huge hardware store and where the ships bring supplies only every month or two if you're lucky.

With remarkable ingenuity, the team scrimped and scrounged and experimented. At the rundown old mine rail station — the 'Pink House' — they took over an old gazebo, stripping back panels to mimic the dappled light of a forest habitat, fencing against robber crab attack and building cages from abandoned steel. A camelback – a camping watering bladder – provided humidity and drinking water and when that failed, Brendan 'borrowed' drips from the medicos at the island's hospital. When the old recycled metal began to deteriorate, the team designed new perspex and aluminium cages, this time waiting for supplies from the mainland.



Christmas Island National Park is working with Sydney's Taronga Zoo on a captive breeding program to save the island's reptiles. Left: Christmas Island's blue-tailed skink. Photo: Parks Australia. Right: Lister's Gecko. Photo: Parks Australia

The geckoes were easy to spot by their eyeshine, and easy to catch. But the blue-tailed skinks are acrobats, jumping high in the air – so Mike designed a sticky wand which captured them at a touch, tails intact. A second-hand shipping container became a lab and another, an insect breeding site to provide food for the lizards.

The reptiles thrived – and bred. They expanded into an old carport and a bunkhouse – but as no-one could yet control the introduced wolf-snake and centipede thought to be causing their rapid decline in the wild, they could not be safely released.

Taronga Zoo accepted the scientific challenge of working collaboratively with Parks Australia to develop a detailed captive breeding and research plan. Dozens of lizards were placed in moist paperlined containers, packed in styrofoam meat boxes and netted to prevent their escape. In April and May the lizards were flown to the waiting quarantine keepers at Taronga Zoo.

Every lizard survived the long journey. All have lived – and they are now happily breeding in Sydney, a safeguard against on-island catastrophes and a population to be eventually released into their former habitat once current threats have been understood and overcome.

Back on island, not a day goes by without the remaining captive lizards being carefully fed and monitored – at the same time as this national park team controls crazy ants, manages robber crab road kill, undertakes island-wide surveys and monitors other endangered species.

- Initial results of the collaborative project with the University of Sydney and the Territory Wildlife Park for wild release in Kakadu National Park of captive-bred northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) trained to avoid cane toads, suggest this behaviour may be passed to their offspring.
- Two successful collaborative projects between Kakadu and Northern Territory agencies, involving population surveys of two species of coastal dolphins and threatened species surveys in recognised biodiversity hotspots in the Arnhem Land Plateau, were extended for one year and three years respectively.
- Kakadu's bushwalking burning program in the Arnhem Land Plateau, part of the Stone Country Fire Management Strategy, continued to be successful in reducing the incidence of broad-scale late dry season fires as well as in engaging traditional owners in implementing fire management.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park undertook the 17th vertebrate survey in October–November 2010, the first in many years to be held during a year of consistent and above average rainfall. The survey confirmed the presence of the common brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) which was previously thought extinct in the park. This species is of particular significance to the park's traditional owners and has been a candidate for reintroduction.

Invasive species management

- Park managers nominated 24 significant invasive species across six terrestrial reserves and have been monitoring changes in their distribution and abundance. Of the selected species, the populations of nine are increasing, three remain 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/10-11 and at Appendix B: Portfolio Budget Statements reporting 2010–11.
- Approximately 300 hectares of bitou bush at Booderee National Park was sprayed in June 2011 as part of a successful aerial spraying program. Booderee also trialled a new treatment technique involving ultra-low volume ground spraying with splatter guns and spot aerial spraying, followed by selective burning in autumn. Encouragingly the impact of this technique on high-value native vegetation communities was minimal compared to broad-scale aerial spraying and broad-scale fire block burning.
- Christmas Island National Park established a successful partnership and collaborative approach for island-wide cat management, resulting in the joint funding and supporting of de-sexing programs for pet cats and the initiation of cat control in settled areas. The single known infestation of Siam weed was also successfully controlled.
- Christmas Island continued management of yellow crazy ants, including further progress on the three-year biological control research project (funded by the Director and conducted by La Trobe University). A study was also completed indicating there were no off-target impacts of Fipronil, the baiting agent used to control crazy ants.
- Kakadu National Park continued monitoring and control programs for invasive weed species including mimosa. Grassy weeds (mission grass and gamba grass) continue to be major challenges, as are aquatic weeds such as salvinia and hymenachne.
- Weed control programs in Norfolk Island National Park were completed in six and a half of the 19 coups identified in the park's weed control strategy. The park's approach to rodent baiting was revamped in response to an apparent increase in numbers.
- At Pulu Keeling National Park, about 20 per cent of introduced paw paw was treated, in accordance with previously collected baseline data on the distribution and abundance of exotic species which allows quantitative assessments of weed control work to be made.
- The Buffel Grass Management Strategy for Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park is now being used to prioritise control activities and included continuation of the Conservation Volunteers Australia program around the base of Uluru. The park's Vertebrate Pest Management Strategy was finalised and rabbit control was increased to reduce population explosions following good rains.

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.

2010–11 results

Identification and conservation of cultural sites

- All key sites at Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks were inspected as agreed with traditional owners, with various treatments undertaken as required. An inspection and treatment program is not yet in place at Booderee National Park.^{PBS}
- With the involvement of their traditional owners, Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks continued their rock art maintenance programs. Kakadu also continued discussions with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and Northern Land Council about a register of sites of significance and access protocols in the park. Uluru–Kata Tjuta continued cultural site patrols and added the resulting data to its cultural site management system.^{PBS}

Maintenance and promotion of traditional cultural values

- Booderee held over 150 cultural interpretation sessions for visiting school and special interest groups, and 71 summer holiday cultural interpretation programs. The successful Junior Ranger program also continued with Jervis Bay School.
- At Booderee examples of south coast languages—Dhurga and Dharawal—were incorporated into signage as part of the new Munjunga Dhugan (Eagles Nest) self-guided walking trail at Murrays Beach.
- Kakadu convened a two-day cultural heritage workshop in May 2011 including discussions on how best to implement the park's Cultural Heritage Strategy.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta began a successful program aimed at increasing the number of women engaged in cultural work in the park. Work includes revegetation of sacred sites, tool and medicine making and public interpretation activities.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta undertook an overnight cultural trip with Anangu and park staff to the community of Lila to help with preparations for the 25th Anniversary of Handback and facilitated the transfer of knowledge through inma (ceremony) performances at the anniversary celebrations (see case study page 54).

Case study: Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park— a turning point for tourism

***Tjukurpa munu manta kunpungku kanyintjaku* | Keeping culture and country strong together. Theme of the 25th anniversary of handback celebrations in October 2010.**

Watching the sun come up over Uluru on the morning of the handback celebrations gave its board members, past and present, a chance to reflect on the history and future directions of the park.

The handback celebrations provided Anangu with the opportunity to come together with local businesses and visitors to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Board chair Harry Wilson said the festival offered an opportunity for Anangu to teach visitors about *Tjukurpa* (law) so they could better understand Anangu culture and help protect the country and its people. Hundreds of people attended on the day, watching *inma* (traditional song and dance), local artists and craftsmen at work and dancing to contemporary Aboriginal bands from the Northern Territory.

The celebration was one of many steps Anangu and park staff took this year to promote Uluru–Kata Tjuta as a living cultural landscape and support Anangu businesses.

Over the years many people have visited and enjoyed Uluru and Kata Tjuta. Many have also gone away learning only a little about the cultural importance of the park, about *Tjukurpa* and Anangu connection to the land.

This year the park is addressing this challenge through its Tourism Directions: Stage 1 strategy, released in September. The strategy provides a renewed focus on building partnerships between Anangu, government and industry to develop and maintain tourism opportunities.

Harry said that Anangu had many ideas for potential tourism developments and were keen to see tourism outcomes for Anangu.

“We’ve been thinking about developing tourism businesses so that in future our children and our children’s children will be working. We need more jobs here. Working with key stakeholders to help get business off the ground is really important,” he said.

Anangu took advantage of one such opportunity to promote their culture and businesses to an international audience when American superstar Oprah Winfrey announced she would visit the park in December.



Oprah spent time with Anangu during her visit to Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park. Photo: SDP Media

Anangu elder Judy Trigger presented Oprah with a beautiful, handmade *ininti* (red bean) necklace and guided Oprah on one of the many cultural walks at the park.

“Oprah was excited to learn about our culture through the walks and talks we took her on. She was quick to learn that we don’t climb Uluru and happy to respect this request from Anangu. It is a very important message for all visitors to the park,” Judy said.

Oprah described her visit to the rock as ‘awesome’ and said she planned to return.

“Me being here is a way of paying respects to the Aboriginal people and showing respect for the land and their culture and all that this rock means to them and the continent and to the world,” she said.

The Tourism Directions strategy is also focused on another major source of employment in the region – Ayers Rock Resort at Yulara.

The Indigenous Land Corporation’s \$300 million purchase of the resort this year could create historic Indigenous employment training opportunities.

Harry Wilson said the Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management was keen to develop a memorandum of understanding for how the board would work together with the resort.

“We’re looking forward to seeing what ideas and projects can be developed that will complement activities at the park and the resort,” Harry said.

“The memorandum of understanding is an opportunity to work with the resort to achieve outcomes that we are all interested in, including promoting Anangu culture appropriately to visitors and building opportunities for Anangu to be employed in a range of different jobs at the park and the resort.”

Inspiration is coming from many directions. Anangu members of the board of management and the Uluru–Kata Tjuta Tourism Consultative Committee went on a road trip to Alice Springs where they experienced first-hand some of the wonderful Indigenous tourism experiences on offer in the Red Centre.

The park’s events manager Nick Ambrose said that Anangu came away with loads of ideas and were very excited by what they had seen and heard. The group also met the Red Centre National Landscape Steering Committee at the Alice Springs Desert Park and took the opportunity to provide the meeting with feedback from the trip.

A follow up meeting at Mutitjulu is now being organised to discuss the next steps forward.

Histories, pre-histories and knowledge recording

- Kakadu produced a report on the life history of traditional owner, Butcher Knight. The park also commenced oral history projects recording the history of, and preparing statements of significance, for Anlarr (Nourlangie Camp), the old Jim Jim pub and Munmalary.
- Approved audio and video materials from Kakadu continued to be transferred for long-term storage and protection through the partnership agreement between the National Archives of Australia and the Director.

KRA 3: 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.

2010–11 results

Indigenous staffing and contractors

- Overall the number of directly employed Indigenous staff throughout the year declined slightly 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 remained steady.^{PBS}
- Anangu participation in flexible employment through the Mutitjulu Community Rangers program has remained high with a number of *wati* (men) and *kunga* (women) regularly engaged in Park activities. Anangu participating in the program are also attending the park's literacy and numeracy program which is run weekly at Nyangatjatjara College.^{PBS}
- 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.
- Bininj were engaged as part of the Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program, with eight and a half full-time equivalent positions filled for the entire year plus up to an additional six temporary positions at various times throughout the year.^{PBS}
- Workplace development coordinators, first engaged in 2010, continued to engage community, build capacity, provide training and employment and support Anangu in the region.
- Two additional Anangu trainees were employed in specified trainee ranger roles.

Training

- Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park employed three Indigenous trainees and Kakadu National Park has one Indigenous trainee position. Kakadu employed three Indigenous school-based apprentices.
- At Booderee, a broad range of training was provided to Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council and park staff in accordance with the training strategy.
- Booderee National Park became a host employer of student based apprentices filled by three Wreck Bay Community Year 11 students. The park hosted Kokoda Track Authority management staff to help develop asset and track management practices (see case study page 58).
- The Junior Ranger programs at Uluru–Kata Tjuta and Kakadu National Parks continued.
- At Kakadu, Bininj staff continued certificate level studies, numeracy and workplace English language and literacy training.
- Kakadu staff convened a training and workshop forum between the park and neighbouring Indigenous Protected Areas and other Indigenous managed areas.

Contribution of Aboriginal enterprises

- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council provided \$1.9 million in cleaning, road maintenance, entry station, horticultural and infrastructure maintenance services to Booderee National Park.^{PBS}
- The Director and Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council completed draft service level agreements for the second round of outsourcing at Booderee, including infrastructure maintenance and horticultural services.^{PBS}
- 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 four times and completed a draft second management plan released for public comment on 4 May 2011.
- New members of the Kakadu National Park Board of Management were appointed by the Minister in September 2010 and met four times.
- Three meetings of the Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management were held, supported by meetings of the board's consultative committees.

Case study: Booderee—helping PNG rangers safeguard the Kokoda Track

Booderee National Park has become a new training home for Papua New Guinea rangers from the Kokoda Track Authority.

As part of the Australian Government's \$4.9 million Kokoda Track Safety Package, over the past year two groups of rangers left their highland villages to learn how Booderee provides a safe environment for trekkers.

It has been an emotional experience for Booderee staff — an opportunity to give something back to a people who fought side by side with Australians during bloody battles along the Kokoda Track in World War II.

"My dad was a fighter pilot in Papua New Guinea so I felt a real bond with these rangers, some of whom are direct descendents of the Fuzzy Wuzzy angels who helped so many Australians during the war," acting park manager Martin Fortescue says.

"Many other park staff also had family fighting in PNG. This is a way of keeping the memories of those friendships alive and continuing to help each other."

As an award winning tourism destination and a jointly managed park with a strong Indigenous ranger program, Booderee was an ideal place for the Kokoda rangers to learn new skills and share their cultural heritage. Both places embrace local Indigenous involvement as integral to their management.

"With hundreds of thousands of people now walking the Kokoda Track, safety is a growing concern," Martin says. "So too is maintaining the cultural integrity of the remote villagers who rarely saw white people a couple of decades ago."



Kokoda Track Authority communication officer Pauline Riman meets Australian National Botanic Gardens' ranger Rosella-Uwedo Hampshire. Pauline was one of several Papua New Guinea officers who spent time with Parks Australia staff at Booderee National Park and in Canberra as part of an exchange program to improve safety on the historic Kokoda Track. Photo: Parks Australia

“For some of the Kokoda rangers, this trip was the first time they had left their highland villages, so they got a real kick out of joining us for ocean surveys of shorebirds and seals.”

Booderee staff and Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community members shared experiences in building and maintaining walking tracks, controlling soil erosion, managing visitors and campgrounds, monitoring native wildlife and joint management.

Minister for the Environment, Tony Burke also took time out from a family camping trip at Booderee to meet the PNG rangers.

Chair of the Kokoda Track Authority James Enge describes the program as “invaluable — with Booderee’s joint management model a great example of how traditional owners can benefit from their lands”.

KRA 4: 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.

2010–11 results

Visitor numbers and satisfaction

- Visitor surveys were undertaken at Kakadu, Booderee, Uluru–Kata Tjuta and Norfolk Island National Parks. All reserves recorded satisfaction from greater than 90 per cent of park users—Kakadu 91 per cent, Booderee 97 per cent, Uluru–Kata Tjuta 91 per cent and Norfolk Island 98 per cent.^{PBS}
- An estimated 1.4 million people visited Commonwealth terrestrial reserves, a 3.26 per cent decrease from 2009–10. An increase in visitor numbers was recorded at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (5 per cent), while numbers were steady at Booderee, and decreased at Uluru–Kata Tjuta (11 per cent) and Kakadu (16 per cent).

Education/interpretation programs

- The ANBG hosted 8,958 school and tertiary students from 206 schools in education programs (73 per cent of students participated in programs run by the gardens and 27 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 150 school holiday interpretation sessions, focusing on Aboriginal cultural values and conservation themes, with over 3,000 attendees. A further 65 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 provided a range of school-based educational activities for Christmas Island District High School, visiting schools and the community.
- 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

- Uluru–Kata Tjuta staff facilitated a discovery tour for Anangu board members and Tourism Consultative Committee members to visit tourist sites and venues along the Red Centre way and to learn from other Indigenous tourism business owners about starting a business.
- At Norfolk Island a new toilet block, boardwalk, lookout and picnic facilities were constructed at the Captain Cook monument.
- Norfolk Island staff have undertaken a complete review of interpretive materials and produced new material including a series of four brochures, new colour-coded track name signs to match the new walking track information brochure, new plant identification signs for the botanic gardens and new road and park entrance signs (see case study page 61).
- At Booderee a new self-guided walking trail at Murrays Beach, including cultural and conservation information on 14 new signs, was opened. The new trail is called Munjunga Dhugan (Eagles Nest) and introduces visitors to south coast Indigenous languages.

Awards

- In November 2010 Booderee National Park won an International Responsible Tourism award for conservation of cultural heritage. This award generated a great deal of media and tourism industry interest in the park's joint management model and provided a platform for free promotional and marketing messages. The park was also runner-up in the 2010 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Events and Tourism Awards.

Case study: Norfolk Island National Park – keeping our visitors satisfied—the information challenge

When Norfolk Island National Park Manager Coral Rowston left the mainland more than two years ago, she took with her a PhD in ecology and a background in natural resource management. Luckily for the island and its 20,000 or so annual visitors, she also has a passion for education and interpreting the natural world.

Voted this year as a ‘woman of change’ by a Norfolk Island Year 7 student, Coral’s energy has paid off with visitors to the national park being overwhelmingly satisfied with their experience — with 98 per cent rating it as ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ in a recent survey.

Coral has been a driving force in promoting Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden as a major attraction for visitors to the island.

“Visitor surveys tell us that more than 90 per cent of people who travel to Norfolk Island spend at least some time in the park and garden,” Coral says. “We also know that most of our visitors are aged between 50 and 69 years, are quite well educated, have a thirst for knowledge and want to know about the places they visit.

“To meet the needs of our visitors we’ve embarked on a major revamp of our communications with a swathe of new materials produced including brochures, track signs colour-coded to match a new walking track brochure, plant identification signs for the botanic garden as well as road and park entrance signs. Information panels cover features of the natural environment and the park’s history.

“The feedback we’re getting is really encouraging. Our last visitor survey showed an increase in satisfaction about the park — with 80 per cent of visitors rating the signage as either ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ compared to 60 per cent in 2010”, Coral says.

The national park is also using social networking to promote this natural tourism destination through facebook — with 400 friends already on board — mostly in the 35–40 years age group, a key target for tourism on the island.

To celebrate the park’s 25th anniversary last January, Coral worked with Norfolk Island philatelic to bring out a commemorative stamp series featuring four endangered plants now on their way to recovery — the Norfolk Island abutilon, Phillip Island hibiscus, popwood and broad-leaved myrta. A great conservation success story!

A new interpretive centre, currently being built and due to be completed mid-2012, will also boost the quality and availability of information provided to visitors about the park’s special environment and how it is managed for future generations to enjoy.

Norfolk’s facebook page: www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Norfolk-Island-National-Park-and-Botanic-Garden/352922925338



Norfolk Island National Park turned 25 this year. To celebrate Norfolk Island philatelic released a stamp series featuring four endangered plants that are now on their way to recovery. Photo: Parks Australia

KRA 5: 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.

2010–11 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 Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, 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' 17-year partnership with CSIRO Plant Industry was renewed for a further 10 years in December 2010. A new strategic plan for the renamed Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research (CANBR) was put in place and a new director for the centre was appointed in January 2011.
- The ANBG and the CANBR entered into a partnership with the Australian Biological Resources Study and the Atlas of Living Australia to develop and manage a common taxonomic infrastructure for databases held by these organisations and to develop web services, including a species profile template for the atlas.
- The ANBG engaged a national coordinator for the Australian Seed Bank Partnership in July 2010 to coordinate national conservation seed banking efforts. Partners from across Australia met at the ANBG in November 2010 and prepared a 10-year seed collecting and research program to build the national safety net for Australian plant species. A partnership website was also launched.
- The ANBG continued membership of technical working groups under the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and Taxonomic Databases Working Group and the Australian National Herbarium continued to play a driving and coordinating role for projects undertaken by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria.

- A partnership agreement with Taronga Zoo for conservation of Christmas Island's declining reptiles, including off-island captive breeding, was signed in May 2011.
- Christmas Island National Park worked effectively with on-island stakeholders on important conservation programs including developing a cat management partnership with government and industry and fostering stakeholder and community support for road management activities aimed at protecting red crabs during migration periods.
- At Kakadu National Park 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.
- Kakadu supported community events including festivals celebrating Indigenous culture and community spirit, such as the Mahbilil Festival in Jabiru and the Stone Country Festival in Gunbalanya.
- The new Kakadu Research Advisory Committee met in May 2011, where it was agreed that research proposals should address traditional owner research priorities and facilitate traditional owner participation and on-country visits.
- Norfolk Island National Park celebrated the 25th anniversary of the declaration of the park, coinciding with release of a postage stamp recognising the park. A new Norfolk Island National Park Advisory Committee was appointed in August 2010 with revised terms of reference and operating structure.
- Pulu Keeling National Park continued to use the Home Island office to build positive working relationship with stakeholders, locals and tourists. One meeting of the Pulu Keeling National Park Community Management Committee was held during the year (see case study page 64).
- In October 2010 Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Handback of title to traditional owners with a cultural festival and concert at Talinguru Nyakuntjaku, the park's new Uluru viewing facility.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta led the development of a literacy and numeracy program in collaboration with Anangu Jobs and the Nyangatjatjara College. The park established a relationship with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education to provide accredited study programs in conservation and land management for the park's traditional owner staff and selected participants in the Mutitjulu Community Ranger program.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta staff attended meetings with, and provided briefings for, the new owners of Ayres Rock Resort, the Indigenous Land Corporation.

Case study: Park management—a community affair on the Cocos Islands

Pulu Keeling National Park — Australia's most remote and one of its smallest national parks — is also chief ranger Ismail Macrae's office.

Weather permitting, Ismail takes a boat across 24 kilometres of open ocean to work in his 'office', an isolated coral atoll some 1.2 square kilometres in size and a haven for seabirds which flock in their thousands to this environment which has never seen continuous occupation by people.

The national park is part of the Cocos Keeling Islands, Australia's most remote island territory lying over 2,900 kilometres north-west of Perth, a small speck in the vast Indian Ocean.

Ismail has called the Cocos (Keeling) Islands home for 26 years, ever since he returned with his island-born parents who had been working in North Borneo.

Looking after Pulu Keeling is the job of Ismail and his senior ranger, Trish Flores — with a key focus on invasive species such as weeds and yellow crazy ants.

It is also a community affair, consulting back on the main Cocos' islands with the 500 or so residents, many of them Cocos-Malay. Unlike most park rangers, Ismail and Trish spend much of their time off park, educating the local community about Pulu Keeling's ecological significance — its internationally-recognised seabird rookery. They see that raising awareness in the community about the fragility of the stunning environment around them, as an investment — creating passionate champions.

The community gets involved in looking after the Cocos' environment through initiatives such as school projects, junior rangers, care of injured birds and revegetation programs on the southern atolls.

With the help of the community Ismail and Trish are revegetating small areas of the southern atolls with *Pisonia* trees — favoured nesting sites for seabirds.

The community has helped to plant out 350 *Pisonia* cuttings that were propagated from trees on Pulu Keeling National Park — the only Cocos island which still has large and original stands of these trees.



Ismail Macrae. Photo: Parks Australia

KRA 6: 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 that respond to new information about impacts of climate change and improved technologies.^{PBS}
- Audit energy and water use and waste in Commonwealth reserves and implement actions to provide efficiencies and improvements.

2010–11 results

Management planning

- Management plans are in place for Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Norfolk Island and Kakadu National Parks. A new draft management plan for Booderee National Park was released for public comment on 4 May 2011 and new draft management plans are almost finalised for Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling National Parks and the ANBG.^{PBS}
- Reserve implementation schedules are in place for Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Norfolk Island and Kakadu National Parks. Implementation schedules are not in place for the reserves with expired management plans.^{PBS}

Climate change

- A climate change strategy was completed for Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Gardens. Policies and actions on 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 4,718 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 from 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 report on ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance at Appendix C.

Financial and business management

- The Auditor-General issued an unqualified audit report for the 2010–11 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.
- In response to the 2010 Staff Survey the Employment Engagement Index showed 73 per cent of employees responded favourably to questions stating they were satisfied, motivated, committed, and advocates of Parks Australia.

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 2010–11.^{PBS}
- Parks Australia recorded 211 occupational health and safety incidents over the year, an increase from last year (189).
- Seven major injuries were sustained by parks staff and contractors including amputated fingers. Four park visitors died (two drownings and a death due to dehydration in Kakadu and one heart attack in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park) and there were 18 major injuries to visitors (mainly fractures from slips, trips and falls).^{PBS}

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 ANBG and targeted projects.

2010–11 results

Websites and publications

- The Parks Australia websites (parksaustralia.gov.au and kakadu.com.au) received an almost 10 per cent increase in hits in 2011 with 593,038 visits (an average of 1,624 per day). Use of online PDF publications decreased by almost 30 per cent to 76,158 downloads as more and more publications were provided in html and smart phone friendly alternatives in line with Government Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 requirements.^{PBS}

Biodiversity knowledge

- The ANBG hosted a national myrtle rust workshop in March 2011 to share information on potential threats posed by this introduced fungus disease to plant collections in botanic gardens and bushland throughout Australia. A range of information and resources on myrtle rust was made available on the botanic gardens website.
- The ANBG and the CANBR 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 ANBG negotiated a contract with CSIRO to undertake work for the Atlas of Living Australia to redevelop the nomenclature and taxonomic infrastructure for Australian plant and animal species in association with the Australian Biological Resources Study. This will effectively combine Australian plant and animal names data through a common interface.

Case study: Australian National Botanic Gardens—40 years and still growing strong

Dr Judy West started working with plants about the same time as the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra opened its gates — 40 years ago.

And while the Gardens celebrated its 40th birthday last October with a gala dinner, a garden party, activities for the kids and talks and walks, behind the scenes staff were hard at work.

Today as the Gardens' Executive Director Judy still 'loves working with plants' and, wearing her other hat as

Assistant Secretary of Parks and Biodiversity Science, is working tirelessly to promote the Gardens as a national scientific institution.

"What many people don't realise is that the Gardens were actually developed as a scientific institution," Judy says. "A key focus over the last year has been boosting the science side of our work.

"We've managed to make substantial progress in this area and have developed and strengthened some of our key partnerships."

One of these partnerships was the renewing of the 17-year agreement between the Director of National Parks and CSIRO to form the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, which includes the Australian National Herbarium with strong links to the Gardens.

"The National Herbarium is doing critical work providing botanical knowledge for Australia," Judy says. It plays an essential role identifying plants and weeds and documenting the country's vast diversity of plant life. I'm now keen to see the herbarium working more closely with our Commonwealth parks helping out with plant surveys.

"Another milestone was our appointment of a national coordinator for the new Australian Seed Bank Partnership which the Gardens is leading, expanding our role in seed conservation.



Dr Judy West, Parks Australia's Assistant Secretary Parks and Biodiversity Branch has an international reputation for her work in plant systematics and phylogenetics and conservation biology. Judy – Congress President and Chair (right) – speaking with International Botanic Congress delegates Megan Clark CEO of CSIRO and Pat Raven from Missouri Botanic Gardens in St Louis, USA. Photo: Tim Pascoe

"We have our own seedbank in Canberra, and we're now working with partners around the country to collect specimens of all plant species nationally listed as threatened or endangered. Our ambition is to have seedbanks in every state to insure against the loss of Australia's flora from threats such as climate change."

As part of its scientific focus, the Gardens also brought together Australia's leading plant and fungal scientists to explore options for managing outbreaks of myrtle rust, a newly introduced fungal disease which infects plants in the Myrtaceae family such as bottlebrushes, tea trees and eucalypts.

"On the physical side of things we also made major improvements to the Gardens infrastructure," Judy adds.

The Gardens now has a drought-secure irrigation supply thanks to the completion of the non-potable water pipeline from Lake Burley Griffin which will save up to 170 million litres of Canberra's drinking water each year.

"We've redeveloped the grassy woodland at the main entrance showcasing local plants and giving a sense of arrival at the Gardens and, close to my heart, we've started work on the Red Centre Garden — a massively challenging project to develop an arid area plant display in Canberra's environment."

- The Australian National Herbarium added data for 17,199 herbarium specimens. A total of 874,478 specimens are now recorded in the database and available to the public through the internet.
- Researchers associated with the CANBR completed 12 scientific papers or publications resulting from research undertaken at the Australian National Herbarium. Areas of study included Australian Asteraceae, Orchidaceae, Amaranthaceae, Rutaceae, Myrtaceae, Malvaceae, Mimosaceae, Santalaceae, weeds and bryophytes.
- The CANBR appointed research and technical staff to undertake spatial analyses and research into the occurrence and distribution of Australian plants.
- The ANBG continued research on the ecological function, structure and small-scale dynamics of grassland communities in south-eastern Australia, using grasslands in the West Wyalong district of NSW as model systems. A paper on this work was published in the journal *Global Change Biology* and other papers resulting from this work are being prepared.
- The ANBG updated the Australian Plant Image Index to make 13,366 additional images accessible on the internet. The ANBG was also contracted to collect and manage images of weeds and deliver them to the department's Weeds Australia website.
- The ANBG updated data for the Australian Plant Name Index, including extensive editing of existing data and capture of new data. The ANBG also completed data collation for an agreed list of scientific names for Australian liverworts and hornworts through the national collaborative Australian Plant Census project.



5 Management and accountability

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Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

Freedom of information

← Anangu elder Judy Trigger presented Oprah with a necklace made from ininti (red beans) when Oprah visited Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park. Photo: SDP Media

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*. 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. Until 13 September 2010 that person was the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP. On 14 September 2010 the Hon Tony Burke MP was appointed as Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, with responsibility for administration of the EPBC Act.

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 2010–11 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 2010–11 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 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 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 2010–11 the department provided \$46.4 million to the Director of National Parks under the purchaser-provider arrangement (see the audited financial statements in Chapter 6 of this report). This arrangement was effective, providing the resources that enabled the Director to meet the targets set in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2010–11.

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). The executive team meets regularly to develop and review policy priorities and strategic and corporate goals.

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

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

Staff participate in consultative committees in both regional and Canberra-based workplaces to support internal management.

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 Indigenous members who are 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 details of 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 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 before 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 taken into account 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 on relevant corporate governance rules and policies and guidelines of the Australian Government. They are supported by policies and procedures 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 2010–11 internal audits were undertaken on risk management and knowledge management. The committee endorsed the process for preparation of the 2010–11 financial statements.

Members of the committee at 30 June 2011 were:

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

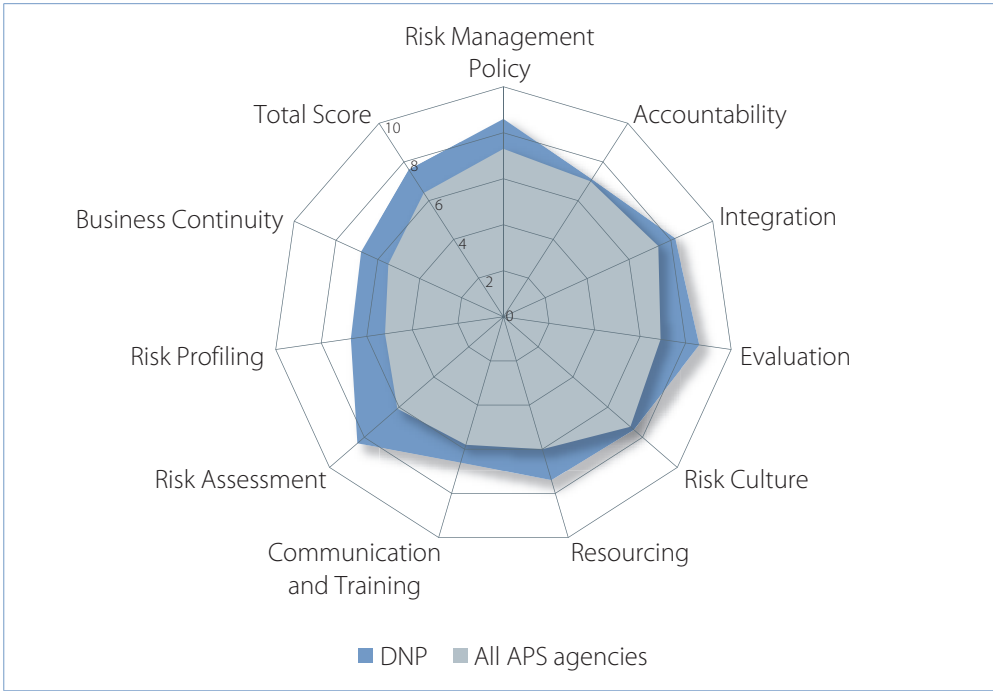
The Assistant Secretaries for Parks Australia and the Director of the Business and Financial Management Section were invited to attend committee meetings. Staff from the Australian National Audit Office, the department’s Finance Branch and the internal audit service provider attended meetings as observers.

Risk management

Risk watch lists or 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 scheme changed again this year, assessing 10 elements of risk management with performance matched against individual agency target risk maturity levels. The Director’s risk management system was rated average in 2002–03 and has risen since then. In 2010–11 the Director scored 7.6 out of a possible 10 compared to an average score for all Australian Government agencies of 6.4. For the last six years the Director has consistently scored above the average for all agencies.

Figure 4: Risk management benchmarking scores for the Director of National Parks in 2010–11 compared to the average for 134 Australian Government agencies



Source: Comcover 2011

One element of risk management is a business continuity plan covering all Parks Australia sites. The plan was not called on during the year. This plan is being reviewed and upgraded to a business continuity and recovery plan for 2011–12.

Indemnities and insurance

In 2010–11 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.

Fraud control

The Director has a fraud control plan and conducts risk assessments to prevent and manage fraud within the agency, in accordance with the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines. In 2010 the Audit Committee endorsed a revised fraud control plan for 2010–11, which was subsequently approved by the Director and made available to all employees.

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 2010–11 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 face a diverse range of hazards. The main hazards are from fieldwork in remote and arduous locations, plant and machinery, chemicals and hazardous substances, managing and handling unpredictable wildlife, 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 and 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. ParkSafe is used as a model for field operations by other divisions of the department.

During 2010–11 Parks Australia recorded 211 occupational health and safety incidents (see Table 9). This was higher than the number recorded last year (189) and included an increase in the number of major injuries for both staff and visitors.

Table 9: Five-year overview of safety incidents in terrestrial reserves

	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
Staff, volunteers and contractors					
Minor injury or near miss ^(a)	77	57	41	56	67
Moderate injury ^(b)	12	21	31	15	20
Major injury ^(c)	0	0	1	5	7
Total	89	78	73	76	94
Visitors, permit holders and residents					
Minor injury or near miss ^(a)	80	84	60	70	59
Moderate injury ^(b)	35	42	21	26	34
Major injury ^(c)	3	6	7	15	18
Death	0	1	4	2	4
Total	118	133	92	113	115

(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.

The visitor incidents for 2010–11 included visitor fatalities. There were two drownings and a death due to dehydration in Kakadu National Park and a death from heart attack in Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park. There was also a fatality from a rollover incident on the Arnhem Highway in Kakadu National Park which is not included in the park statistics.

While there are no matters to report under section 29, 46 or 47 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991* the relationship with Comcare is being strengthened with a series of site inspections by the regulator. There are also plans to establish a cooperative compliance program between the Director and Comcare ahead of the introduction of harmonised Workplace Health and Safety legislation across most Australian jurisdictions in 2012.

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 matter was prosecuted and determined by courts during 2010–11:

- On 2 December 2010, 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 \$2,000 on the condition that the person be of good behaviour for a period of 12 months. The charge related to an incident of allowing a dog to enter Kakadu National Park, a Commonwealth reserve, which is an offence under section 354A of the EPBC Act.

Table 10: Compliance and enforcement in terrestrial reserves during 2010–11

	Members of the public	Tourism operators	Other commercial operators
EPBC Act and Regulation incidents detected	95	9	1
Offenders unknown	9	0	0
Verbal cautions issued	48	0	0
Warning letters issued	10	0	0
Infringement notices issued	42	0	0
Continuing investigations	9	0	0
Permit suspensions	0	0	0
Court cases pending	0	0	0
Cases taken to court	1	0	0
Convictions	0	0	0

Although not included in the table, 1,996 notices of charges payable were issued of which 1,858 were issued in Booderee National Park and 138 in Kakadu National Park.

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. 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 C.

Social inclusion

Changes to disability reporting in annual reports

Since 1994, Commonwealth departments and agencies have reported on their performance as policy adviser, purchaser, employer, regulator and provider under the Commonwealth Disability Strategy. From 2010-11, departments and agencies are no longer required to report on these functions.

Closing the Gap

A number of the Director's responsibilities contribute to the Government's Closing the Gap objectives. Parks Australia jointly manages three parks with their traditional owners and provides job opportunities for traditional owners and supports Indigenous businesses, especially in sustainable tourism. The Kakadu Indigenous rangers program, funded through the Australian Government's Working on Country program, and the Mutitjulu Community Ranger program funded by the Director are also helping to boost Indigenous job opportunities in the parks by providing salaried and casual job opportunities for Indigenous community rangers. At Booderee outsourcing to the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council continues to provide a range of employment opportunities. The Indigenous Protected Areas program provides training and employment for Aboriginal people on their own country and often in remote areas where business opportunities are limited. Indigenous communities that participate in the program report better health, social cohesion and higher school attendance.

Further details can also be found on pages 56-7 and additional information on portfolio responsibilities for social inclusion is contained in the department's annual report for 2010-11.

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 D.



6 | Financial Statements

Director of National Parks financial statements and audit report for the year ended 30 June 2011

← A golden population of the widely distributed white-tailed tropicbird, the golden bosun is unique to Christmas Island. Photo: Parks Australia

Independent audit report



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Director of National Parks for the year ended 30 June 2011, which comprise: a Statement by the Director and Chief Financial Officer; the 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 comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

The Director's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Director is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as the Director determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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 about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

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

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

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

Independence

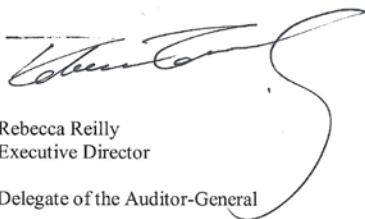
In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

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

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including the Director of National Parks' financial position as at 30 June 2011 and of 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
22 September 2011

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 2011 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 1999*, 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

22nd September 2011

Signed



Michelle Callaway
Chief Financial Officer

22nd September 2011

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the year ended 30 June 2011

	Notes	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	3A	29,244	26,000
Supplier expenses	3B	28,389	31,373
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	8,732	8,548
Write-down and impairment of assets	3D	177	672
Other		152	136
Total Expenses		66,694	66,729
LESS :			
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	17,313	15,205
Interest	4B	1,618	872
Sublease rental income		178	201
Other		1,252	532
Total own-source revenue		20,361	16,810
Gains			
Sale of assets	4C	38	192
Other	4D	16,508	3,933
Total gains		16,546	4,125
Total own-source income		36,907	20,935
Net cost of services		29,787	45,794
Revenue from Government	4E	46,444	50,051
Surplus (Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government		16,657	4,257
Other Comprehensive Income			
Changes in asset revaluation reserves		58,099	-
Total other comprehensive income		58,099	-
Total comprehensive income (loss) attributable to the Australian Government		74,756	4,257

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

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
BALANCE SHEET
as at 30 June 2011

	Notes	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	41,540	38,353
Trade and other receivables	5B	2,869	2,755
Other	5C	141	98
Total financial assets		44,550	41,206
Non-Financial Assets			
Land and buildings	6A,C	78,940	65,349
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	6B,C	140,543	86,034
Intangibles	6D,E	249	152
Other	6F	355	460
Total non-financial assets		220,087	151,995
Total Assets		264,637	193,201
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	7A	3,016	4,842
Other	7B	2,470	6,508
Total payables		5,486	11,350
Provisions			
Employee provisions	8	7,208	6,948
Other		71	36
Total provisions		7,279	6,984
Total Liabilities		12,765	18,334
Net Assets		251,872	174,867
EQUITY			
Contributed equity		36,445	34,196
Reserves		125,572	67,473
Retained surplus		89,855	73,198
Total Equity		251,872	174,867

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 2011

	Retained Earnings		Asset Revaluation Reserves		Contributed Equity		Total Equity	
	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Opening balance								
Balance carried forward from previous period	73,198	68,941	67,473	67,473	34,196	30,971	174,867	167,385
Adjustment for errors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adjusted opening balance	73,198	68,941	67,473	67,473	34,196	30,971	174,867	167,385
Comprehensive income								
Revaluation adjustments	-	-	58,099	-	-	-	58,099	-
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	16,657	4,257	-	-	-	-	16,657	4,257
Total comprehensive income (loss)	16,657	4,257	58,099	-	-	-	74,756	4,257
of which:								
Attributable to the Australian Government	16,657	4,257	58,099	-	-	-	74,756	4,257
Transactions with Owners								
<i>Contributions by Owners</i>								
Equity injection (refer Note 16)	-	-	-	-	2,249	3,225	2,249	3,225
Sub-total transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	2,249	3,225	2,249	3,225
Closing balance at 30 June	89,855	73,198	125,572	67,473	36,445	34,196	251,872	174,867
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	89,855	73,198	125,572	67,473	36,445	34,196	251,872	174,867

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 2011

	Notes	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Goods and services		15,486	19,290
Receipts from Government		46,444	50,051
Interest		1,575	830
Net GST received		1,015	2,198
Other		1,252	532
Total cash received		65,772	72,901
Cash used			
Employees		28,889	25,172
Suppliers		29,556	29,018
Other		116	138
Total cash used		58,561	54,328
operating activities	9	7,211	18,573
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		61	473
Total cash received		61	473
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		6,227	11,491
Purchase of intangibles		107	60
Total cash used		6,334	11,551
investing activities		(6,273)	(11,078)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Contributed equity		2,249	3,225
Total cash received		2,249	3,225
financing activities		2,249	3,225
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		3,187	10,720
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the reporting period		38,353	27,633
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	5A	41,540	38,353

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

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS
as at 30 June 2011

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
BY TYPE		
Commitments Receivable		
Sublease rental income	1,095	1,129
GST recoverable on commitments ¹	6,419	6,416
Total Commitments Receivable	7,514	7,545
Commitment Payable		
Capital Commitments		
Buildings; Infrastructure, plant and equipment ²	1,122	4,728
Total Capital Commitments	1,122	4,728
Other Commitments		
Operating leases ³	66,698	65,894
Other commitments ⁴	3,835	1,910
Total Other Commitments	70,533	67,804
Net Commitments by Type	64,141	64,987
BY MATURITY		
Commitments Receivable		
Other Commitments Receivable		
One year or less	528	728
From one to five years	835	775
Over five years	6,151	6,042
Total Other Commitments Receivable	7,514	7,545
Commitments Payable		
Capital Commitments		
One year or less	1,122	4,728
Total Capital Commitments	1,122	4,728
Operating Lease Commitments		
One year or less	903	882
From one to five years	3,610	3,529
Over five years	62,185	61,483
Total Operating Lease Commitments	66,698	65,894
Other Commitments		
One year or less	3,051	1,502
From one to five years	784	408
Over five years	-	-
Total Other Commitments	3,835	1,910
Net Commitments by Maturity	64,141	64,987

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

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS

SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS

as at 30 June 2011

- NB:
- 1 Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.
 - 2 Outstanding contractual payments for buildings and infrastructure under construction.
 - 3 Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable.
 - 4 Other commitments comprise general consultancy services and utilities.

Nature of Lease / General Description

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

- cafe within the Australian National Botanic Gardens which is subject to an annual increase of 4%;
- bookshop within the Australian National Botanic Gardens which has no escalation clauses; and
- the Aurora Resort 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.

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 2011

The following non-financial non-current assets were added in 2010-11:

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Other property, plant & equipment \$'000	Intangibles \$'000	Total \$'000
By purchase - Government funding	-	43	6,095	107	6,245
By purchase - Donated Funds	-	-	88	-	88
By recognition	-	2,808	9,797	-	12,605
Total additions	-	2,851	15,980	107	18,938

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

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

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

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS
INDEX OF THE NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2011

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
- 15** Financial Instruments
- 16** Appropriations
- 17** Compensation and Debt Relief
- 18** Reporting of Outcomes

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Objectives of the entity

The Director of National Parks is an Australian Government controlled entity. The objective of the entity is to manage Australia's protected areas. The Director of National Parks is structured to meet the following objective:

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

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements and notes are required by clause 1(b) of Schedule 1 to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act) and are general purpose financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- a) Finance Minister's Orders (FMOs) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2010; and
- b) 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 from executor contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments or the Schedule of Contingencies.

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.

1.3 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.

1.4 New Accounting Standards

Adoption of new Australian Accounting Standard requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard. 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.

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

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.

1.5 Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- a) the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- b) the seller retains no managerial involvement nor effective control over the goods;
- c) the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- d) 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:

- a) the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- b) 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 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and transferred to the Director of National Parks.

1.6 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 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities provides corporate services under a Service Delivery Agreement to the Director of National Parks.

1.7 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 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Communities and are transferred to the Director of National Parks. These amounts are recognised directly in Contributed Equity in that year.

1.8 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 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Director of National Parks has a number of employees of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 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: Employee Benefits) and termination benefits due within twelve months are measured at their nominal amounts. The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

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

Leave

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

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, including the Director of National 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 2010-11. 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 2011.

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.

1.9 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.

Where an asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at either the fair value of the lease property or, if lower, the present value of minimum lease repayments at the inception of the contract and a liability is recognised at the same time and for the same amount.

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.

1.10 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.

1.11 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 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.

1.12 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).

1.13 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but are reported in the relevant 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.

1.14 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.

1.15 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 or Depreciated replacement cost

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. A revaluation was conducted in 2011.

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

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:

	2011	2010
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 2011. 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.

Derecognition

An item of infrastructure, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Heritage and Cultural Assets

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. The items include living collections in the Australian National Botanical Gardens and historic buildings which are managed as ruins. The Director of National Parks has adopted, through consultation with boards of management, appropriate curatorial and preservation policies for these items. The Director of National Park's curatorial and preservation policies can be found in the Plan of Management for each national park at <http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au>.

1.16 Intangibles

The Director of National Parks' intangibles comprise internally developed and purchased software for internal use and water entitlements. Internally developed software is carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 (2009-10: 4-5 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2011.

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.

1.17 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:

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

1.18 Assets First Recognised

The Director of National Parks identified a prior period error during the 2010-11 asset revaluation process. Non financial assets including buildings and infrastructure, plant and equipment valued at \$12,604,231.45 were identified and reported within the Financial Statements for the first time in 2010-11. All assets have been controlled by the Director of National Parks in prior financial periods however there is limited information available to reliably determine the capitalisation date of each asset. Non financial assets should have been capitalised and recognised on the Balance Sheet in prior years.

In accordance with *AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and the FMOs, the Director of National Parks have not restated comparative information as it is impracticable to reliably state the financial effects of the errors on prior financial periods. In order to restate comparatives, significant estimates would be required to determine the fair value of the asset at reporting date and would also require consideration of:

- Movements in fair value resulting from prior asset valuations;
- Impact of depreciation; and
- Impact of impairment adjustments resulting from annual asset condition reviews.

The Director of National Parks has recognised the assets through Other Gains within the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the current financial year. Costs associated with the acquisition or construction of these assets would have been expensed within the relevant financial year.

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

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 3A - Employee Benefits		
Wages and salaries	22,746	19,715
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	1,481	1,206
Defined benefit plans	2,170	2,311
Leave and other entitlements	2,729	2,325
Separation and redundancies	52	187
Other employee expenses	66	256
Total employee benefits	29,244	26,000
Note 3B - Suppliers		
Goods and Services are made up of:		
Professional services	4,055	5,924
Property expenses	2,270	2,437
Repairs and maintenance	3,778	3,607
Parks operation & maintenance	3,318	4,315
Employee related expenses	1,834	1,674
Information technology & communication	1,174	1,120
Service delivery charges	3,904	3,900
Other	3,929	3,931
Total Goods and Services	24,262	26,908
Goods and Services are made up of:		
Provision of goods - related entities	22	29
Provision of goods - external parties	3,155	3,497
Rendering of services - related entities	15,015	11,758
Rendering of services - external parties	6,070	11,624
Total Goods and Services	24,262	26,908
Other supplier expenses		
Operating lease rentals:		
Minimum lease payments	887	888
Contingent rentals	3,240	3,577
Total other supplier expenses	4,127	4,465
Total supplier expenses	28,389	31,373
Note 3C - Depreciation and Amortisation		
Depreciation:		
Buildings	2,676	2,635
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	6,046	5,912
Total depreciation	8,722	8,547
Amortisation:		
Intangibles	10	1
Total amortisation	10	1
Total depreciation and amortisation	8,732	8,548

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

Note 3: Expenses (Cont)	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 3D - Write-down and impairment of assets		
Financial assets		
Impairment of receivables	92	7
Non-financial assets		
Write down of buildings	-	78
Write down of infrastructure, plant & equipment	85	587
Total write-down and impairment of assets	177	672
Note 4: Income		
OWN-SOURCE REVENUE		
Note 4A: Sale of goods and rendering of services		
Provision of goods - external parties	21	72
Rendering of services - related entities	5,692	4,844
Rendering of services - external parties	11,600	10,289
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	17,313	15,205
Note 4B- Interest		
Deposits	1,618	872
Total Interest	1,618	872
GAINS		
Note 4C - Sale of Assets		
Infrastructure, plant & equipment		
Proceeds from sale	61	473
Carrying value of assets sold	(23)	(281)
Net gain from sale of assets	38	192
Note 4D - Other Gains		
Resources received free of charge	3,903	3,933
Assets first recognised	12,605	-
Total other gains	16,508	3,933
Note 4E: Revenue from Government		
Grants:		
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	46,444	50,051
Total revenue from Government	46,444	50,051

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

Note 5: Financial Assets

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 5A - Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on deposit	41,520	38,300
Cash on hand	20	53
Total cash and cash equivalents	41,540	38,353
Note 5B - Trade and Other Receivables		
Goods and Services		
Goods and services - related entities	455	692
Goods and services - external parties	579	756
Total receivables for goods and services	1,034	1,448
Other Receivables		
Net GST receivable from ATO	294	-
Other receivables	1,639	1,335
Total other receivables	1,933	1,335
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	2,967	2,783
Less: Impairment allowance account		
Goods and services	(93)	(22)
Other	(5)	(6)
Total impairment allowance account	(98)	(28)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	2,869	2,755

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

Receivables (gross) are aged as follows:

Not overdue	1,531	1,829
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	476	285
31 to 60 days	82	1
61 to 90 days	98	108
More than 90 days	780	560
	1,436	954
Total receivables (gross)	2,967	2,783

The impairment allowance account is aged as follows:

Not overdue	-	-
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	-	-
31 to 60 days	-	-
61 to 90 days	-	-
More than 90 days	(98)	(28)
Total impairment allowance account	(98)	(28)

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

Reconciliation of the impairment allowance account:

Movements in relation to 2011

	Goods and services 2011 \$'000	Other receivables 2011 \$'000	Total 2011 \$'000
Opening balance	(22)	(6)	(28)
Amounts written off	22	-	22
Amounts recovered and reversed	-	1	1
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	(93)	-	(93)
Closing balance	(93)	(5)	(98)

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)

Note 5C - Other Financial Assets

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Accrued Revenue	<u>141</u>	<u>98</u>
Total other financial assets	<u>141</u>	<u>98</u>

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	2011	2010
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Note 6A: Land and Buildings</u>		
Land at fair value	6,826	6,826
Buildings on land		
- work in progress	557	779
- fair value	71,557	63,404
- accumulated depreciation	-	(5,660)
<i>Total buildings on land</i>	72,114	58,523
Total land and buildings	78,940	65,349

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	1,597	4,043
- fair value	138,946	94,514
- accumulated depreciation	-	(12,523)
Total infrastructure, plant and equipment	140,543	86,034

Revaluations were conducted in accordance with the policy stated at Note 1. In 2010-11 revaluations were conducted by independent valuer Propell National Valuers and valued as at 30 June 2011.

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 living collections and historic buildings which are managed as ruins. There was no significant acquisition or disposal activity in relation to these items in the current reporting period.

Note 6C - Analysis of property, plant and equipment

Table A - Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2010-11)

	Land	Buildings	Total Land & Buildings	Infrastructure Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2010					
Gross book value	6,826	64,183	71,009	98,557	169,566
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(5,660)	(5,660)	(12,523)	(18,183)
Net book value 1 July 2010	6,826	58,523	65,349	86,034	151,383
Additions					
by purchase	-	43	43	6,095	6,138
by donation	-	-	-	88	88
by recognition*	-	2,808	2,808	9,797	12,605
Revaluation and Impairment through Equity	-	13,410	13,410	44,689	58,099
Depreciation expense	-	(2,676)	(2,676)	(6,046)	(8,722)
Disposals - by sale	-	-	-	(23)	(23)
Write-down and impairment recognised through the operating result	-	(10)	(10)	(75)	(85)
Transfers	-	16	16	(16)	-
Net book value 30 June 2011	6,826	72,114	78,940	140,543	219,483
Net book value as of 30 June 2011 represented by:					
Gross book value	6,826	72,114	78,940	140,543	219,483
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	6,826	72,114	78,940	140,543	219,483

* The Director of National Parks identified and valued a number of assets during the 2010-11 Asset Revaluation process completed by Propell National Valuers. The assets have been recognised through Other Gains in the current financial reporting period. The Director of National Parks have not restated prior year balances as it is not practicable to reliably value these assets as significant estimates would be required to determine the effects of prior valuations, depreciation and impairment reviews. (Refer to Note 1.18)

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
by recognition	-	-	-	-	-
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)
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
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

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 6D: Intangibles		
Computer software		
Purchased - in use	102	8
Accumulated amortisation	-	(8)
Internally developed - in use	54	60
Accumulated amortisation	-	(1)
Total Computer Software	156	59
Water Entitlements	93	93
Total Water Entitlements	93	93
Total intangibles	249	152

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 (2010-11)

	Computer Software Purchased \$'000	Computer Software Developed \$'000	Water Entitlements \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2010				
Gross book value	-	60	93	153
Accumulated amortisation	-	(1)	-	(1)
Net book value 1 July 2010	-	59	93	152
Additions				
Purchased	107	-	-	107
Amortisation expense	(5)	(5)	-	(10)
Net book value 30 June 2011	102	54	93	249
Net book value as of 30 June 2011 represented by:				
Gross book value	102	54	93	249
Accumulated amortisation	-	-	-	-
	102	54	93	249

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	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 depreciation / amortisation and impairment	(8)	(1)	-	(9)
	-	59	93	152

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 6F: Other Non-Financial Assets		
Prepayments	355	460
Total other non-financial assets	355	460

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

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

Note 7: Payables

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Note 7A - Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	2,252	4,018
Operating lease rentals	764	824
Total supplier payables	3,016	4,842

Supplier payables expected to be settled within 12 months:

Related entities	1,028	692
External parties	1,988	4,150
Total supplier payables	3,016	4,842

Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

Note 7B - Other Payables

Salaries and wages	462	364
Superannuation	78	62
Net GST Payable to the ATO	-	95
Unearned revenue	1,930	5,987
Total other payables	2,470	6,508

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

Note 8: Employee Provisions

Leave	7,164	6,910
Other	44	38
Total employee provisions	7,208	6,948

Employee Provisions are expected to be settled in:

No more than 12 months	2,925	2,476
More than 12 months	4,283	4,472
Total employee provisions	7,208	6,948

Note 9: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash Flow Statement	41,540	38,353
Balance sheet	41,540	38,353
Difference	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	(29,787)	(45,794)
Add revenue from Government	46,444	50,051
Non-cash items		
Depreciation/amortisation	8,732	8,548
Take up of assets for the first time	(12,605)	-
Write down of non-financial assets	85	665
(Gain) / loss on disposal of non-current assets	(38)	(192)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase)/decrease in net receivables	180	(1,803)
(Increase)/decrease in GST receivables	(389)	400
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	105	(102)
(Increase)/decrease in accrued revenue	(43)	(43)
Increase/(decrease) in unearned revenue	(4,057)	4,098
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	377	725
Increase/(decrease) in supplier payables	(1,829)	1,928
Increase/(decrease) in other payables		93
Increase/(decrease) in other provisions	36	(1)
Net cash from operating activities	<u>7,211</u>	<u>18,573</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 (2009-10: Nil).

Note 11: Director's Remuneration

The legal entity of the Director of National Parks has only one Executive Director. Remuneration of the Executive Director is included in Note 13: Senior Executive Remuneration.

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 13.

Loans to Director and Director related entities

There were no loans made to either the Director or entities related to the Director during 2010-11 (2009-10: 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 2010-11 (2009-10: Nil).

Note 13: Senior Executive Remuneration**Note 13 A: Senior Executive Remuneration Expense for the Reporting Period**

	2011	2010
Short-term employee benefits:	\$	\$
Salary	593,376	482,611
Annual Leave Accrual	(13,868)	(936)
Performance Bonuses	-	16,906
Other ¹	93,465	37,102
Total short-term employee benefits	672,973	535,683
Post-employment benefits:		
Superannuation	101,581	80,786
Total post-employment benefits	101,581	80,786
Other long-term benefits		
Long service leave	(6,361)	35,341
Total other long-term benefits	(6,361)	35,341
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	768,193	651,810

Notes:

1. "Other" includes various salary sacrifice arrangements paid to senior executives including, motor vehicle and other expense fringe benefits.

2. Note 13A excludes part-year service where remuneration expensed for a senior executive was less than \$150,000

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

Note 13B: Average Annual Remuneration Packages and Bonus Paid for Substantive Senior Executives as at the end of the Reporting Period

	as at 30 June 2011						as at 30 June 2010					
	Fixed Elements			Senior Executives			Fixed Elements			Senior Executives		
	No.	Salary \$	Allowances \$	Total \$	Bonus paid ² \$	No.	No.	Salary \$	Allowances \$	Total \$	Bonus paid \$	No.
Total remuneration (including part-time arrangements):												
Less than \$150,000												
\$150,000 to \$179,999	1	147,717	-	147,717	-		1	143,218	-	143,218	-	
\$180,000 to \$209,999	1	187,868	-	187,868	-		1	171,266	6,058	177,324	-	
\$210,000 to \$239,999	1	195,328	25,500	220,828	-		2	214,164	12,750	226,914	-	
\$240,000 to \$269,999	1	244,516	-	244,516	-						8,453.00	
\$270,000 to \$299,999												
\$300,000 to \$329,999												
Total	4					4						

Notes:

- 1 This table reports substantive senior executives who were employed by the entity at the end of the reporting period. Fixed elements were based on the employment agreement of each individual. Each row represents an average annualised figure (based on headcount) for the individuals in that remuneration package band (i.e. 'Total' column).
- 2 This represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that remuneration package band. The 'Bonus paid' was excluded from the 'Total' calculation, (for the purposes of determining remuneration package bands). The 'Bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the entity during the financial year.

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 13B: Average Annual Remuneration Packages and Bonus Paid for Substantive Senior Executives as at the end of the Reporting Period (Cont.)

Variable Elements

With the exception of performance bonuses, variable elements are not included in the 'Fixed Elements and Bonus Paid' table above. The following variable elements are available as part of senior executive' remuneration package:

- (a) Performance Bonuses:
From the 2010-11 financial year Director of National Parks' senior executives have elected for their performance bonuses to be rolled into their base salaries.
- (b) On average senior executives are entitled to the following leave entitlements:
 - Annual leave (AL): entitled to 20 days (2010: 20 days) each full year worked (pro-rata for part-time SES)
 - Personal Leave (PL): entitled to 18 days (2010:20 days) or part-time equivalent; and
 - Long Service Leave (LSL): in accordance with Long Service Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1976.
- (c) Senior executives are members of one of the following superannuation funds:
 - Australian Government Employee Superannuation Trust (AGEST): this fund is for senior executives who were employed for a defined period. Employer contributions were set at 9 per cent (2010: 9 per cent). More information on AGEST can be found at <http://www.agest.com.au>;
 - Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS): this scheme is closed to new members, and employer contributions were averaged 22 per cent (2010: 20.9 per cent) (including productivity component). More information on CSS can be found at <http://www.css.gov.au>;
 - Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS): this scheme is closed to new members, with current employer contributions set at 16.3 per cent (2010: 16.3 per cent) (including productivity component). More information on PSS can be found at <http://www.pss.gov.au>; and
 - Public Sector Superannuation Accumulation Plan (PSSap): employer contributions were set at 15.4 per cent (2010: 15.4 per cent), and the fund has been in operation since July 2005. More information on PSSap can be found at <http://www.pssap.gov.au>.
- (d) Various salary sacrifice arrangements were available to senior executives including superannuation, motor vehicle and expense fringe benefits.

Note 13C: Other Highly Paid Staff

During the reporting period, there were nil employees (2010: nil employees) whose salary plus performance bonus were \$150,000 or more.

Note 14: Remuneration of Auditors

	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Financial Statement audit services are provided to Director of National Parks by the Auditor-General.		
The fair value of the services provided was:	81	78
No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.		

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

		2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
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Note 15: Financial Instruments

Note 15A - Categories of financial instruments

Financial Assets

Loans and receivables

Cash	5A	41,540	38,353
Trade and Other Receivables	5B	2,673	2,783
Carrying amount of financial assets		44,213	41,136

Financial Liabilities

At amortised cost

Trade creditors and accruals	7A	3,016	4,842
Other payables	7B	1,930	5,987
Carrying amount of financial liabilities		4,946	10,829

Note 15B - Net income and expense from financial assets

Loans and receivables

Interest revenue		1,618	872
Write down - financial assets	3D	(92)	(7)
Net gain/(loss) loans and receivables		1,526	865
Net gain/(loss) from financial assets		1,526	865

Note 15C - Net income and expense from financial liabilities

There was no net income/expenses from financial liabilities in 2010-11. (2009-10: Nil).

Note 15D - Fair value of financial instruments

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

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 (2011: \$2,967,423 and 2010: \$2,783,274). The Director of National Parks has assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated \$97,819 in 2011 (2010: \$28,141) to an impairment and allowance account.

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

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

	Not Past Due Nor Impaired	Not Past Due Nor Impaired	Past due or impaired	Past due or impaired
	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2010 \$'000
Cash at Bank	41,540	38,353	-	-
Trade debtors and other receivables	1,237	1,829	1,436	954
Total	42,777	40,182	1,436	954

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

Ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired for 2011

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and other receivables	476	82	98	682	1,338
Total	476	82	98	682	1,338

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

Note 15E - 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 2011 \$'000	within 1 year 2011 \$'000	1 to 5 years 2011 \$'000	> 5 years 2011 \$'000	Total 2011 \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	3,016	-	-	3,016
Other payables	-	1,930	-	-	1,930
Total	-	4,946	-	-	4,946

	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

Note 15F - Market risk

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

Interest Rate Risk

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

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and transferred to the Director of National Parks. Funds transferred from the Department of the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities included \$46.444m Revenue from Government Grant (2009-10: \$50.051m) and equity injection of \$2.249m in 2010-11 (2009-10: \$3.225m).

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 2010-11 (2009-10: 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, the control of invasive species and working with stakeholders and neighbours.*

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2011	2010	2011	2010
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses				
Departmental	66,694	66,729	66,694	66,729
Total expenses	66,694	66,729	66,694	66,729
Income from non-government sector				
Departmental				
Sales of goods and services - External	11,621	9,333	11,621	9,333
Interest	1,618	872	1,618	872
Sublease rental income	178	201	178	201
Net gains from disposal of assets	38	192	38	192
Total costs recovered	13,455	10,598	13,455	10,598
Other Own Source Income				
Departmental				
Sales of goods and services - Related	5,692	5,872	5,692	5,872
Other gains	16,508	3,933	16,508	3,933
Other revenue	1,252	532	1,252	532
Total Departmental	23,452	10,337	23,452	10,337
Total other external revenues	23,452	10,337	23,452	10,337
Net cost of outcome	29,787	45,794	29,787	45,794

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



Many native animals and plants in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park are impacted by frequency and intensity of fires. For example, some plants need fire for regeneration while some animals' habitat and food supplies can be damaged by fires which are too intense. Plant and animal surveys in the park focus on species which require particular management attention and survey results influence our fire management programs.

The second brush-tailed mulgara survey held this year built on our understanding of their habitat preferences. We have found they prefer areas of mature spinifex. We are adapting our fire management of mulgara habitat areas accordingly. Photo: Parks Australia



This year we have also completed a rare flora survey in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. We found 14 out of the 15 species we were targeting within the park. We found that populations for most of the species are healthy. We will continue to monitor the success of our management activities including fire management on these species. The Park is important for Acacia ammobia (pictured), one of the species surveyed. Photo: Parks Australia



7 Appendices

Appendix A: Agency resourcing statement 2010–11

Appendix B: Portfolio Budget Statements reporting 2010–11

Appendix C: Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Appendix D: Freedom of information statement

Appendix E: Compliance index

Appendix A: Agency Resourcing Statement 2010–11

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

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

	Actual available appropriation \$'000	Payments Made \$'000	Balance Remaining \$'000
Opening balance/Reserves at bank	38,353	–	38,353
REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT			
Ordinary annual services¹			
Outcome 1	–	–	–
Total ordinary annual services	–	–	–
Other services²			
Non-operating	2,249	–	2,249
Total other services	2,249	–	2,249
Total annual appropriations	2,249	–	2,249
Payments from related entities³			
Amounts from the portfolio department	46,444	46,444	(0)
Total	46,444	46,444	(0)
Total funds from Government	46,444	46,444	(0)
FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES			
Interest	1,575	1,575	–
Sale of goods and services	15,486	15,486	–
Other	2,328	1,390	938
Total	19,389	18,451	938
Total net resourcing for DNP	106,435	64,895	41,540

All figures are GST exclusive

As per the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* Section 514S, DSEWPac is directly appropriated the Director of National Parks (DNP) appropriations, which is then allocated to the DNP by the Secretary.

1 Appropriation Act (No.1) 2010–11

2 Appropriation Act (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 (for example, a fee for service from an FMA Act agency paid to a CAC Act body would appear here and may be explained within this footnote, as would a payment to a third agency's special appropriation).

Appendix B: Portfolio Budget Statements reporting 2010–11

Key Result Area 1 – Natural Heritage Management

PBS Target – Viable populations of selected significant species maintained

- Park managers have nominated 36 species across the 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 4 species are increasing; 13 species are remaining steady; 7 species are decreasing; 1 species is likely to be extinct; 2 species may be locally extinct; and for 9 species population data are deficient.

Booderee National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Eastern bristlebird <i>Dasyornis brachypterus</i>	Endangered	Monitoring program for distribution and abundance in place since 2004.	Controlling fox populations and preserving suitable bristlebird habitat.	Numbers have been steadily increasing since the last major wildfire in 2003 in burnt sites but steady in unburnt sites.	↑ Numbers rising
Sooty oystercatcher <i>Haematopus fuliginosus</i>	No	Monitoring program for distribution and abundance in place since 2004.	Controlling fox populations and protecting Bowen Island nesting sites. Public education programs.	Numbers have been stable for the life of the monitoring program. Ongoing nesting activity has been observed.	→ Numbers steady
Pied oystercatcher <i>Haematopus longirostris</i>	No	Monitoring program for distribution and abundance in place since 2004.	Controlling fox populations. Working with other land management agencies to control threats posed by vehicles. Public education programs.	Numbers have been stable for the life of the monitoring program.	→ Numbers steady
Little penguin <i>Eudyptula minor</i>	Marine	Irregular counts of beach landings. Irregular monitoring of chick mortality.	Maintained native plantings to re-establish penguin nesting habitat on Bowen Island.	This is a stable and very healthy population displaying exceptionally high breeding success.	→ Numbers steady

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Long-nosed bandicoot <i>Perameles nasuta</i>	No	Monitoring program for bandicoots and primary food source (invertebrates) in place since 2003.	Controlling fox populations.	Populations peaked in 2005–2006 before declining in 2008–2009. Numbers increased in 2010 and are steady in 2011. This is representative of trends in recovering bandicoot populations.	→ Numbers steady
Green and golden bell frog <i>Litoria aurea</i>	Vulnerable	Call back monitoring of breeding sites since 1996. PhD research project of all frogs has been underway since 2007.	No action being undertaken.	Not positively detected in the park for six years. Likely to be locally extinct, despite little change to habitat or hydrology.	↓ Presumed to be locally extinct
Giant burrowing frog <i>Heleioporus australiacus</i>	Vulnerable	Call back monitoring of breeding sites since 1996. PhD research project of all frogs has been underway since 2007.	No action being undertaken.	Numbers have been stable for the life of the monitoring program.	→ Numbers steady
Common brushtail possum <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	No	Monitoring programs for distribution and abundance in place since 2003.	Controlling fox populations.	Populations have increased since intensive fox baiting started but have now started to decline.	↓ Numbers falling
Hooded plover <i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>	Marine	Monitoring program in place since 2004.	Controlling fox populations. Working with other land management agencies to control threats posed by vehicles. Public education programs.	Numbers have been stable for the life of the monitoring program.	→ Numbers steady
Greater glider <i>Petauroides volans</i>	No	Monitoring program in place since 2003 via ANU researchers.	Targeted research into reasons for decline and possible re-introduction.	Numbers declined strongly in early 2000s and the species has not been detected in the park since 2007.	↓ May be locally extinct

Christmas Island National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Christmas Island pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus murrayi</i>	Critically Endangered	Monitoring of pipistrelle call activity as part of broader island wide biodiversity monitoring.	Monitoring of pipistrelle call activity as part of broader island wide biodiversity monitoring.	The pipistrelle is likely to be extinct.	↓ Likely to be extinct
Native reptiles (blue-tailed skink <i>Cryptoblepharus egeriae</i> , Lister's gecko <i>Lepidodactylus listeri</i> and forest skink <i>Emoia nativitatis</i>)	No (except for Lister's gecko listed as Vulnerable)	Surveys of native reptile fauna conducted as part of broader island wide biodiversity monitoring as well as targeted monitoring.	The on-island captive breeding program for native reptiles established in 2009 was expanded in 2010–11. Off-island populations of Lister's gecko and blue-tailed skink were established at Taronga Zoo. Assessment of disease threats completed and assessments of other threatening processes (invasive species) commenced.	Reptile species are undergoing a rapid population decline in the wild. However, the trend for Lister's gecko and blue-tailed skinks bred in captivity is increasing. Forest skinks have not bred in captivity.	↓ Numbers falling
Red crab <i>Gecarcoidea natalis</i>	No	Biennial monitoring (Island Wide Survey – IWS) of burrow counts to determine distribution and density. Survey has used consistent methodology since 2001 and another IWS is being conducted in 2011. An independent scientific study monitoring the off-target impacts of using Fipronil bait was conducted. The results of this study showed that Fipronil did not have off-target impacts.	Continued crazy ant management program including commencement of an IWS in 2011 and continuation of an indirect biological control research project. Australian Government announcement of \$4m of funds to continue crazy ant, as well as other invasive species, management. Continued red crab management program including traffic management, road infrastructure development and education. The Crazy Ant Scientific Advisory Panel continued to provide advice for the management of crazy ants.	Population numbers appear to have remained steady from 2001 to 2009 but a re-analysis of data collected since 2001 is occurring and may indicate a slight decline.	→ Numbers steady (possible slight decline)

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Abbott's booby <i>Papasula abbotti</i>	Endangered; Marine; Migratory	Aerial nest count survey last conducted in 2009 and distribution mapped in 2009 through the IWS but the results are inconclusive. Mapping through the IWS in 2011 will also occur, making it more possible to assess trends. External researcher currently investigating some aspects of population ecology, particularly population demographics.	Continuation of the Christmas Island Mine-site to Forest Rehabilitation Programme (CIMFR) which focuses on the rehabilitation of Abbott's booby nesting habitat.	Trend is currently unknown.	Data deficient

Kakadu National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Northern quoll <i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	Endangered	Biodiversity Hotspot Surveys and targeted monitoring at the East Alligator Ranger Station where a remnant population persists albeit in low numbers. Incidental sighting database records any sightings or road kills.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality. Off-shore species relocation program conducted in conjunction with NT government agencies. Release program in place for captive bred 'toad smart' quolls trained to avoid toads and monitoring of survival rates.	Significant population decline occurred following the arrival of cane toads. The remaining population is low but stable. A number of captive bred 'toad-smart' quolls are surviving and reproducing.	→ Numbers steady

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Northern brown bandicoot <i>Isodon macrourus</i>	No	Biodiversity Hotspot Surveys. Incidental sighting database records any sightings or road kills.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality.	Population declining consistent with pattern of small mammal decline across northern Australia.	↓ Numbers falling
Northern brushtail possum <i>Trichosurus arnhemensis</i>	No	Biodiversity Hotspot Surveys. Incidental sighting database records any sightings or road kills.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality.	Population declining consistent with pattern of small mammal decline across northern Australia.	↓ Numbers falling
Brush-tailed rabbit-rat <i>Conilurus penicillatus</i>	Vulnerable	Biodiversity Hotspot Surveys and targeted monitoring at the Mardugal Campground. Incidental sighting database records any sightings or road kills.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality. Sightings in new areas are followed up with targeted surveys.	Population declining consistent with pattern of small mammal decline across northern Australia.	↓ Numbers falling
Black-footed tree-rat <i>Mesembriomys gouldii</i>	No	Biodiversity Hotspot Surveys. Incidental sighting database records any sightings or road kills.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality.	Population declining consistent with pattern of small mammal decline across northern Australia.	↓ Numbers falling
Pale field rat <i>Rattus tunnneyi</i>	No	Biodiversity Hotspot Surveys. Incidental sighting database records any sightings or road kills.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality.	Population declining consistent with pattern of small mammal decline across northern Australia.	↓ Numbers falling
Flatback turtle <i>Natator depressus</i>	Vulnerable; Marine; Migratory	Continuation of 16-year survey and capture program (annual survey).	–	Monitoring shows population is steady.	→ Numbers steady
Estuarine crocodile <i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	Marine; Migratory	Continuation of 16-year survey and capture program. Satellite tracking project has been underway for 6 years.	–	Crocodile populations in East Alligator River and South Alligator River are healthy and beginning to plateau. Crocodile population in West Alligator River is still increasing. Further information is required to determine population dynamics in the Wildman River.	→ Numbers steady

Norfolk Island National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Green parrot <i>Cyanoramphus cookii</i>	Endangered; Migratory	Annual monitoring of assisted breeding nesting sites throughout breeding season (October to June). Monitoring commenced in the 1980s and birth-rate data collected since 1986. Data suggest artificial nest sites are being used less frequently. Monitoring focus is now moving from individual species to multiple species and ecosystem health. 2010 survey indicated species may have recovered past endangered threshold but an island-wide survey is needed to improve the accuracy of this estimate before any change to conservation status is considered.	Active management of 20 green parrot nesting sites. Active feral animal control (rats, cats, crimson rosellas). Gas powered self resetting rat traps and cat traps located near active breeding sites during breeding season.	Current population estimate of 240 individuals (Dutson, 2010). 300% increase over the past decade (approx).	↑ Numbers rising

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Norfolk Island morepork (boobook) owl <i>Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata</i>	Endangered; Migratory	Artificial nesting boxes are monitored annually to record breeding activity (October to January). These boxes have not been used in the preceding 12 months. Monitoring focus is now moving from individual species to multiple species and ecosystem health.	Active monitoring of owl nest sites. Rodent and cat control focused around known breeding nests.	Current population estimate of 40 individuals. No change over past year. Although not well documented, there has been an increase over the past decade. First introduced from NZ in mid 1980s. Steady population numbers may indicate that carrying capacity of existing habitat has been reached.	→ Numbers steady
Golden whistler <i>Pachycephala pectoralis xanthoprocta</i>	Vulnerable	No monitoring program at present. 2010 survey suggested numbers may be increasing though it should remain categorised as vulnerable.	Weed and feral animal control.	Current population estimate of 2,200 mature individuals (Dutson, 2010). Insufficient data to estimate trend.	Data deficient
Pacific robin <i>Petroica multicolor multicolor</i>	Vulnerable	No monitoring program at present. 2010 survey did not include population estimate due to bias in data.	Weed and feral animal control. Gas powered self resetting rat traps located near known robin breeding areas.	May be gradual decline which is continuing but too little data to confirm trend. Appears to be a high rate of fledgling success but a low rate of adult male survival (Dutson, 2010).	Data deficient
Wedge-tailed shearwater <i>Ardenna pacifica</i>	Marine; Migratory	No monitoring program at present.	Weed and feral animal control.	Unable to determine. No trends at present.	Data deficient

Pulu Keeling National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Red-footed booby <i>Sula sula</i>	Marine; Migratory	Annual fauna survey conducted since 1985. However, monitoring was not undertaken in 2010 due to access issues.	Community education and compliance activities.	Analysis of data indicates population remains steady at around 30,000 breeding pairs.	→ Numbers steady
Cocos buff-banded rail <i>Gallirallus philippensis andrewsi</i>	Endangered	Monitoring commenced in late 1999. Monitoring continued opportunistically when staff visit the park.	In collaboration with the Cocos Islands Shire and scientists, considered and progressed options identified in the re-introduction feasibility study to establish a second population outside the park.	In 2005, monitoring data was analysed and found that the current population is stable at 1,000 individuals.	Data deficient

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
<i>Tjakuṛa</i> – great desert skink <i>Liopholis kintorei</i>	Vulnerable	14th annual <i>Tjakuṛa</i> survey (Feb–Mar 2011) identified 357 active burrows (89 containing juveniles).	Continued fire management to improve habitat quality. Continued predator monitoring. Feral strategy finalised and acted upon.	Highest number of active burrows since inception of monitoring (14 years).	↑ Numbers rising
<i>Mala</i> – rufous hare-wallaby <i>Lagorchestes hirsutus</i>	Endangered	Next annual <i>mala</i> survey scheduled for September 2011. Last full survey captured 51 individuals including 23 new animals.	Continued active management within predator-proof enclosure such as mosaic burning (20% regeneration to 80% mature spinifex) and supplementary feeding. Daily inspection of enclosure fence.	Although mark-recapture estimates have indicated a population increase since January 2009, similar numbers of trapped animals suggest that populations within current trap locations may have reached saturation. Future trapping will consist of two separate surveys concentrating on the original trap locations as well as the broader enclosure.	↑ Numbers rising

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
<i>Murtja</i> – brush-tailed mulgara <i>Dasymercus blythi</i>	No ¹	Trapping for mulgara captured six animals over 2,000 trap hours. In addition, following on from new survey methodology begun in 2010, surveys conducted in 2011 found widespread mulgara signs throughout 20 survey areas.	Continued fire management to improve habitat quality. Collared feral cats to determine whether they are main predator. Feral strategy finalised and acted upon.	Numbers of mulgara trapped remain too low to determine trends. Data collected in 2010 indicate an apparent habitat preference for old spinifex. Much mulgara habitat is still recovering from 2002 wildfires that burnt 50% of the park.	Data deficient
<i>Itjariitjari</i> – southern marsupial mole <i>Notoryctes typhlops</i>	Endangered	12 month project involving monthly monitoring across 8 different areas of spinifex habitat completed.	Currently determining habitat preferences and distribution across the park. Future studies will involve trench surveying.	Marsupial mole sign (tracks/pop holes) found in all 8 spinifex habitat types – surface habitat preferences apparent but unable to conclude from the data how those sites differed statistically in respect to the number of signs which occurred at each site. The study also found there was no correlation between surfacing and temperature, although surfacing was more likely to occur between 3–10 days after rainfall. No baseline data so unable yet to establish trends.	Data deficient

1 Current EPBC Act listings for two species of mulgara may not accurately reflect their correct conservation status due to taxonomic confusion between the two species

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Common wallaroo or euro <i>Macropus robustus</i>	No	Initial survey began in May 2010 and is continuing utilising surveillance cameras at four waterholes at the base of Uluru. Two of the waterholes are accessible to tourists, whilst two are not.	Currently determining habitat preferences and visitor influences on existing populations.	No baseline data or trends to date. Although the number of euros captured on camera has been low, incidental information recorded regarding potential predators, particularly feral foxes and cats, and reptiles such as the perentie (<i>Varanus giganteus</i>) will be very useful in guiding future management decisions.	Data deficient
Striated grasswren <i>Amytornis striatus</i>	No	Monitoring conducted in September 2010.	Continue active fire management to reduce large scale habitat loss from wildfire. Planned future research will aim at quantifying the exact size of the species' habitat, population size and key habitat elements to inform future management.	Monitoring located 5 pairs in a small area of complex spinifex in a small area in the south of the park. This is the largest number recorded since initial surveys in 1992 however birds are unable to be located in any other sites on the park suggesting this part of the park provides key habitat elements.	Data deficient
Rare plant survey	No	3 year baseline study and annual monitoring of 15 prioritised plants completed.	Individual management actions for each species, including fire management regimes, erosion control and camel control.	Numbers stable for most species. Further monitoring will continue for <i>Acacia ammobia</i> , <i>Santalum acuminatum</i> , <i>Wurmbea centralis</i> , <i>Goodenia occidentalis</i> , <i>Juncus continuus</i> , <i>Ophioglossum lusitanicum</i> , <i>Nicotiana excelsior</i> and <i>Stylidium inaequipetalum</i> .	→ Numbers steady

PBS Target – No net increase in distribution/abundance of significant invasive species

- Park managers have nominated 24 significant invasive species across the six terrestrial reserves to identify changes in overall distribution and abundance. Of the selected species, the populations of 9 species are increasing; 3 species are remaining steady; 4 species are decreasing; and for 8 species population data are deficient.

Booderee National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
European red fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Utilising fauna surveillance cameras, fox bait take and sand plot monitoring to monitor residual fox population.	Continue to undertake fox control activities with an emphasis on removing residual, bait-shy individual foxes and introducing alternative fox control methods.	An increase in numbers was recorded in 2011, possibly due to an exceptionally productive season as numbers are up across the Shoalhaven Region. Fox numbers nevertheless remain very low and alternative fox control techniques are effective in controlling residual foxes.	↑ Numbers rising
Bitou bush <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Aerial survey undertaken. Density and distribution mapped and recorded on GIS. Annual aerial spray efficacy mapped and recorded on GIS. Post treatment exclosure trials to assess vegetation recovery.	Approximately 4 ha sprayed using splatter guns and approximately 4 ha of dead bitou burnt using spot burning. 300 ha of bitou bush aurally sprayed in June 2011. Ground application of herbicide followed by spot burning is increasing and aerial application decreasing as bitou density reduces.	90% reduction in the area of high density infestation and 75% reduction in the area of medium density infestation between 2004 and 2011. Post treatment recovery slow due to high levels of preferential grazing by native species.	↓ Numbers falling

Christmas Island National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Yellow crazy ant <i>Anoplolepis gracilipes</i>	Biennial biodiversity Island Wide Survey (IWS) to determine supercolony distribution. The survey has used consistent methodology since 2001. The last survey was completed in 2009 and a further survey commenced (and will be completed) in 2011.	Commenced 2011 IWS which underpins control program and prepared for hand-baiting program to be conducted later in 2011. Continued to fund research by La Trobe University into biological control. Completed a study on the off-target species impacts of Fipronil bait.	Significant decline in supercolony numbers occurred in 2002 after successful aerial baiting program followed by slow increase in supercolonies. Aerial baiting program conducted in 2009, 784 ha supercolonies baited. Ongoing monitoring indicates aerial baiting has been successful in reducing ant numbers in former supercolonies. However, based on the initial results from the 2011 IWS, new supercolonies are emerging.	↑ Numbers rising
False curry bush <i>Clausena excavata</i>	Survey to be conducted as part of 2011 IWS.	No specific control work has been undertaken.	No baseline data to date so no trend can be detected. Increasing numbers and distribution under intact rainforest canopy is of significant concern.	Data deficient
Siam weed <i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	Siam weed was first detected on Christmas Island in 2010 but it is only known to be in one small location. Monitoring of roadsides commenced and has continued and it is being surveyed as part of 2011 IWS.	Control of the only known infestation continues (as seeds stored in the soil continued to germinate). Currently being contained to this infestation site.	Trend is declining but it is possible that, despite monitoring, there are other undetected infestations that may be increasing.	↓ Numbers falling (for known infestation)
Feral cat <i>Felis catus</i>	Determining feral cat numbers is extremely difficult.	Collaborative island-wide cat control commenced with the introduction of new Shire of Christmas Island by-laws, de-sexing of all pet cats and the control of cats in settled areas. This work is supported by Australian Government agencies, the Shire and Phosphate Resources Ltd.	Little baseline data to date so no trend can be accurately detected. Anecdotal evidence suggests that numbers appear to be rising.	Data deficient (likely to be increasing)

Kakadu National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Mimosa <i>Mimosa pigra</i>	Mimosa stands have been mapped and there is an annual monitoring program.	Integrated eradication program conducted.	Under control, virtually absent from the park.	→ Numbers steady
Para grass <i>Brachiaria mutica</i>	Ongoing monitoring as part of integrated weed program. Species is subject to several current research projects.	Treated in a number of strategic areas, opportunistic control elsewhere.	The range of this species is increasing.	↑ Numbers rising
Gamba grass <i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	Ongoing monitoring as part of integrated weed program.	Eradication program conducted.	Under control within the park. A large infestation is however advancing toward the park's southern boundary and presents a high risk to the park.	→ Numbers steady
Mission grass <i>Pennisetum polystachion</i>	Ongoing monitoring as part of integrated weed program.	Treated in a number of strategic areas, opportunistic control elsewhere.	The range of this species is increasing.	↑ Numbers rising
Olive hymenachne <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	Ongoing monitoring as part of integrated weed program.	Systematic control at a number of key locations, opportunistic control elsewhere.	The range of this species is increasing.	↑ Numbers rising
Salvinia <i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Ongoing monitoring as part of integrated weed program.	Introduction of biological control agent and minor mechanical and chemical control in key sites.	Extent of infestations varies greatly between locations and over time.	→ Numbers steady
Water buffalo <i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	Incidental sightings database maintained.	Opportunistic control. Participatory planning process begun to develop an agreed control plan between key stakeholders.	Numbers are increasing.	↑ Numbers rising
Feral pig <i>Sus scrofa</i>	Incidental sightings database maintained.	Opportunistic control. Participatory planning process begun to develop an agreed control plan between key stakeholders.	Numbers are increasing.	↑ Numbers rising

Norfolk Island National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Black rat <i>Rattus rattus</i>	Monthly survey of presence/absence of rats. Trapping and baiting program provides an indication of presence/absence.	Commenced change over to new bait type. Upgraded snap traps and introduced 10 gas powered self resetting traps. 714 kg of bait taken by rats and 329 rats caught in traps. Predation by rodents is listed as a priority threatening process under the Norfolk Island Region Threatened Species Recovery Plan.	Numbers of rodents trapped and bait take indicates an increase in rodent numbers and possible resistance to previous bait regime (Racumin had been in place for 15 years).	Data deficient
Feral cat <i>Felis catus</i>	Trapping program provides a presence/absence indication. Continued gut analysis to determine prey composition (eg rats, native birds).	13 wild cats controlled in the park. New trap types including soft hold leg traps and a felid attracting phonic included in trapping program. Predation by feral cats is listed as a priority threatening process under the Norfolk Island Region Threatened Species Recovery Plan.	Unable to quantify population size. Uncertain whether rodent control program on park is impacting on feral cat numbers in the park.	Data deficient
Red guava <i>Psidium cattleianum</i>	No monitoring program at present.	Completed weed control in 6.5 of the 19 coups identified in the rehabilitation strategy. 6 ha weeds controlled. Invasion of habitat by exotic weeds is listed as a priority threatening process under the Norfolk Island Region Threatened Species Recovery Plan.	Unable to determine. No trends at present.	Data deficient
African olive <i>Olea europaea africana</i>	No monitoring program at present.	Completed weed control in 6.5 of the 19 coups identified in the rehabilitation strategy. 6 ha weeds controlled. Invasion of habitat by exotic weeds is listed as a priority threatening process under the Norfolk Island Region Threatened Species Recovery Plan.	Unable to determine. No trends at present.	Data deficient

Pulu Keeling National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Yellow crazy ant <i>Anoplolepis gracilipes</i>	Island-wide survey conducted in 2009. Survey methodology has been updated to include detection of scale insects.	Continued monitoring program and planning for control programs. A scale insect survey was conducted in conjunction with La Trobe University	Colonies fairly widespread, with some sites recorded at supercolony density. However, as the 2009 survey was the first island wide-survey it will establish a baseline that can be monitored in the future.	↑ Numbers rising
Coral berry <i>Rivina humilis</i>	Ongoing mapping activities and it will be included in the 2011 island-wide survey.	Coral berry was not specifically targeted. However, other species of weeds with smaller populations were controlled.	Increased distribution and density observed in western part of the park.	↑ Numbers rising

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
Buffel grass <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Monitoring of native biodiversity following buffel removal around Uluru. Trial study to determine the effects of fire and spraying on buffel conducted in 2011.	Prioritised buffel grass control activities including the Uluru base and areas of high conservation value. Buffel patches burnt and sprayed in varying quantities to determine the most effective method for large scale removal.	Distribution throughout the park decreased due to an increase in control activities.	↓ Numbers falling
Feral cat <i>Felis catus</i>	UKTNP Vertebrate Pest Monitoring Plan activated. This involves keeping data records of sightings and subsequent trapping efforts.	Continued feral cat trapping program.	Unable to establish trend with current monitoring approach.	Data deficient

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend	Flag
European wild rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Annual monitoring of active burrows has been undertaken since 1989.	Calicivirus released around resilient burrows. Phostoxin used to treat and re-treat warrens in the Mala Paddock, around Uluru and at Kata Tjuta. Over 300 active warrens have been treated, monitored and retreated again if necessary.	Rabbit numbers appeared to increase from 2009 as the result of a high rainfall year in 2010. It is expected that the ongoing treatments have since reduced numbers.	↓ Numbers falling
European red fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Alan Activity Index (AAI) for foxes carried out every three months in the sensitive borefields area. For the first time, in addition to the 31 original road sandpads which were monitored monthly in 2009–10, 71 random sandpads are also monitored. It is expected that the increase in pads will enable calculation of levels of fox activity with greater accuracy.	Continued monitoring through AAI. Opportune trapping as a result of images captured on surveillance cameras. Continue rabbit control in an effort to reduce available food resources.	AAI indicates low levels of fox activity. Early indications are that the random sandpads are more effective in recording fox activity than the road pads.	Data deficient

KEY RESULT AREA 2 – CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

PBS Target – 100 per cent of key sites, as agreed with traditional owners, inspected and treated as required (Jointly managed parks only)

- All key sites at Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks were inspected as agreed with traditional owners with various treatments undertaken as required. An inspection and treatment program is not yet in place at Booderee National Park.

KEY RESULT AREA 3 – JOINT MANAGEMENT AND WORKING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

PBS Target – Five per cent increase in numbers of Indigenous staff and/or contractors directly or indirectly providing park services (Jointly managed parks only)

- Overall the number of directly employed Indigenous staff throughout the year declined slightly in the jointly managed parks.
- 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 remained steady. Anangu participation in flexible employment through the Mutitjulu Community Ranger program has remained high with a number of *wati* (men) and *kungka* (women) regularly engaged in park activities. Anangu participating in the Mutitjulu Community Ranger program are also attending the park's literacy and numeracy program which is run weekly at Nyangatjatjara College.
- Bininj were engaged as part of the Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program, with eight and a half full-time equivalent positions filled for the entire year plus up to an additional six temporary positions at various times throughout the year.
- WBACC Contracting Services (the enterprise arm of the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council) provided \$1.9 million of cleaning, road maintenance, entry station, horticultural and infrastructure maintenance services to Booderee National Park. In its 2010 annual report, WBACC reported that it employed 15 permanent full-time, three permanent part-time and a number of casual staff to deliver these services.
- The Director and Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council completed draft service level agreements for the second round of outsourcing at Booderee, including infrastructure maintenance and horticultural services.

KEY RESULT AREA 4 – USE AND APPRECIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS

PBS Target – Greater than 90 per cent of comments received from park users about their visit are positive

- Visitor surveys were undertaken in Kakadu, Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Booderee and Norfolk Island National Parks. All reserves recorded satisfaction from greater than 90% of park users (Kakadu – 91%; Uluru – 91%, Booderee – 97% Norfolk Island – 98%).

KEY RESULT AREA 5 – STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

PBS Target – Stakeholders and partners are actively involved during the year

- Stakeholders and partners were actively involved and contributed effectively to park management activities. Key stakeholder included national and regional tourism organisations (including the Transport and Tourism Forum and Tourism Australia), industry groups, universities, non-government organisations and community groups.
- Research partnerships continued with a range of organisations such as the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service, CSIRO, Australian Institute of Marine Science, James Cook University, Australian National University, University of Canberra, Charles Darwin University and the Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute. Three projects were supported by Australian Research Council Linkage Grants.
- A partnership agreement with Taronga Zoo for conservation of Christmas Island's declining reptiles, including off-island captive breeding, was signed in May 2011.
- Constructive partnerships in managing Commonwealth reserves continued with: local government including Councils, state government parks agencies and other relevant agencies including schools and educational institutions and conservation and land management agencies, and Commonwealth agencies including the Department of Defence, the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service.
- The Australian National Botanic Gardens and the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research continued their support for, and involvement, with the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens and the Council of Heads of Australian Herbaria.

KEY RESULT AREA 6 – BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

PBS Target – Five per cent reduction in number of risks identified in Risk Watch Lists as 'extreme', 'very high' or 'high'

- There was no net reduction in the number of extreme, very high and high risks in risk watch lists over 2010–11.
- The Director has participated in the Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking Scheme since 2002–03. In 2010–11 the Director scored 7.6 out of a possible 10 compared to an average score for all Australian Government agencies of 6.4. For the last six years the Director has consistently scored above the average for all agencies.

PBS Target – Eight management plans and six implementation schedules in place

- Three management plans covering four terrestrial reserves are in place (Norfolk Island National Park and Norfolk Island Botanic Gardens are two reserves covered by one management plan). Draft management plans are being finalised for Booderee, Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling National Parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.
- Three implementation schedules are in place. Implementation schedules are not in place for the reserves with expired management plans.

PBS Target – No major injuries to staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors relating to an undertaking of the Director of National Parks

- Seven major injuries were sustained by parks staff and contractors including amputated fingers. Four park visitors died (two drownings and a death due to dehydration in Kakadu and one heart attack in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park) and there were 18 major injuries to visitors (mainly fractures from slips, trips and falls).

PBS Target – Eight parks with climate change strategies in place

- Five of the eight terrestrial reserves have climate change strategies in place. The Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden Climate Change Strategy 2011–2016 was finalised and endorsed during the year and draft strategies were progressed for Uluru-Kata Tjuta, Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling National Parks. Policies related to climate change monitoring, mitigation and adaptation are also being incorporated into management plans as they are being drafted.
- Climate change strategies for each park identify actions to address five key objectives:
 - Understanding the implications of climate change
 - Implementing adaptation measures to maximise the resilience of our reserves
 - Reducing our carbon footprint
 - Working with communities, industries and stakeholders to mitigate and adapt to climate change
 - Communicating the implications of climate change and our management response.

PBS Target – Three new actions implemented which reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Greenhouse gas emissions associated with stationary and transport energy use over the year were estimated to be 4,718 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This is a reduction of around 12 % compared with the average emissions over the past three years.
- Kakadu and the Australian National Botanic Gardens have undertaken carbon emissions audits (consistent with ISO14064-1) that considers energy use (including lighting, heating and cooling), waste, water and support infrastructure (e.g. insulation) across all buildings, vehicles and equipment used in the park and at the Gardens. At the Gardens the recommendations have been reviewed and as appropriate will be implemented as funding permits.

- As part of the department's ICT Refresh Program, Booderee National Park received an upgrade to its computers and printers. As a result, the park anticipates a reduction in desktop energy consumption.
- The ANBG is limited in its ability to reduce energy consumption, due to its business requirements for maintaining plant and herbarium specimens at very specific conditions. The ANBG continues to aim for a 10 per cent offset in its energy usage and in 2010–11 increased its purchase of GreenPower to 126,883 kilowatt hours (approximately 10.8 per cent of purchased electricity).
- Parks staff continue to make a conscious effort to minimise business-related travel, while recognising that face-to-face contact and visits to remote locations are sometimes necessary, particularly for the three parks that are managed jointly with their Indigenous owners. Parks Australia regularly uses alternatives to air travel such as tele- and videoconferencing.
- Obtaining accurate measurements of greenhouse emissions related to waste remains challenging and estimates were not available for all reserves. Ongoing efforts are focused on providing web-based visitor and interpretative materials, which will further reduce printing and paper consumption.
- Access to regional recycling facilities is gradually improving for remote locations such as Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks and external territories. Basic recycling facilities are now available on Norfolk Island and office paper is being sourced from renewable sources when available. Kakadu National Park is participating in a regional recycling and resource recovery program and is continuing its recycling programs in and around offices for paper, glass and aluminum. Where recycling facilities are cost effective and available, for example at the ANBG, improvements in recycling have led to the diversion of approximately 39 tonnes of waste from landfill.

KEY RESULT AREA 7 – BIODIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

PBS Target – Five per cent increase in website unique users and publications accessed

- The Parks Australia websites (parksaustralia.gov.au and kakadu.com.au) received an almost 10 percent increase in visitation in 2011 with 593,038 visits (an average of 1,624 per day). Use of online PDF publications decreased by almost 30 percent to 76,158 downloads as more and more publications are provided in html and smart phone friendly alternatives in line with Government Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 requirements.

Appendix C: 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 2010–11 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))

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 preparing 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.

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.

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 2010–11 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.

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 2010–11 refer to Chapter 4 of this annual report under KRA 1—Natural heritage management.

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 aim to improve the quality and consistency of visitor experiences
- entry and park use fees at heavily visited reserves 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 2010–11 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 conservation and appreciation of natural and cultural values of Commonwealth reserves through 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 2010–11 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/10-11.

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

The Director is responsible for 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 statutory protective mechanisms and decision-making and assessment processes set out in management plans. The Director manages commercial activities (such as 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 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 impact of the reserve's operations. Office paper, toner cartridges and organic waste are recycled and office machines (photocopiers and printers) are automatically programmed to save power. Printers are programmed to duplex documents to reduce paper use.

Climate change strategies including actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are in place or under development for all Commonwealth reserves.

For a summary of activities undertaken in 2010–11 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 in Tables C1 and C2, for waste in Tables C3 and C4 and for water use in Table C5.

Environmental performance

The environmental performance of Parks Australia's metropolitan (Canberra and Darwin) office-based staff is included in the environmental performance report for the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. This report covers Parks Australia's operations in the following locations:

- Kakadu National Park
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park
- Territory of Christmas Island (Christmas Island National Park)
- Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Pulu Keeling National Park)
- Jervis Bay Territory (Booderee National Park)
- Territory of Norfolk Island (Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden)
- Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG).

Operational requirements at each site, such as electricity, transport, developing new infrastructure and managing waste, contribute to the carbon footprint. Some properties have specialised needs—for example the ANBG maintains climate-controlled conditions in many of its glasshouses. The remote location of some reserves limits opportunities to reduce their environmental impact.

Reserve management activities such as revegetation projects and fire and pest management may also have implications for the carbon cycle. Conserving biodiversity is a primary objective for all reserves and careful management of the use of fire and vegetation can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, reliable indicators are not yet available to measure the contribution that Parks Australia's biodiversity management activities make to cutting emissions.

Environmental performance—energy use

Management plans and climate change strategies are in place or in preparation for all sites. These include provisions designed to minimise energy consumption across park operations and may include:

- reducing greenhouse gas emissions from park operational activities (such as energy use, transport and waste management) to 10 per cent below 2007–08 levels by mid-2015
- developing environmental management plans identifying actions to reduce the carbon footprint of park operations and the level of carbon emission reductions associated with each mitigation action
- changing existing electric hot water systems to solar hot water, instantaneous gas or heat pumps as replacement becomes necessary
- installing energy efficient light fixtures and light-controlling devices (such as motion sensors) in all park facilities
- replacing older vehicles with more efficient vehicles.

Total energy consumption has decreased in 2010–11. As part of the department's ICT Refresh Program, Booderee National Park received an upgrade to its computers and printers. As a result, the park anticipates a reduction in desktop energy consumption.

Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks rely on diesel power generation as they are not on an electricity grid. However, consistent with a three-year Energy Audit completed in 2009–10, Kakadu National Park has commenced the process of replacing its diesel-powered generators with more efficient systems requiring less fuel.

The ANBG is also limited in its ability to reduce energy consumption, due to its requirements for maintaining plant and herbarium specimens at very specific conditions. The ANBG continues to aim for a 10 per cent offset in its energy use and in 2010–11 purchased 126,883 kilowatt hours of GreenPower (approximately 10.8 per cent of purchased electricity).

Parks staff continue to make a conscious effort to minimise business-related travel, while recognising that face-to-face contact and visits to remote locations are sometimes necessary, particularly for the three parks managed jointly with their Indigenous owners. Parks Australia regularly uses alternatives to air travel such as teleconferencing and videoconferencing.

Table C1: DNP terrestrial reserves greenhouse gas emissions 2007–11—stationary energy use

	2007–08 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2008–09 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2009–10 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	Annual average 2007–10 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2010–11 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	% change compared with average
Australian National Botanic Gardens	1,569.0	1,630.5	1,233.3	1,477.6	1262.1	-14.6
Booderee National Park	266.3	274.6	178.0	239.6	159.2	-33.6
Christmas Island National Park	51.4	44.0	48.8	48.1	47.7	-0.7
Kakadu National Park	1,353.1	1,346.3	1,263.9	1,321.1	1,177.3	-11.3
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	6.9	6.3	5.3	6.2	3.3	-46.9
Pulu Keeling National Park	14.1	16.6	14.8	15.2	13.0	-14.4
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	1,310.6	1,391.5	1,265.3	1,322.5	1165.1	-11.9
Total	4,571.4	4,709.8	4,009.4	4,430.2	3821.6	-13.7

Table C2: DNP terrestrial reserves greenhouse gas emissions 2007–11—transport energy use

	2007–08 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2008–09 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2009–10 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	Annual average 2007–10 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	2010–11 (tonnes of CO ₂ e)	% change compared with average
Australian National Botanic Gardens	37.3	32.2	25	31.5	23.3	-26.0
Booderee National Park	18.0	101.2	73.1	64.1	68.5	6.9
Christmas Island National Park	66.9	75.8	82.9	75.2	83.5	11.0
Kakadu National Park	727.3	445.0	761.3	644.5	571.9	-11.3
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	19.4	22.0	17.5	19.6	12.8	-34.8
Pulu Keeling National Park	8.1	5.6	3.4	5.7	2.8	-50.9
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	149.6	126.7	171.7	149.3	133.8	-10.4
Total	1026.6	808.5	1134.8	990.0	896.6	-9.4

Environmental performance—waste

Obtaining accurate measurements of greenhouse emissions for waste remains challenging and estimates were not available for all reserves.

The Director adopts environmental best practice principles for resource use and management of waste products. Management plans are in place or in preparation for all sites including provisions to minimise waste production across park operations and may include:

- establishing guidelines to formalise waste reduction strategies into standard park practices (such as reducing consumption, printing double-sided, recycling)
- sourcing consumable items such as office paper from renewable sources
- where possible, providing recycling facilities to visitors or promoting 'rubbish bin free' sites that encourage the public to take their waste home for recycling
- for island sites such as on Norfolk Island, arranging for mainland recycling of consumables such as used printer cartridges.

Ongoing efforts are focused on providing web-based visitor and interpretative materials, which will further reduce printing and paper consumption. Overall paper usage in 2010–11 declined by 10 per cent compared with the previous reporting year and 28 per cent compared with the average use of the previous three years. There were significant increases in paper consumption in 2010–11 associated with the 25th anniversary of Handback at Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park and the 40th anniversary celebrations at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Several reserves use 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper for printing.

In 2010–11 Parks Australia purchased an average of 3.7 reams of paper per employee (excluding metropolitan office-based staff) which means that all parks and reserves are well under the departmental target of 12 reams per employee. Over time, technology upgrades at all locations will provide more opportunities to print double-sided, reducing paper wastage further.

Access to regional recycling facilities is gradually improving for remote locations such as Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks and external territories. Basic recycling facilities are now available on Norfolk Island and office paper is being sourced from renewable sources when available. Kakadu National Park is participating in a regional recycling and resource recovery program and is continuing its recycling programs in and around offices for paper, glass and aluminum. Where recycling facilities are available, for example at the ANBG, improvements in recycling have led to the diversion of 39 tonnes of waste from landfill. Recycling facilities will continue to be available in all ANBG offices and onsite facilities including composting of organic kitchen waste.

Table C3: DNP terrestrial reserves greenhouse gas emissions 2007–11—waste

	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)	2010–11 waste to landfill (tonnes of CO ₂ e)
Australian National Botanic Gardens	34.9	34.9	100.7	47.7
Booderee National Park	133.8	133.8	38.1	246.9
Christmas Island National Park	38.7	38.7	data not available	data not available
Kakadu National Park	249.0	249.0	data not available	data not available
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	0.0	0.0	1.2	data not available
Pulu Keeling National Park	0.0	0.0	0.2	data not available
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	21.9	342.0	82.1	486.9

Table C4: DNP terrestrial reserves paper consumption 2010–11—reams of paper

	Reams of paper 2007–08 (reams/ person)	Reams of paper 2008–09 (reams/ person)	Reams of paper 2009–10 (reams/ person)	Average reams of paper 2007–10	Reams of paper 2010–11 (reams/ person)	% change compared with average
Australian National Botanic Gardens	270 (4.2)	240 (3.9)	300 (5.0)	270	320 (5.5)	+19
Booderee National Park	400 (13.7)	400 (13.0)	60 (2.1)	286.7	45 (1.8)	-84
Christmas Island National Park	50 (1.8)	50 (1.8)	50 (1.4)	50	50 (1.8)	0
Kakadu National Park	289 (4.0)	211 (3.1)	378 (5.6)	292.7	227 (3.3)	-22
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	67 (22.3)	65 (18.6)	45 (9.0)	59	40 (8.0)	-32
Pulu Keeling National Park	12 (3.9)	4 (2.0)	3 (1.5)	6.3	4 (2.0)	-37
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	160 (4.0)	304 (7.2)	82 (2.1)	182	140 (3.5)	-23
Total	1,248	1,274	918	1,146.7	826 (3.7)	-28

Environmental performance—water

Protecting water quality is a high priority for Parks Australia. Management plans are in place or in preparation for all sites including provisions designed to ensure water use is minimised and water quality maintained and may include:

- auditing water use in Commonwealth reserves and implementing actions to provide efficiencies and improvements
- implementing water saving initiatives such as rainwater harvesting, water recycling, the use of water saving devices and upgrading water reticulation infrastructure
- providing information to visitors on how to protect water quality.

The quality of surface water, groundwater and waterholes in reserves is regularly monitored and activities in each reserve must not interrupt the natural flow of water. Capacity to measure water consumption at each reserve is improving but consistent data are not yet available. The reduction in water use recorded across the reserves in 2010–11 was due largely to an extended wet season in Kakadu National Park and vacant housing in the park headquarters area; the completion of the Australian National Botanic Gardens' water extraction project; and only partial water data being available from Booderee and Pulu Keeling National Parks.

The Australian National Botanic Gardens' non-potable water extraction project was completed in 2010–11 and water from Lake Burley Griffin is now used for irrigation and will save up to 170 million litres of Canberra's potable water supply every year. Booderee National Park continued to install water saving devices such as waterless urinals and touch-pad showers in the park and is exploring the potential for harvesting rainwater. Norfolk Island National Park is completely reliant on captured rainwater. An extra 2,000 litre rainwater tank has been purchased to collect water for the Parks hut on Phillip Island increasing the water storage capacity by 33 per cent. A new 22,000 litre underground rainwater tank has been incorporated into the new toilet block at Cooks Monument. This replaces the old 2,000 litre tank and increases capacity by 20,000 litres. All water used in the Norfolk Island National Park is captured in rainwater tanks. As part of Pulu Keeling National Park's efforts to minimise water use additional rainwater tanks installed have been installed at park residences with plans to convert as main water supply. A rainwater tank was also installed to water the native seedlings nursery.

Table C5: DNP terrestrial reserves—water consumption 2007–11

	kL 2007–08	kL 2008–09	kL 2009–10	kL 2010–11
Australian National Botanic Gardens	155,030	165,965	172,431	122,178
Booderee National Park	5,965	9,551	not recorded	132
Christmas Island National Park	not recorded	not recorded	13,242	8,148
Kakadu National Park	26,808	not recorded	82,452	40,923
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	not recorded	not recorded	not recorded	not recorded
Pulu Keeling National Park	not recorded	52	54	18
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	74,732	72,855	40,995	50,430

Appendix D: 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 Chapter 2 and Figure 3.

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 by publishing notices inviting public comment on any proposals to declare, revoke or amend a Commonwealth reserve or to make a management plan for a Commonwealth reserve and by making draft management plans for Commonwealth reserves 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.

Information about categories of documents

Categories of documents held by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities on behalf of the Director of National Parks 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.

The Director of National Parks publishes on its website information used to assist in the exercise of its functions and powers. This information includes, but is not limited to;

- guidelines and template agreements;
- information to assist members of the public and organisations to comply with statutory requirements, such as guidelines, procedures, application forms, brochures and fact sheets;
- policy documents; and
- tool kits.

Queries related to operational information may be directed to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Community Information Unit on 1800 803 772, or by email at ciu@environment.gov.au.

Freedom of information procedures and initial contact points

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities handles requests by the public under the FOI Act on behalf of the Director of National Parks.

Contact details for the Freedom of Information Contact Officer are:

Phone: (02) 6274 2147

Fax: (02) 6274 1587

Email: foi@environment.gov.au

Formal freedom of information requests must:

- be in writing;
- state that the request is an application for the purposes of the FOI Act;
- provide information about the document(s) to assist us to process your request; and
- provide an address for reply.

Requests should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Contact Officer

Legal Section

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

GPO Box 787

Canberra ACT 2601

or by email to: foi@environment.gov.au

Appendix E: 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
Korea–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (ROKAMBA)	Agreement between the Government of Australia and Republic of Korea for the Protection of Migratory Birds
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
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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