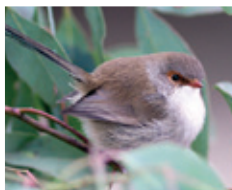


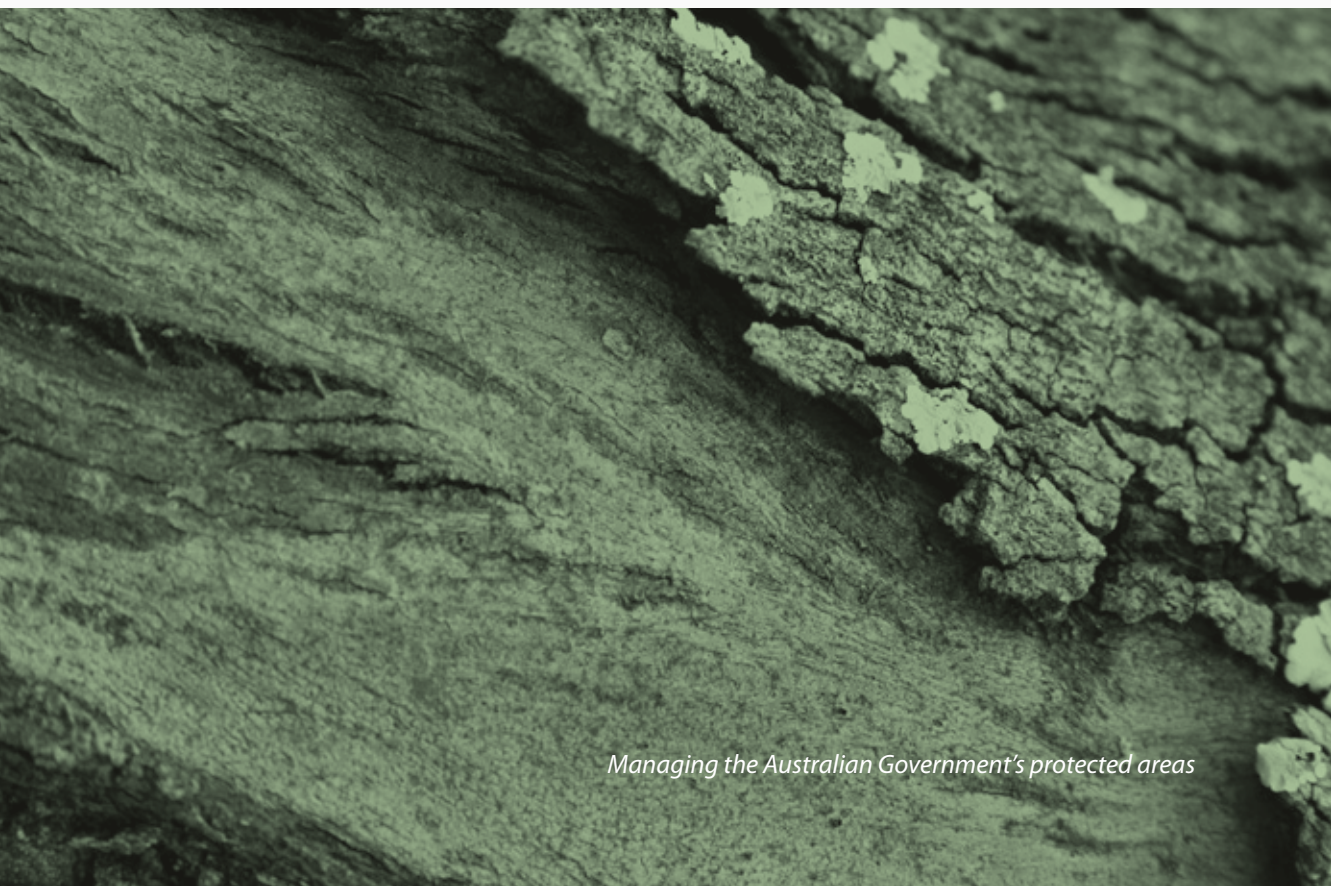


Australian Government  
Director of National Parks



Director of National Parks

Annual Report 2011–12



*Managing the Australian Government's protected areas*

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ISSN 1443-1238

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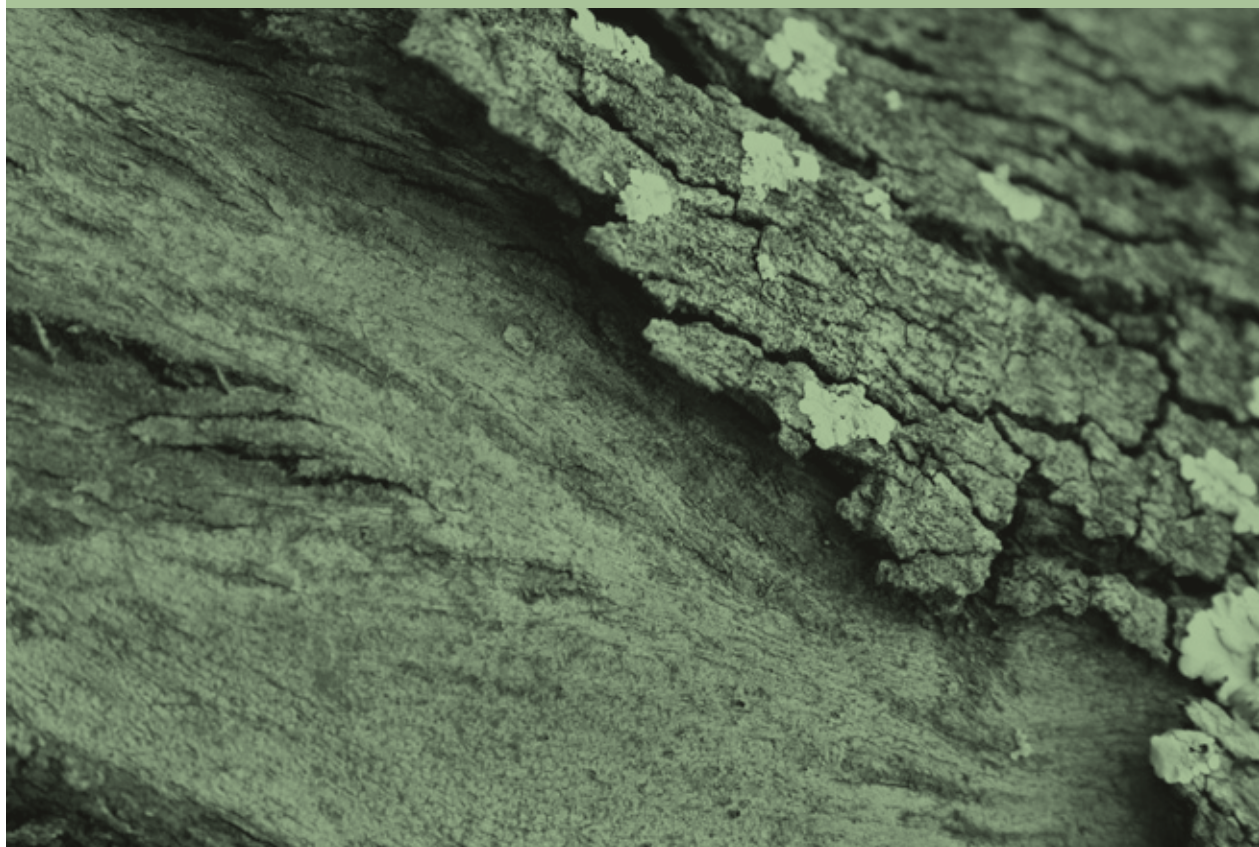


**Australian Government**  
**Director of National Parks**



Director of National Parks

Annual Report 2011–12



**Commonwealth terrestrial reserves**

**Commonwealth marine reserves**

\* Managed by Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and excluded from marine planning process

0 500 1,000 2,000 Km

© Commonwealth of Australia, 2009



## 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 2011–12 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 261 full-time equivalent staff around Australia
- recorded a total price output of \$74.7 million.

## Major highlights for 2011–12

- The Australian National Botanic Gardens launched a new management plan and new branding, giving the Gardens a whole new look
- Kakadu National Park cemented its place amongst Australia's top tourism attractions, winning bronze at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards
- Kakadu traditional owner and park ranger Jeffrey Lee was recognised in this year's Australia Day Awards as a Member of the Order of Australia
- The declaration of the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area added 10,158,000 hectares to the National Reserve System and created the largest terrestrial protected area in Australia
- Australia signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation on 20 January 2012 and consultations and work on the ratification process are ongoing
- The Minister released the Australian Government's final network of marine reserves which—once proclaimed under national environmental law—will increase the number of Commonwealth marine reserves to 60, expanding the national network to 3.1 million square kilometres, by far the largest representative network of marine protected areas in the world

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# 1 Director's review

## **The year in review**

Supporting tourism

Protecting biodiversity

Improving infrastructure

International developments

Marine conservation

Financial matters

Our people

Looking ahead

## **Certification**

← A team from the Australian National Botanic Gardens travelled to Christmas Island to collect plants destined for Australian and international herbaria. One of the specimens collected was the Christmas Island Waxvine. Photo: Murray Fagg



# The year in review

As the head of a terrific and committed team working in the always challenging field of nature conservation, it is sometimes tempting when reviewing our performance to concentrate on the inevitable highs and lows, the occasional great successes and the sometimes devastating losses. In contrast, the year just past has been one of solid achievement across a range of fronts, with incremental improvements in the areas of conservation, visitor services and stakeholder involvement.

We reached a number of significant milestones this year. The Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area was declared, our 51st IPA and also Australia's largest terrestrial protected area of any type—at more than 10 million hectares, it is around the same size as Portugal or Hungary. Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park celebrated its 35th anniversary and, at Booderee National Park, the Wreck Bay Community celebrated 25 years since the first handback of their community lands at Jervis Bay.

We are immensely proud of Kakadu traditional owner and park ranger Jeffrey Lee, who was honoured in this year's Australia Day Awards as a Member of the Order of Australia. This prestigious award recognises Jeffrey's long battle to protect his ancestral lands, Koongarra, now part of the Kakadu World Heritage Area.

Bush Blitz—a multimillion dollar national biodiversity discovery partnership between the Australian Government, BHP Billiton and Earthwatch Australia—successfully completed five expeditions across National Reserve System properties. Scientists surveyed almost 605,000 hectares in Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Bush Blitz has now completed 15 surveys across 67 properties and uncovered more than 600 species that are new to science. Spiders feature prominently among these new discoveries and include the evocatively named wolf spiders, wishbone spiders, flying peacock spiders, wing-footed goblin spiders and tarantulas as big as a hand.

An independent audit by WWF–Australia has again praised efforts to build the National Reserve System as 'arguably the Australian Government's biggest conservation success story'. The independent report described the critical role of the National Reserve System in protecting biodiversity and saving threatened species from extinction.

A successful year at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) began with a gold medal at Canberra's Floriade spring festival for the creation of a stunning Australian bush tucker garden. The Gardens launched new afterDARK tours and, in partnership with Earthwatch Australia, a ClimateWatch trail, funded by Friends of the ANBG. Our talented horticulturalists successfully propagated an endangered small purple pea for planting out as part of an ACT energy company's offset program. And, in late May, the Gardens finalised its new 10-year management plan, with a strengthened horticultural and conservation focus, expanded education programs and an emphasis on state-of-the-art biodiversity science and information management.



## Supporting tourism

Our national parks, particularly Kakadu and to a lesser extent Uluru–Kata Tjuta, have suffered a visitor downturn from the fallout of the GFC and the high Australian dollar, as have many other Australian destinations. Our challenge in a slow and increasingly competitive market is to present a compelling reason for domestic and international tourists to visit by providing unique experiences that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Our National Landscapes partnership with Tourism Australia provides the framework to revitalise our visitor offerings by working with partners on a regional basis. Kakadu will now be marketed to the world as part of Australia's Timeless North. Uluru–Kata Tjuta is already reaping the benefits of planning as part of Australia's Red Centre, with a host of new Indigenous experiences on offer from tour operators and a new Indigenous-owned company in the park, Uluru Aboriginal Tours.

We continue to work with traditional owners to share their cultural stories. At Uluru–Kata Tjuta, staff have worked closely with Anangu to ensure the right stories are told in the right way—and now a major revamp of interpretation is underway. This includes, for the first time, stories from senior men at Kata Tjuta, an area of great spiritual significance to them. Anangu and park staff have also worked together to develop an online audio guide to help people learn Pitjantjatjara, a great introduction to Anangu culture for our park visitors and a useful resource for schoolchildren. At Booderee, signage for five new information shelters included local Dhurga and Dharawal language and cultural knowledge concepts.

I am proud to say that all our hard work with our tourism stakeholders is being recognised. In particular, congratulations to Kakadu, which in March was named as one of Australia's top three major tourist attractions at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards. The park also hosted more than 50 film crews, who are showcasing its natural beauty and conservation efforts to domestic and international audiences.

We continue to develop self-guided tours for visitors. On Norfolk Island, visitors can hire an iPod with a 'Walk in the Park' tour already uploaded, and Booderee and Uluru–Kata Tjuta now have downloadable audio tours with a wealth of entertaining stories relating to local history, Indigenous culture and the natural environment. With limited resources for marketing, our parks have also worked with our Canberra-based communications staff to step into the social media space. Our Facebook, Flickr, YouTube and Vimeo offerings and our Parks Australia blog are attracting increasing numbers of followers and we are engaging with visitors on TripAdvisor. Our talented web team built a successful app on Booderee's diverse range of birds, with downloadable maps and visitor information, and that will now be followed by a series of apps for all our parks.

The stunning environment of Australia's Indian Ocean Territories that we help to protect has been captured for posterity by Australia Post, with two stamp series: the colourful marine life of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the beautiful ferns of Christmas Island. Our rangers starred in an Australian Geographic film, *Jewels in the Indian Ocean*, celebrating the attractions of these spectacular but remote tropical islands.



## Protecting biodiversity

Our conservation challenge is not diminished but this year we have celebrated successes too. Efforts to control invasive bitou bush at Booderee continue to proceed well, with high-density infestations now reduced by 90 per cent since control by aerial spraying began in 2004. Small mammals are flourishing at Uluru–Kata Tjuta after above average rainfall over the past 12 months produced the best environmental conditions since 2002. The brush-tailed mulgara, a rare species previously found only in one area of the park, has established a new population at least 15 kilometres away. Unfortunately, the good conditions also support a boom in vertebrate pest populations—foxes, rabbits and feral cats are on the increase, challenging the control methods in place.

Fauna and flora surveys are vital management tools for park staff. Traditional owners, park staff and volunteers completed the 17th annual flatback turtle survey on Kakadu's Field Island, or Gardangarl, a critical habitat for this nationally vulnerable species; numbers continue to be healthy and the population is breeding. After a 10-year hiatus, Uluru–Kata Tjuta rangers are again preparing to go bat hunting, working with a bat ecologist to develop a new survey methodology. On Christmas Island, staff from the ANBG lent their expertise to update knowledge of the island's native and invasive plants. The plant collections from their field trip are destined for Australian and international herbaria and will form the basis for a reference herbarium for Christmas Island staff.

Monitoring to quantify the health of the waterholes at the base of Uluru and to gain an improved understanding of the cause of previous frog mortality found water chemistry and heavy metal concentrations to be within the normal ranges. A further mortality event in 2012 has sparked further research via a dedicated PhD study.

We continue to confront new invasive pests and to take prompt action to try to prevent them taking hold. Argentine ants, present on Norfolk Island for some years, were detected in the Norfolk Island Botanic Garden for the first time and were hopefully contained by swift staff action. At remote Pulu Keeling National Park, a beached asylum seeker boat with reports of rats on board sparked very real fears. Pulu Keeling is an internationally significant seabird rookery and the only habitat in the world for the endangered Cocos buff-banded rail. Rats would pose a major threat by raiding nests and destroying eggs on this near pristine atoll. Thankfully, rangers have found no rats but have set up bait stations, cameras and ink tracking cards to make sure—and are pursuing a translocation project for the rail to a nearby rat-free island as an insurance policy.

On Christmas Island, biodiversity threats are managed under the guidance of the Australian Government's response to the final report of the Christmas Island Expert Working Group, released in November. A collaborative program to remove feral cats from key areas of the island is now established and targeted rat control is being planned. Captive breeding of two species of declining native reptiles is also proceeding well, both on-island and in partnership with Sydney's Taronga Zoo. Although resources remain a challenge, improvements to biosecurity procedures and better monitoring of biodiversity condition are the current focuses of further work.



*Rangers Sally Bowman, Troy Dare and Dan Carmody show off the new Australian National Botanic Gardens brand.  
Photo: Parks Australia*

## Improving infrastructure

A continuing priority for us is developing new infrastructure to support the management and appreciation of our reserves. To make boating safer and simpler, Booderee is building a short-term tie-up and loading jetty to replace the old Murray's Wharf. After nearly two years of planning and construction, the visitor centre for Norfolk Island National Park has been completed (with the fit-out scheduled for next year), and the Captain Cook Monument visitor area has been refurbished. Thanks to the hard work of Kakadu staff, we were able to open up the popular visitor sites of Twin Falls, the Yurmikmik Walks, Mamukala and Red Lily Billabong weeks earlier than usual.

## International developments

In January, Australia signed the Nagoya Protocol, an international treaty that will establish a legally binding framework for the use of genetic resources in a rapidly expanding multi-billion dollar industry. The Nagoya Protocol will help ensure researchers and companies around the world deliver benefits to Australia from their use of our genetic resources, and it will give those researchers and companies certainty by making sure the same rules apply to all, regardless of where they are in the world. Parks Australia manages Australia's globally recognised access and benefit sharing system covering Commonwealth land and waters.



We have now commenced the more detailed work needed to support a decision to ratify (and therefore fully implement) this new international legal regime. Since January, we have been consulting industry, researchers and Indigenous Australians on how the Nagoya Protocol could work in Australia.

To help our Pacific neighbours to implement the Nagoya Protocol, we have been conducting in-country workshops in Samoa and Fiji, with support from AusAID's Environment and Climate Change Program Fund. We will build on this work in November 2012 when we conduct the first-ever Oceania Biodiscovery Forum.

A particularly exciting development was the June announcement that Australia would host one of the world's most influential conservation conferences when the World Parks Congress comes to Sydney in November 2014. The congress is only held every 10 years and will bring 3,000 conservation experts to Australia. We will be partnering with the IUCN and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to host this landmark forum.

## Marine conservation

In June, the Minister released the Government's final network of marine reserves which — once proclaimed under national environmental law—will more than double the number of Commonwealth marine reserves to 60, expanding the national network to cover over a third of Commonwealth waters. The new marine reserves take the overall size of the Commonwealth marine reserves network to 3.1 million square kilometres, by far the largest representative network of marine protected areas in the world. Following a further consultation process, it is expected that the final marine reserves will be declared before the end of 2012.

## Financial matters

The Minister for the Department of Finance and Deregulation approved an operating loss of \$12.7 million for the 2011–12 financial year primarily as a result of the asset revaluation in 2010–11. The actual operating loss for 2011–12 was \$12.4 million.

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 fourth 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.

Overall entry fee revenue continued to be below budgeted projections, largely as 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 (Grants from Portfolio Agency) was lower than the previous financial year primarily due to receiving the bulk of new policy funding for asbestos removal in previous years and the impact of the efficiency dividend.

## Our people

Our achievements and the obstacles we overcome each year are directly related to the commitment and experience of our staff. We have been fortunate to have a stable management structure for the past few years which was further strengthened by the permanent appointment of Anna Morgan as Assistant Secretary for the Parks Operations and Tourism Branch.

I am unable in this review to describe all the great work undertaken by our staff over the past year. Special mention must be made, however, of the role of Mike Misso and his team at Christmas Island National Park in assisting other agencies in managing the environmental consequences of the sinking of the phosphate cargo vessel *MV Tycoon* at the island's port in January. Christmas Island is a beautiful but challenging place to work at the best of times and their efforts were superb, especially as the sinking coincided with the march of baby red crabs from the sea to the rainforest following a major breeding event. Fortunately, follow-up monitoring suggests there has been minimal impact on the island's marine environment from the sinking. Well done Mike and the team.

The departmental Australia Day awards to staff are reflective of the highly skilled and professional staff we have working in parks. An award went to Kerrie Bennison for leading and managing Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park's natural and cultural resource management team. Kerrie has been instrumental in developing natural and cultural management programs to assist in maintaining the park's World Heritage values, including building support from key academic and other stakeholders for the programs. Awards also went to Martin Fortescue for providing strong and effective leadership to the staff of Booderee National Park during a particularly challenging period and to Michael Te Velde for consistently delivering high quality business support services to the Director of National Parks, especially through significantly improved accuracy and rigour of our financial forecasts and budget outcomes.

In August the Parks Australia Forum, where our senior managers meet to discuss how to do our business better, was held at the ANBG. These meetings reinforce the relationships and structures that make our organisation strong and ensure we have a shared sense of priorities and focus for the future. The Parks Australia Science Forum and Network also enhances the use of science in our decision making, especially in relation to biodiversity and natural resource management. We are especially pleased to be making good use of the scientific expertise available via the department's National Environmental Research Program; better targeting of our efforts in weed control is an anticipated early outcome of this work.

Parks Australia and particularly Kakadu lost a great friend and leader early this year with the passing of a senior traditional owner of the Manilakarr clan, Na Godjok Nayinggul. Na Godjok, a former chair of the Kakadu Board of Management, will be remembered for his strong leadership and gentle diplomacy and wisdom as well as his generosity and sense of humour. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

After 42 years of dedication to the ANBG, plant expert, photographer and illustrator Murray Fagg has retired. His legacy includes one of Australia's biggest collections of botanical line drawings and a vast photographic library of native plants. Parks Australia will nevertheless be able to call on Murray's outstanding botanical knowledge as a volunteer and adviser to the botanic gardens with which he has had such a long association.

I cannot avoid ending this part of my overview on a sad note by recording the loss of Dot Fitzpatrick, my Executive Officer for many years and, in many ways, the heart and soul of Parks Australia. Her sudden passing has been keenly felt by her many friends and colleagues and our thoughts remain with her loving family. Dot truly will be missed by us all.

## Looking ahead

As is the case for other Commonwealth agencies, the Government's requirement for budgetary constraint, combined with the continuing impact on our revenue streams arising from the downturn in international tourism, will challenge us to find new and better ways of doing business. We will continue to review how we can provide even better experiences for our visitors and we will be striving to make even greater use of new media so that the incredible values of the places we protect are as well known to the Australian and international public as they possibly can be.

The selection of Australia as host of the World Parks Congress in November 2014 means that preparations for this landmark forum will be a major priority for 2012–13 and beyond. The congress will be an unparalleled opportunity to showcase Australia's superb network of protected areas and we will be working hard with our state and territory colleagues and stakeholders to ensure the congress is a worthy addition to Australia's proud track record in hosting international events.

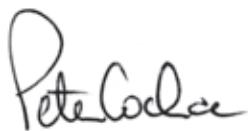


## Certification

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, constitute 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  
11 October 2012



*Peter Cochrane plants the first tree, a native wattle—Acacia elongata—as part of a stunning redeveloped entrance to the Sydney sandstone gully at the Australian National Botanic Gardens Photo: Parks Australia*





## 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

Protecting unique island ecosystems

*Case study: Tackling a feral killer*

Conserving Australia's biodiversity through a National Reserve System

Indigenous Protected Areas as at 30 June 2012

*Case study: Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area*

Protecting the marine environment

Understanding and studying Australia's biodiversity

*Case Study: Discovering what's out there on Skullbone Plains*

*Case study: Working with our Pacific neighbours*

Developing Australia's National Landscapes Program

*Case study: Great Barrier Reef National Landscape*

← The little penguin provides one of Booderee National Park's great wildlife experiences. Booderee's little penguins generally forage in the bays close to shore, from dawn to an hour before dusk. After feeding, the little penguins remain offshore in a tight group until dusk, when they come ashore and head to their burrows on Bowen Island. Photo: Liz Lawley

## The Minister

During 2011–12 the Hon Tony Burke MP continued as the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, with responsibility for the Director of National Parks.

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* (EPBC Act); approving management plans for Commonwealth reserves; establishing and appointing members to boards of management for Commonwealth reserves jointly managed with Aboriginal owners; resolving disputes between the Director and boards of management; and approving Commonwealth reserve use fees and other charges.

During 2011–12 the Minister visited Uluṟu–Kata Tjuṯa and Kakadu national parks and met with traditional owners and park staff. In December 2011 the Minister joined traditional owners and conservation groups on the banks of the Daly River in the Northern Territory to celebrate the Fish River Conservation Project.

The Minister approved a new management plan for the Australian National Botanic Gardens in May 2012.



Environment Minister Tony Burke with from left Sam Storer, Kerrie Bennison and Ben Thornton on the lookout at the end of the Walpa Gorge Walk in Uluṟu–Kata Tjuṯa National Park. Photo: Parks Australia

# 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 directions or General Policy Orders were issued to the Director in 2011–12.

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 2012 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 the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Conservation Zone) declared under the EPBC Act were the responsibility of the Director.

Terrestrial reserves are managed by staff of Parks Australia. In 2011–12, under delegation from the Director, staff of the department's Australian Antarctic Division managed the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve. 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 that 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 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 \$12.4 million operating loss was recorded for 2011–12 as a result of the asset revaluation in 2010-11 which increased depreciation expenses across the organisation. The Director of National Parks has received approval from the Minister for the Department of Finance and Deregulation for this operating loss, along with further deficits forecast over the next three financial years.

Overall, for 2011–12 income and expenditure were both on budget, with a variance of less than 1 per cent against budget for both categories. 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 2011–12.

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 2011–12**

Business area	Income	Expenses
Jointly managed parks	Down \$0.247 million due to lower than budgeted entry fees at Kakadu (KNP), Uluru and Booderee, partially offset by land recognised as an asset for the first time at KNP.	Up \$1.401 million due to overspends in depreciation, employee expenses and property lease payments in all three jointly managed parks. In addition, each of the jointly managed parks recorded losses on the sale of assets that exceeded original budgets.
Other parks and reserves	Down \$0.275 million due predominately to the carryover of unearned revenue at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) and Christmas Island National Park (CI).	Down \$0.837 million due to underspends on the Yellow Crazy Ants project and mining rehabilitation work at CI. These underspends are partially offset by overspends in employee expenses at ANBG, CI and Norfolk Island National Park.
Governance, corporate services and executive	Up \$0.346 million due to interest earned on retained revenues.	Down \$0.342 million as a result of various minor underspends across the corporate areas.

**Table 2: Overview of financial results 2011–12**

		2011 Actuals \$000s	2012 Actuals \$000s	2012 Budget \$000s	2012 Variance \$000s
Jointly managed parks <sup>(a)</sup>	Income	49,646	35,999	36,246	(247)
	Expenses	(38,185)	(47,831)	(46,430)	(1,401)
	Surplus/(Deficit)	11,461	(11,832)	(10,184)	(1,648)
Other terrestrial parks and reserves <sup>(b)</sup>	Income	17,425	15,837	16,112	(275)
	Expenses	(16,458)	(16,379)	(17,216)	837
	Surplus/(Deficit)	967	(542)	(1,104)	562
<b>Total for terrestrial parks and reserves</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>67,071</b>	<b>51,836</b>	<b>52,358</b>	<b>(522)</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>(54,643)</b>	<b>(64,210)</b>	<b>(63,646)</b>	<b>(564)</b>
	<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>12,428</b>	<b>(12,374)</b>	<b>(11,288)</b>	<b>(1,086)</b>
Governance, corporate services and executive <sup>(c)</sup>	Income	16,280	10,418	10,073	346
	Expenses	(12,051)	(10,477)	(10,819)	342
	Surplus/(Deficit)	4,229	(58)	(746)	688
<b>Total for Director of National Parks</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>83,351</b>	<b>62,254</b>	<b>62,431</b>	<b>(176)</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>(66,694)</b>	<b>(74,687)</b>	<b>(74,465)</b>	<b>(222)</b>
	<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>16,657</b>	<b>(12,433)</b>	<b>(12,034)</b>	<b>(398)</b>

(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**

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
<b>Number of staff (full-time equivalent)</b>					
Management of terrestrial reserves	274.0	293.0	290	281.4	261
Management of marine reserves	16.3	16	15	13.7	18.2
<b>Area of Commonwealth reserves (hectares)</b>					
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)	49,844,075 (26)	49,844,075 (26)	49,844,075 (26)	49,844,075 (26)	49,844,075 (26)
<b>Visitors to Commonwealth terrestrial reserves</b>					
Number of visitors	1,466,560	1,410,021	1,445,381	1,368,868	1,364,714
<b>Safety incidents recorded (including staff and visitors etc.)</b>					
Minor injury or near miss	141	101	126	126	171
Moderate injury	63	52	41	54	37
Major injury	6	8	20	25	6
Death	1	4	2	4	2
<b>Compliance and enforcement— Commonwealth terrestrial reserves</b>					
EPBC Act incidents detected	197	126	203	105	125
Warnings and cautions issued	131	56	147	58	62
Infringement notices issued	59	20	38	42	87
Cases taken to court	3	0	2	1	0
Court convictions	3	1	0	0	0
Court cases pending at year end	2	1	2	0	0
<b>Financial summary— Commonwealth terrestrial reserves (\$ millions)</b>					
<b>Operations</b>					
Total operating expenditure <sup>(a)(b)</sup>	62.05	61.25	58.88	54.64	64.21
Total operating revenue <sup>(b)</sup>	63.03	62.63	59.04	67.07	51.83
<b>Financial position<sup>(c)</sup></b>					
Current assets	28.50	29.30	41.67	44.91	45.35
Non-current assets	149.33	149.48	151.54	219.73	208.12
Current liabilities	9.77	10.90	17.80	12.17	13.30
Non-current liabilities	0.64	0.50	0.54	0.59	0.73
Total equity	167.42	167.38	174.87	251.87	239.44
<b>Financial summary—Commonwealth marine reserves (\$ millions)</b>					
Total operating expenditure	4.51	4.55	2.80	3.51	3.32
Total operating revenue	4.51	4.55	2.80	3.51	3.32

(a) Includes the management contract for Calperum and Taylorville Stations which are not Commonwealth reserves.

Excludes governance, corporate services, marine reserves and executive, which can be found in table 2.

(b) Includes revenue from all sources including grants from portfolio agency and externally raised revenue.

(c) Changes in accounting policy had prior year impacts.

Table 4: Overview of individual reserves in 2011–12

Reserve name	Area (hectares)	Year declared	IUCN category <sup>(a)</sup>	Operating cost (\$000s)	Capital expenditure <sup>(d)</sup> (\$000s)	External revenue <sup>(b)</sup> (\$000s)	Payment to traditional owners (\$000s)
<b>Jointly managed national parks</b>							
Booderee National Park	6,379	1992	II	7,313	959	1,243	555
Kakadu National Park	1,979,767	1979	II	24,048	2,091	2,839	1,715
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	132,566	1977	II	16,470	239	6,495	1,813
<b>Other Commonwealth terrestrial reserves</b>							
Australian National Botanic Gardens	85	1991	IV	10,334	1,056	950	
Christmas Island National Park	8,719	1980	II	3,963	506	2,000	
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	656	1986	II	1,070	375	19	
Pulu Keeling National Park	2,602	1995	II	557	0	56	
<b>Commonwealth marine reserves<sup>(d)</sup></b>							
Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve	58,337	1983	la	378.6	North-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network		
Cartier Island Marine Reserve	17,238	2000	la				
Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve	53,987	1991	la				
Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	243,513	1987	II	37.8	Coral Sea Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network		
Coringa–Herald National Nature Reserve	885,249	1982	la				
Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve	843,670	1982	la				
Cod Grounds Commonwealth Marine Reserve	314	2007	la	295.9	Temperate East Commonwealth Reserves Network		
Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve	187,726	1987	la				
Lord Howe Island Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	300,287	2000	IV				
Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters)	15,233	1993	VI	113.7	South-west Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network		
Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)	1,937,162	1998	VI				
South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserve Network (inc Macquarie Island)	38,845,800	2007	1a, II, IV, VI				
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve	6,465,845	2002	la	91.0			

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

(b) External revenue represents total revenue from the income statement less grants from portfolio agency and assets recognised for the first time.

(c) Operating costs include relevant annual business agreement, aerial surveillance and incident management. This excludes services provided by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. Additionally, costs incurred across all reserves that are not attributable by region amount to \$2,243,490 for salaries and service provision.

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



# 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 surrounded by, but excluded from, Kakadu National Park—as part of the Kakadu World Heritage Area. The process to incorporate Koongarra into the park to ensure it has full protection under the EPBC Act has commenced.

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park is the physical and metaphoric heart of Australia. A key part of Australia's iconic Red Centre, this living cultural landscape is a world-class visitor destination and, along with Kakadu, was one of the first areas identified in the National Landscape Program. Parks Australia works with the Anangu traditional owners to protect, conserve and document the cultural and natural heritage of the park using *Tjukurpa* (traditional law and culture) as a guiding influence. Located in the Greater Sandy Desert bioregion, which includes parts of the Northern Territory and Western Australia, the park 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 rare and endemic species.

Booderee National Park at Jervis Bay is of great significance to its traditional owners, the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community, who are increasingly involved through a unique and evolving joint management model in running and servicing the park. Jervis Bay is one of the major biogeographic nodes in Australia and contains a variety of relatively undisturbed marine and terrestrial habitats. The park protects most of the 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 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 2011–12, can be found in the *State of the Parks* report at [www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12).

## 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 Australian Government's response to the recommendations of the final report of the Christmas Island Expert Working Group, first established in response to the dramatic decline of the endemic pipistrelle bat, was released in November 2011. The response provides the basis for a more integrated approach to tackling pressures on the island's biodiversity; the collaborative effort on feral cat control that is currently underway provides a great example (see case study page 22). While resources remain a challenge, improvements to biosecurity procedures and better monitoring of biodiversity conditions are the focus of further work. Although the pipistrelle bat is now presumed extinct, the Working Group's recommendations are helping shape effective measures to stem further decline in the island's unique biodiversity.

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 2011–12, can be found in the *State of the Parks* report at [www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12).

## Tackling a feral killer

Parks Australia has been working hard with stakeholders to tackle one of the threats on Christmas Island—feral cats.

Feral cats threaten several island animals including native reptiles, the flying fox, forest birds like the emerald dove and ground nesting seabirds, particularly the red-tailed tropicbird. Chick mortality rates at the tropicbird's Settlement nesting colony have been almost 100 per cent over recent years—mostly due to predation by cats.

In 2010 the Christmas Island Expert Working Group, tasked by the Minister to look into the decline of native species on the island, identified cat predation as a key threat. The Working Group recommended feral cats should be eradicated.

To do this effectively, a partnership approach was needed that looked at the whole island, rather than just within the park's boundaries. Parks Australia and the Shire of Christmas Island initiated this partnership, bringing in all of the island's major agencies including the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport, Phosphate Resources Limited, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation. The support of community members was also essential and, when the Shire introduced new laws requiring pet cats to be registered and de-sexed, actions by responsible cat owners led to de-sexing of more than 150 cats.

In mid-2011 Parks Australia supported the Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation to start a program to control feral cats in the island's settled areas. Over the next year the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport funded the shire to continue the program. Parks Australia, Phosphate Resources Limited and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship provided in-kind or logistical support to the program including vehicle and equipment use, cat traps and accommodation for cat control teams.

The results are now in. Around 300 feral cats have been removed and the nesting success of red-tailed tropicbirds at the Settlement nesting colony has already improved. Planning has now commenced for an island-wide feral cat eradication and rat control program, because removal of cats will have an impact on rat numbers.

The success so far of the Christmas Island feral cat control program highlights both the need to work in partnership with key stakeholders across the island and the value of those relationships. Ongoing community support is also crucial to its success.

## 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 2011–12 the Australian Government contributed nearly \$26.4 million towards the purchase of 11 properties covering approximately 233,525 hectares, plus \$1.49 million to accelerate the registration of permanent conservation covenants over private lands.

Land purchases supported this year included Eight Mile, a 13,579 hectare property in north-central Queensland. The property contains habitat for eight nationally listed threatened species, including the endangered northern quoll and Gouldian finch, and the vulnerable freshwater sawfish. Eight Mile also protects important wetlands associated with the Gilbert River and its tributaries and, through its connection to the Gilbert River and Rungulla protected areas and the Great Artesian Basin Rim state-wide corridor, provides an important climatic refuge and enhances habitat continuity. The property shares its entire western boundary with the Gilbert and Rungulla protected area node, increasing the overall protected area to more than 130,000 hectares.

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.

Seven new Indigenous Protected Areas, totalling almost 10.3 million hectares, were declared in 2011–12. The declaration in June 2012 of the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area, covering 10.158 million hectares of the Tanami Desert and the Great Sandy Desert in the Northern Territory, made it the largest terrestrial protected area in Australia. It provides habitat for an extremely diverse reptile fauna and threatened animals such as the iconic bilby, the great desert skink and the brush-tailed mulgara (see case study page 24).

Outputs of the National Reserve System and Indigenous Protected Area programs, including performance results for 2011–12, are reported in the department's annual report.





*Yinapaka (Lake Surprise) an area of high cultural and biological significance. Photo: Central Land Council*

## Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area

Over the past 15 years Indigenous Protected Areas have become one of Australia's most important conservation success stories.

As at June 2012 there are 51 Indigenous Protected Areas, protecting more than 36 million hectares, from Tasmania's wind-swept islands to the Top End of the Northern Territory, from the remote and spectacular Kimberley coastline to the heartland of New South Wales.

Indigenous Protected Areas conserve both natural and cultural values. Traditional owners voluntarily choose to dedicate an IPA over their own country. An IPA recognises the crucial role Indigenous people play in Australia's land management both past and present.

This year the Warlpiri people chose to dedicate the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area after several years of careful consultation and planning. At 10.16 million hectares, this is Australia's largest ever terrestrial protected area and creates a major link in the Trans-Australia Eco-link—a globally significant wildlife corridor stretching 3,500 kilometres from Arnhem Land to the Great Australian Bight. Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area is about the same size as Hungary or Portugal.

One of the IPA's co-ordinating council members Lottie Napangardi Williams-Robertson explained why the IPA was so important.

"This whole country is really important to us, because this is our land, our life, our law. This is where we get our culture from, what our grandfathers passed down to us from generation to generation," she said.

"We need to be able to look after our country very well because that is where our ancestral spirit people are still living today and we respect that.

"The IPA is a really good thing because they (the rangers) are working very hard to keep our country strong, you know so that we can have more animals come back, even those ones that are beginning to start to look like they have been fading away."

The Warlpiri rangers and traditional owners are controlling weeds and feral pests and surveying native wildlife. Combining Indigenous knowledge and contemporary science to look after country, there is an emphasis on younger people learning from elders and scientists.

Warlpiri ranger Preston Jamakarra Kelly said this two-way learning, called both-way learning locally, worked well.

“We learn from our old people, and learn from *kardiyas* (non-Indigenous people) that come out and teach us about what time to burn, and we learn from old people too. The IPA is for Aboriginal people and like something for us, for a lot of us, we can work both way—*kardiya* way and *yapa* (Warlpiri speaking person) way to look after the area,” he said.

Senior Warlpiri ranger Madeleine Napangardi Dixon also said inter-generational learning was a key part of the rangers work.

“For me as a ranger coming out bush with some of the other rangers we just feel really good, you know just going out, being on country, trying to look after those endangered animals, get rid of the ferals and look after the waterholes,” she said.

“When we go out on bush trips, those activities we do out bush, maybe show it to the little ones. If the little ones grow up, they’ll show it to others. So they can maybe be interested in our jobs that we are doing now.”

Lottie Napangardi Williams-Robertson said the community was grateful to the young rangers who worked so hard.

“We are very proud for our young people, because they are doing the job out there for us, looking after our country, we can see that they are doing a very good job.”

The Australian Government is providing \$1.6 million over the next two years to support the Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area and its Working on Country rangers. Not only is this helping the environment, it will provide jobs on country, leading to better health and social outcomes for these desert communities.

Like all Indigenous Protected Areas, the Southern Tanami is a story of partnerships including Parks Australia and departmental staff, the Warlpiri rangers and the Central Land Council. International philanthropic organisation The Nature Conservancy also generously invested \$500,000 to help establish and manage the Southern Tanami IPA.

Parks Australia staff co-ordinate the Indigenous Protected Areas program on behalf of the Australian Government.

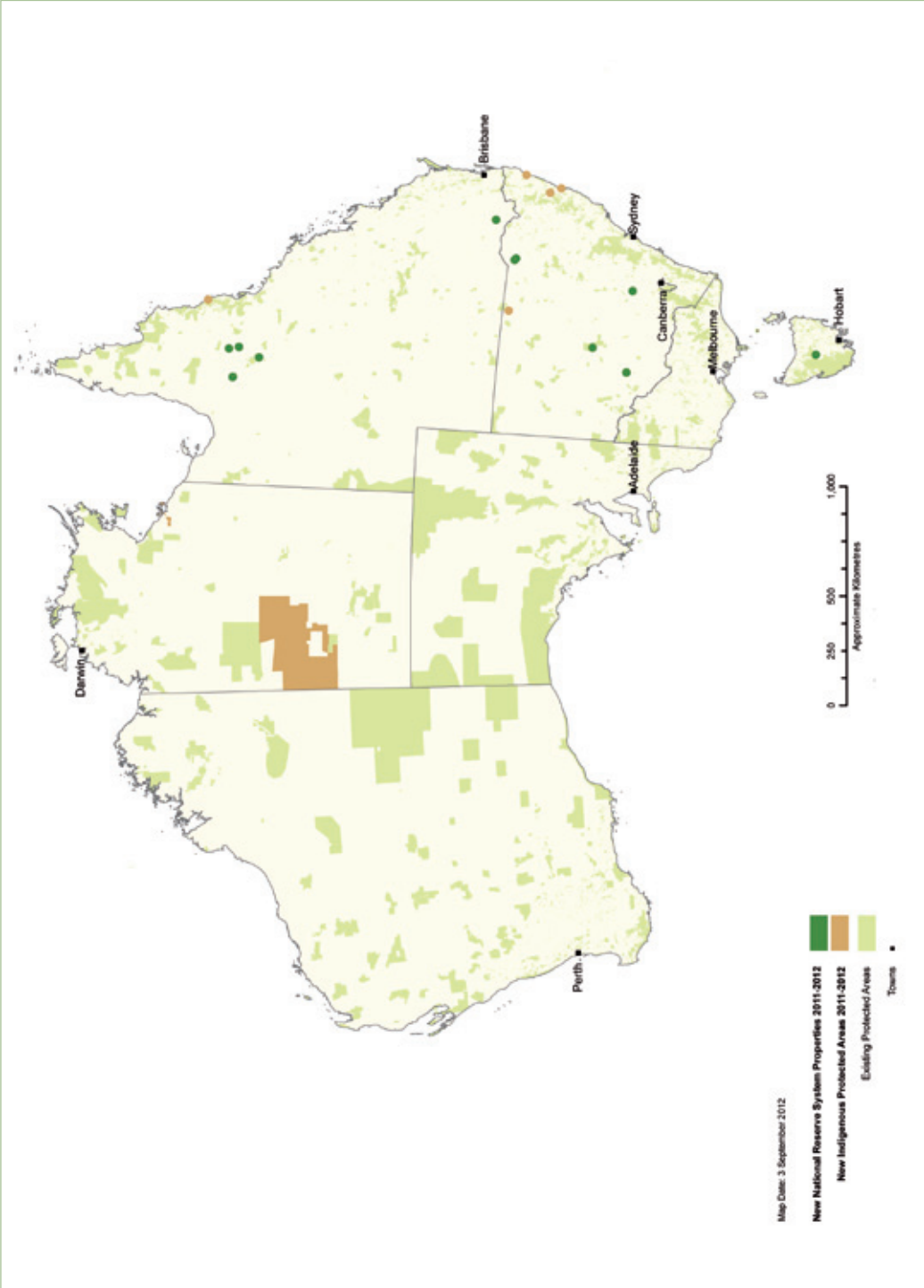


Clarke Martin with bilby.  
Photo: Central Land Council

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 2011–12, can be found in the *State of the Parks* report at [www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12).

Figure 2: Acquisitions under the National Reserve System program and declared Indigenous Protected Areas as at 30 June 2012



## 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 around 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. These 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 reserves are managed by the Marine Division under delegation from the Director.

Two conservation zones have been declared in Australia's oceans and are being assessed for possible inclusion in the national marine reserves network. 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 approximately 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 2011–12, can be found in the *State of the Parks* report at [www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12).

### Marine bioregional planning

Australia's Marine Bioregional Planning Program is improving the way our oceans are managed to ensure that we can continue to use and enjoy them into the future. The marine bioregional planning process is targeted at Commonwealth waters which start at the edge of state and territory waters (usually three nautical miles from the coast) and extend to the outer limits of Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), some 200 nautical miles from shore.

Marine Bioregional Plans are being developed for the South-west, North-west, North and Temperate East marine regions. Marine Bioregional Plans will help improve the way decisions are made under the EPBC Act, particularly in relation to the protection of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of our oceans and their resources by marine-based industries.

New Commonwealth marine reserves networks in the South-west, North-west, North and Temperate East marine regions and the Coral Sea have also been developed as part of the marine bioregional planning process. These Commonwealth marine reserves networks will play an important role in the long-term conservation of marine ecosystems and the biodiversity of our oceans. They will also meet the international and national commitments Australia has made to establish a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas by 2012.



More information on the Marine Bioregional Planning Program is available at:  
<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/index.html>.

## 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 also provides a diverse range of education and public programs to raise awareness of the value of Australia's unique flora.

Norfolk Island Botanic Garden maintains a living and herbarium collection of Norfolk Island's flora and contributes to raising awareness 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 2011–12, can be found in the *State of the Parks* report at [www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12).

### 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.

The Australian Biological Resources Study collects and disseminates information on plants, animals and other organisms found in Australia. Its range of taxonomic work and databases provides authoritative national references for species' names. The program funds research and training in taxonomy through the National Taxonomy Research Grant Program—the only ongoing source of funding for taxonomic research in Australia. Accurate naming of species and understanding their relationships is critical for biodiversity conservation, biosecurity and a range of industry uses such as agriculture, horticulture and forestry.

The Australian Biological Resources Study also provides overall project management for the exciting Bush Blitz project that, in its third year, undertook five biodiversity discovery expeditions in Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. The survey results will contribute significantly to knowledge of biodiversity in the National Reserve System and help managers to develop adaptive management strategies (see case study this page).

Outputs of the Australian Biological Resources Study, including performance results for 2011–12, are reported in the department's annual report.

### Discovering what's out there on Skullbone Plains

A little bit of Tasmanian wilderness will be growing in the nation's capital following a five-day Bush Blitz expedition to Skullbone Plains in January.

More than 20 biodiversity scientists from all over Australia took part in the Bush Blitz which netted an outstanding 550 or so species of plants and animals from the 1,650 hectare central highlands property which adjoins Tasmania's World Heritage Wilderness Area.

Bush Blitz is a world-first continental biodiversity discovery program between the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative, BHP Billiton and Earthwatch Australia aimed at finding new species and documenting the plants and animals across Australia's National Reserve System.

Bush Blitz's biodiversity finds from Skullbone Plains included 40 moth species, about 60 different spiders, between 120 and 150 species of lichen and some 70 species of mosses and liverworts. The scientists suspect that up to 12 spider species and another five species of lichen are likely to be new to science, including one genus of lichen never previously found in the southern hemisphere.

The Bush Blitz scientific team included staff from the Australian National Botanic Gardens who collected live specimens from over 60 iconic species of Tasmanian plants found on Skullbone Plains.

Bush Blitz manager Jo Harding said the plants would be added to the Tasmanian section of the Botanic Gardens once the cuttings are ready in about 12 to 18 months. "These plants are a beautiful addition to the Gardens and preserve living examples of many species. They are also a living scientific collection." Ms Harding said.



*Botanist with the Tasmanian Herbarium Lyn Cave collects mosses and liverworts on Skullbone Plains. Photo: Miguel De Salas*



*Moss beds on Skullbone Plains. Photo: Tasmanian Land Conservancy*

“These records along with the other results from this Bush Blitz will be added to records of museum, herbariums, universities and other scientific institutions throughout Australia—increasing our knowledge of Australia’s amazing biodiversity and providing critical information that will be used to help manage our protected areas for future generations.”

In recognition of its outstanding natural values, the evocatively-named Skullbone Plains was last year purchased for conservation by the Tasmanian Land Conservancy with funding support by the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country initiative and private donations from the Australian community.

This stunning property’s diverse habitats—open valleys, old-growth forests, woodlands, wetlands, bogs, moorlands, heathfields and grasslands—are now protected forever as part of the National Reserve System.

Soon visitors to Australia’s capital will be able to see a little piece of Tassie’s hauntingly beautiful Skullbone Plains at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra.

## 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. Queensland and the Northern Territory, along with the Australian Government, have enacted measures to implement a nationally consistent approach to access and benefit sharing, with other jurisdictions working towards that goal.

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. Australia signed the Nagoya Protocol on 20 January 2012 and consultation has commenced to develop the government's approach to ratification. 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 arising from the use of genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge (see case study this page).

Outputs of the program to manage access to genetic resources, including performance results for 2011–12, are reported in the department's annual report.

### Providing national leadership

During 2011–12 Parks Australia served as the national focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Director of National Parks was 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, continued to work 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.

### Working with our Pacific neighbours

Parks Australia's Protected Areas Policy and Biodiscovery director Ben Phillips has been helping Pacific Island countries realise the benefits of the Nagoya Protocol.

Genetic resources from plants, animals and microorganisms are increasingly valuable. The development of specialty enzymes, enhanced genes or other molecules can be used in many areas including crop protection, drug development, the production of specialised chemicals or in industrial processing.

The Nagoya Protocol (on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing) has been agreed, within the Convention on Biological Diversity, to build an international framework supporting benefit-sharing agreements between the owners of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with them, and the users of those resources.

Through the Nagoya Protocol new international standards are being set for biodiversity-based research and development, supporting stronger and more ethical relationships and practices between Indigenous communities, researchers and biodiscovery industries. Australia signed the Nagoya Protocol in January 2012.



*Parks Australia's Mark Taylor talking to Nualuga Tavita from Samoa during a field trip as part of the Pacific Access and Benefit Sharing Workshop. Photo: Parks Australia*

AusAID provided funds for Parks Australia to run Nagoya Protocol workshops in Samoa and Fiji to share, with representatives from countries across the South Pacific, Australia's experience building a best-practice access and benefit sharing regime for our genetic resources.

The workshops were the first activities of a new collaboration with an international multi-donor, ABS Capacity Building Development Initiative, and delivered by the German aid agency, GIZ. Further workshops and in-country assistance are planned to help the region develop the strong relationships that produce benefits for researchers and the custodians of biodiversity alike.

The workshops have played an important role in supporting our neighbours to develop their own access and benefit legislation so they too can benefit from the use of their biodiversity assets.

"My boss Mark Taylor and I came across a great example of a successful benefit-sharing partnership on the north-west tip of Savai'i in Samoa, where a US biomedical researcher found a local plant with potential for use as a new HIV/AIDS medicine," Ben said.

"In return for local knowledge of the plant, and access to a rainforest where it grows, the researcher and his contacts have helped the village of Falealupo build a school, put a 50-year conservation covenant on the rainforest and construct a canopy walkway that generates income from sustainable tourism.

"It's a fantastic walk and visitors can camp along the walkway high above the forest if they want to. It's now featured in Lonely Planet."

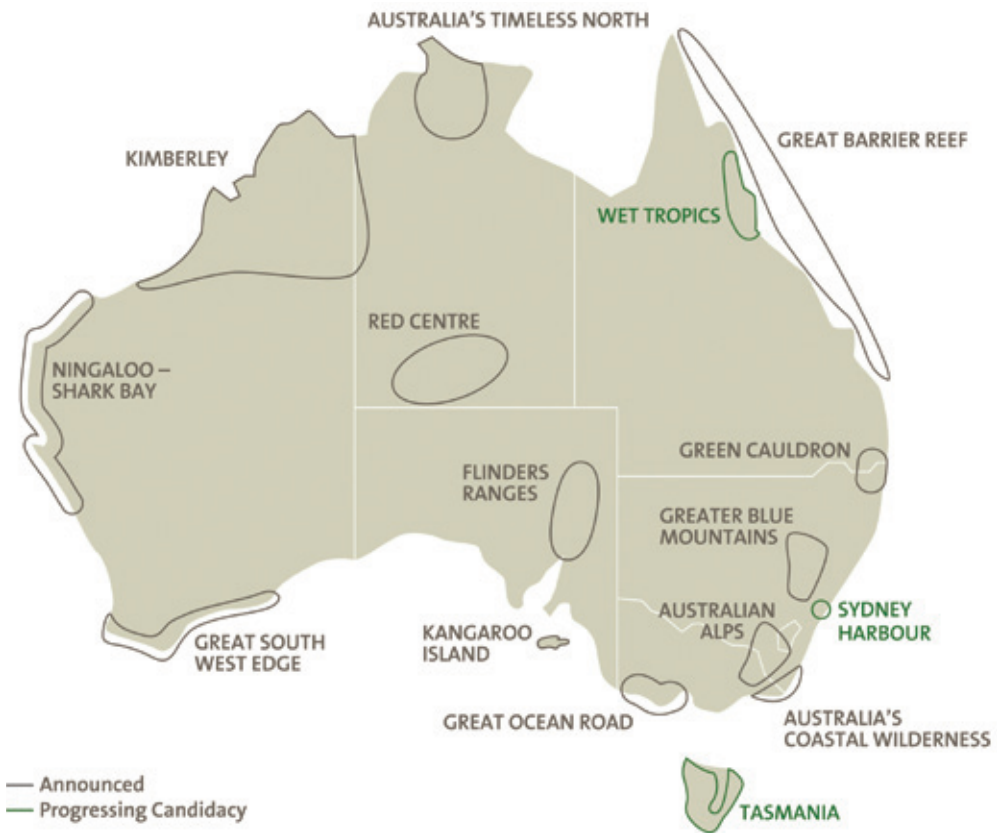
For more about the Nagoya Protocol and Australia's role visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/science/access/biological-diversity.html>

## Developing Australia's National Landscapes Program

Australia's National Landscapes Program is a dynamic and ground-breaking initiative. Since 2005, the partnership between Tourism Australia and Parks Australia has been actively working to identify and differentiate Australia's iconic natural and cultural destinations and to improve the quality of visitor experiences in those regions. Fundamental to the program is the goal of enhancing tourism and conservation outcomes.

This year has seen the program expand to 13 national landscapes with ministerial launches for the Great South West Edge, Ningaloo–Shark Bay and Great Barrier Reef national landscapes (see case study page 35). Three potential national landscapes are advancing their candidacy.

**Figure 3: National landscapes of Australia as at 30 June 2012**





Significant progress has been made in establishing and marketing the suite of national landscapes, delivering and implementing visitor experience development strategies, building networks and partnerships and creating tools to assist stakeholders. National landscapes philosophy, content or priorities are increasingly embedded in the work of state and territory partner agencies in Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland. Networks developed at regional, state and national levels have provided the impetus and opportunity to identify new partnerships and new tourism enterprise opportunities and to explore ways to increase awareness of existing conservation activities amongst the tourism industry and the wider community.

The year ahead will see the delivery of visitor experience development strategies in all national landscapes, supported by the Australia's National Landscapes Strategic Tourism Investment Grant Project, a \$1 million grant administered by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. Further areas of focus will include inspiring the tourism industry to assist with conservation initiatives in a way that enhances the visitor's experience as well as the environment and strengthening steering committees to improve their regional connections and resilience.

## Great Barrier Reef National Landscape

The Great Barrier Reef has long been at the forefront of ecotourism. In 2012, the Reef was further recognised for its outstanding natural values and world class tourism product by becoming the central part of Australia's 13th National Landscape. The Great Barrier Reef National Landscape extends beyond World Heritage boundaries to include mainland gateway towns and access points.

The Great Barrier Reef National Landscape is a rich tapestry of coral reefs, islands and cays, which stretches for more than 2,300 kilometres from Lady Elliot Island off Bundaberg to beyond Cape York at the tip of north-eastern Australia. This intricate living environment of extraordinary marine diversity is the world's largest coral reef system, so large that it can be seen from space. Along the coastline lie some of Queensland's most important regional cities such as Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.

The National Landscapes program identifies 'the best of nature' in Australia, helping tourism operators focus on what experiences they can offer visitors to profile Australia's culture, environment and wildlife. The program is led by a partnership between Parks Australia and Tourism Australia.

Chris Briggs of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority heads up the region's Great Barrier Reef National Landscape Steering Committee.

"The National Landscapes program has prompted us to think carefully about what makes this spectacular place unique and how to reflect that at every visitor touch point," he said.

To get to this stage, tourism and conservation players from across the region have developed a positioning statement that articulates the Reef's unique point of difference

globally. They are now working on an Experience Development Strategy, which will identify future opportunities for tourism and conservation to work together and ways to fill product and infrastructure gaps. The strategy will also set out environmental management priorities and future marketing plans.

Like many in the Reef community, Chris is excited about what's next.

"We have an incredible natural asset in the Reef, and we need to keep innovating and evolving to meet the increasingly sophisticated expectations of today's visitors," he said.

"The people who live and work up here are passionate about the Reef and we want to share that enthusiasm with the world, so visitors go home itching to return, tell others about their experiences and wanting to protect this beautiful part of the world.

"Our job now is to get back to what we do best—helping people see beneath the surface and experience this amazing underwater world."

For more information visit [www.tourism.australia.com/nl](http://www.tourism.australia.com/nl)



*The Great Barrier Reef provides some of the best snorkelling, diving and marine wildlife encounters in the world.  
Photo: Tourism Australia*





*Gunlom Falls: The jewel in the crown of Australia's Timeless North National Landscape is Kakadu National Park, an ageless living natural and cultural landscape so vast that it is divided into seven distinct regions and has six separate seasons. Photo: Parks Australia*







## 3 Organisational structure

### **The executive team**

Senior management team

### **Staffing overview**

### **Boards of management**

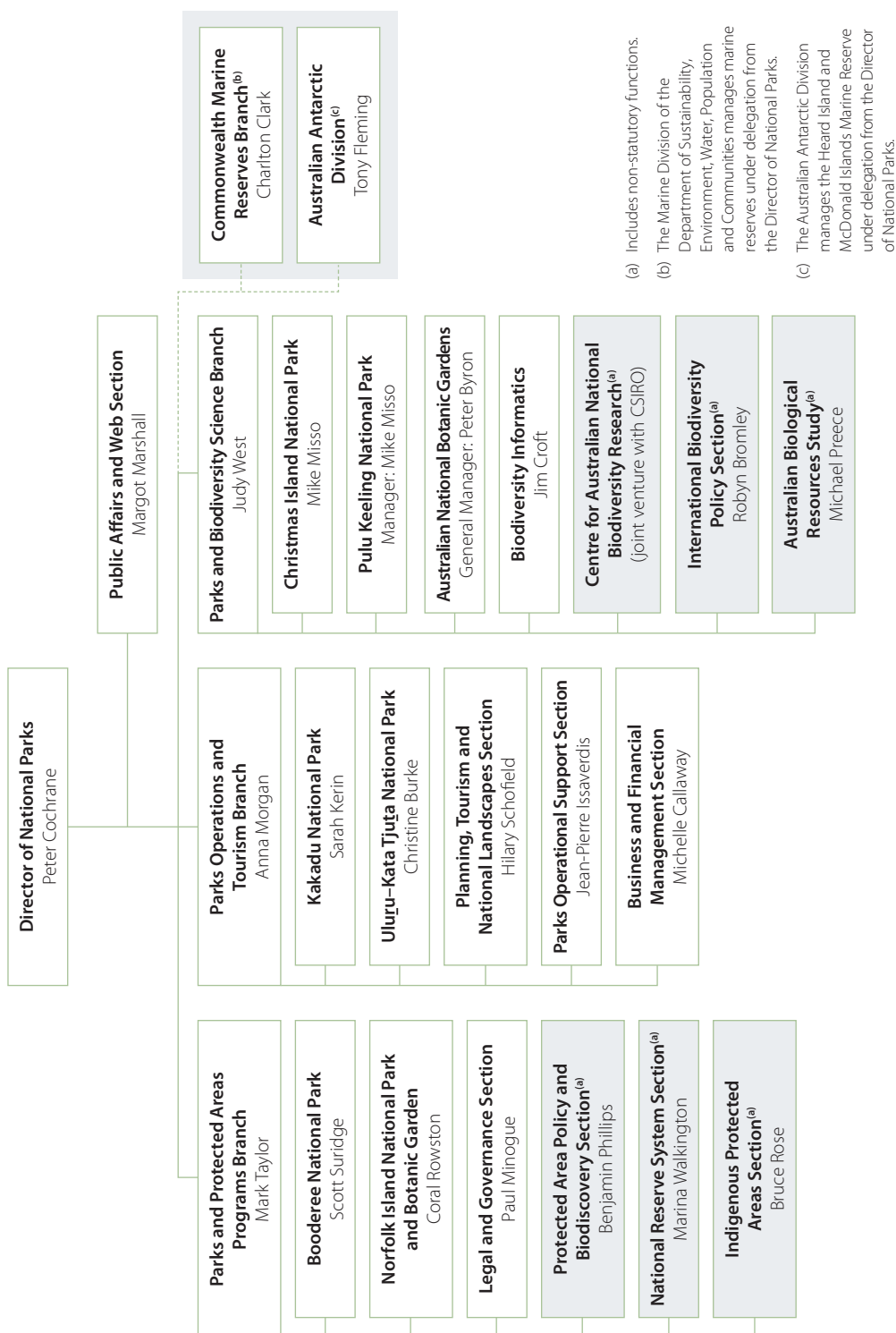
Booderee National Park

Kakadu National Park

Uluru–Kata Tjuṯa National Park

← Norfolk Island ranger Vanessa Lipianin shares some tree planting tricks with young volunteers Aidan and Oliver. Volunteers have helped Norfolk Island staff plant more than 1,000 trees in the past year.  
Photo: Parks Australia.

Figure 4: Parks Australia organisational chart as at 30 June 2012





## 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. His 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 the Australian National Herbarium. She holds an adjunct professorial position at the Australian National University and for her contributions to

Australian plant systematics 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

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 and the Indigenous Protected Areas program and has provided secretariat support to departmental Indigenous advisory committees. Prior to her current role, Anna was involved in the development of the national Working on Country program and led the development of the Northern Territory Working on Country Program and the implementation of the Australian and Northern Territory governments' bilateral agreement—Healthy Country, Healthy People. Anna has a Bachelor of Arts degree 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, Commonwealth Marine Reserves Branch

Charlton has responsibility for the creation and effective management of the national network of Commonwealth Marine Reserves representative of Australia's marine environment, delegated to the Marine Division by the Director of National Parks. Before commencing this 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 before joining the department Charlton spent 10 years in a variety of logistics operations and management roles in the Australian Army, both domestically and through international deployments. 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 2011–12.

As at 30 June 2012 the Director of National Parks employed 261 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 and Kakadu national parks each have a specified Indigenous trainee ranger position. Kakadu and Booderee national parks each

employ 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 11.5 community rangers in park related employment.

**Table 5: Staffing (full- and part-time) profile at 30 June 2012**

		APS 1-3	APS 4	APS 5	APS 6	EL1	Park managers, Section heads	Technical, Legal, Public Affairs	SES	Total
<b>Canberra (incl. ANBG)</b>	Male	10	8	2	10	12	2	2	2	48
	Female	11	8	9	16	10	2	5	1	62
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Booderee</b>	Male	6	5	3	2	2	1			19
	Female	1	4	1	1	3	1			11
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Christmas Island</b>	Male	11	1	4	1	1	0	0	0	18
	Female	4	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Darwin Office</b>	Male	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	5
	Female	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Kakadu</b>	Male	20	6	8	2	3	0	0	0	39
	Female	13	5	3	5	3	1	0	0	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Norfolk Island</b>	Male	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Female	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pulu Keeling</b>	Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Female	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Uluru-Kata Tjuta</b>	Male	8	4	5		2	0	0	0	19
	Female	11	6	5	1	2	1	0	0	26
	<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>99</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>298</b>

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

## 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 the members of each board at 30 June 2012.

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



**Craig Ardler**

Chair, Booderee National Park Board of Management

Craig has worked in management, policy and community development with several organisations in the south coast region. He is the current CEO for South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation. Craig has been employed at Booderee National Park as a Legal and Education Officer and Contracts and Facilities (Management) Officer. Craig has also

worked for the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council (WBACC) as the Policy and Liaison Manager and has a building and construction background.

#### Board Positions

- Current Chairman of the Booderee National Park Board of Management
- Current Chairman of the WBACC Board (elected October 2010)
- Current Director on the NSW Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council
- Elected to WBACC Executive on a number of occasions since 1989
- Previous member of WBACC Audit Committee
- Deputy Chairman of WBACC from October 2008 to October 2010
- Previous ATSIC Regional Councillor

**Table 6: Booderee National Park Board of Management**

Chair	Mr Craig Ardler (traditional owner nominee)
Members	Mr Joseph Brown (traditional owner nominee) Mr James McKenzie (traditional owner nominee) Ms Julie Freeman (traditional owner nominee) Mr Clive Freeman (traditional owner nominee) Ms Annette Brown (traditional owner nominee) Mr Darren Sturgeon (traditional owner nominee) Captain Brett Chandler (Commanding Officer HMAS <i>Creswell</i> ) Ms Sheryl Klaffer (Regional Australia) Dr Todd Minchinton (conservation science expert) Associate Professor Robyn Bushell (ecotourism expert) Mr Peter Cochrane (Director of National Parks)



# Kakadu National Park



## Ryan Baruwei

Chair, Kakadu National Park Board of Management.

Ryan Baruwei has been actively involved with the Kakadu National Park Board of Management since 2008. Ryan is a senior traditional owner of the Wurkbabar clan, which is one of the three clans of the Jawoyn people covering the Gunlom land trust area in the southern part of Kakadu. Ryan’s country stretches from southern Kakadu through to

Pine Creek then eastwards towards Manyallaluk about 100 kilometres south of Katherine.

Ryan has been Chair of the Jawoyn Association and Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park since 2010 having served as a member on both these boards for a number of years. He is also the Cultural Advisor on the Nitmiluk Tours Board, a position he has held since 2008.

Table 7: Kakadu National Park Board of Management

Chair	Mr Ryan Baruwei (traditional owner nominee)
Members	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) Mr Joshua Hunter (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

Aṅangu (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**

Portfolio Budget Statements 2011–12

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Strategic Plan 2012–16

Parks Australia Divisional Plan 2010–14

Management plans

Management plan prescriptions not implemented

### **Summary of performance**

*Case study: Alive with innovation*

*Case study: Flatback turtle surveys on Gardangarl*

*Case study: Protecting Norfolk's wildlife*

*Case study: Action stations on Pulu Keeling*

*Case study: Student researchers*

*Case study: Thanks to our volunteers*

← Thanks to the vast range of habitats in the Jervis Bay Territory over 460 native plants have been recorded. A number of plant species in Booderee National Park have significant conservation status and warrant special protection because of their rarity. Although not listed for protection one of the most spectacular plants seen in the park is the New South Wales Waratah. Photo: June Anderson

## 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 2011–12.

### Portfolio Budget Statements 2011–12

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 2011–12 Portfolio Budget Statements for 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, and establishing 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 in the *State of the Parks* report at [www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12).

### Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Strategic Plan 2012–16

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 2010–14

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/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12).

## 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 that provide for the reserves' protection and conservation. They must state how each reserve is to be managed and how the reserve's features are to be protected and conserved.

As at 30 June 2012, the Director was responsible for managing seven Commonwealth terrestrial and 26 Commonwealth marine reserves. Four terrestrial reserve management plans are in place. A draft management plan for Booderee National Park was issued for public comment in May 2011 and a draft management plan for Christmas Island National Park was released for public comment in March 2012. Both plans are in the process of being finalised, taking into account comments received during the public comment period. A draft plan is currently being prepared for Pulu Keeling National Park.

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 reserves networks will be declared that will incorporate existing marine reserves. Following their declaration under the EPBC Act, network management plans will be developed.

Between May 2011 and February 2012, the Australian Government released draft Commonwealth marine reserves network proposals for public comment for the South-west,

North-west, North and Temperate East marine regions and for the Coral Sea. Final Commonwealth marine reserves network proposals will be subject to a final round of public comment during the second half of 2012 as part of the proclamation process.

As at 30 June 2012, 24 of the 26 existing Commonwealth marine reserves did not have management plans in place and were being managed under interim arrangements consistent with Australian IUCN management principles, pending proclamation of new reserves networks and development of network management plans. A draft network management plan for the South-east Marine Region is being prepared by the department's Marine Division and is expected to be issued for public comment early in 2012–13.

Of the two marine reserves with management plans in place, the Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve will be incorporated in the Temperate East Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network once it is proclaimed. The management plan for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve expired in August 2012 and the department's Australian Antarctic Division is currently finalising a draft second plan for public comment.

## 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.

## Summary of performance

The following summary of performance in managing terrestrial Commonwealth reserves for 2011–12 uses key result areas, outcomes and indicators identified in the Parks Australia Divisional Plan and key performance indicators and deliverables identified in the 2011–12 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/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12).

### KRA1: Natural heritage management

#### Objective

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

#### Actions

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

## 2011–12 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 Christmas Island National Park was released for public comment on 28 March 2012 and the third management plan for the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) came into effect on 29 May 2012.
- An Australian Government response to the recommendations of the Christmas Island Expert Working Group, established to address decline in the island's biodiversity, was agreed in October 2011 and released publicly. Preparation of the draft Christmas Island Regional Recovery Plan, incorporating ecosystem and species recovery actions, continued.

### Botanic gardens management (see case study on page 54)

- The ANBG continued a program for *ex situ* alpine plant conservation supported by a three-year partnership with the Australian National University, Australian Research Council, University of Queensland and the Friends of the ANBG. The program investigates the effect climate change will have on the reproductive ecology and demography of Australian alpine flora. Five weeks of fieldwork in Kosciuszko National Park resulted in the collection of 71 seed lots.
- The ANBG established a new volunteer program, called the 'Seedy Volunteers', to support the seed collecting program. Fourteen volunteers were recruited and trained and undertook 17 local collecting trips with botanic gardens staff.
- A myrtle rust response plan was developed, together with upgraded horticultural practices, to reduce the risk of this recently-introduced pathogen occurring in the ANBG.
- Major drainage and earthworks for the ANBG's arid-themed Red Centre Garden were completed by May 2012. This followed 18 months of research and design and the sourcing of authentic materials and plants for the site, as well as hydrological engineering and development design work.
- Management of invasive morning glory (*Ipomea cairica* and *I. indica*) at the Norfolk Island Botanic Garden continued.



*The dramatic lighting display in the majestic Rainforest Gully as part of the AfterDARK tour. Photo: Parks Australia*

## **Alive with innovation**

The Australian National Botanic Gardens is approaching the future with a brand new look and energy.

In 2011–12 the Gardens was rebranded, giving this Canberra institution a much more contemporary, upbeat look and feel. The Gardens have developed a range of visitor services and tourism products in line with their new look and put a fundraising program in place to support their future goals.

The Gardens 2012–2022 Management Plan, released in May 2012 will guide the development of the Gardens over the next 10 years and reflects the changing needs and challenges of the institution.

It's hoped that some of these needs will be addressed by a first for the Gardens—an online donation system and a bequest publication. Designed to raise further finance for the organisation, it is part of a long-term strategy to improve the Gardens' education and visitor service programs and develop areas such as horticulture and conservation research and the Gardens themselves.

Visitors are already enjoying Australian bush food and fresh produce dining experiences at the Gardens' new café—*Floresco in the Gardens*. After a competitive selection process, Hellenic Premium Catering were selected as the new proprietors, taking over from Hudsons who ran the cafe for many years.

With the change in proprietors, the café has had a makeover—renovations have lightened the space with an exciting menu providing high quality, affordable meals.

As part of Canberra's Enlighten festival, a new lighting display in the Gardens' Rainforest Gully was turned on for the first time in early March 2012. With 125 LED spotlights illuminating selected trees and shrubs, boardwalk markers and a lighted handrail, the state-of-the-art display works with our misting system, immersing visitors in a unique after-dark experience of the gully's rich diversity of plants. The lighting project was jointly funded by the Director of National Parks and the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

The success of Enlighten led to the Gardens creating a permanent public program—*afterDARK*. AfterDARK is a night adventure featuring the lighting in the majestic Rainforest Gully. *AfterDARK* provides a range of experiences for visitors from spotlighting tours to exclusive dining experiences in association with *Floresco in the Gardens*.

In May 2012 the Gardens launched *Flora Explorer*—a 12-seat electric passenger vehicle to help our visitors explore its beautiful landscapes. Supported by the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, the bus helps visitors, who may be unable to walk far, to discover the Gardens' many highlights while sitting back and enjoying a one-hour guided tour.

The ClimateWatch trail launched this year is yet another innovative way to engage visitors. Aiming to inspire a new generation of young scientists it was developed in partnership with Earthwatch Australia. The trail lets those who walk it become 'citizen scientists', monitoring the effects of climate change on Australian native plants.

Visitors can record information such as flowering times and nesting patterns of birds, to help scientists understand the effects of climate change and how best to respond to it. The ClimateWatch trail has been funded by the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

In partnership with ActewAGL, a Canberra-based energy company, the Gardens propagated and grew the endangered small purple pea (*Swainsona recta*) in its Seed Bank laboratory and nursery.

The purple peas have been planted out on ActewAGL's 110 hectare Murrumbidgee to Googong pipeline offset site in the capital.



*Living Collections curator David Taylor plants an endangered small purple pea as part of ActewAGL's offset program. Photo: Parks Australia*



## Significant species management

- Park managers nominated 37 species across six terrestrial reserves to determine whether viable populations of these significant species have been maintained in those reserves. Of the selected species, the populations of three are increasing, 16 remain steady, eight are decreasing, one may be extinct, two may be locally extinct and population data are deficient for seven species. (Further information on species monitoring is provided in the *State of the Parks* report at [www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12) and at Appendix B: Portfolio Budget Statements reporting 2011–12.)
- Species monitoring at Booderee National Park continued to focus on the effectiveness of regular fox baiting and on the long-term impacts of the major fires of 2003 and 2007. Monitoring (including the use of fauna surveillance cameras) showed that key indicator species are responding positively to low fox numbers; stable or increasing trends were observed for threatened eastern bristlebirds (*Dasyornis brachypterus*) and most shorebirds.
- Christmas Island National Park completed the 2011 biennial island-wide biodiversity survey which included the addition of scientifically rigorous sampling methodologies for additional native and exotic species. The survey detected a small increase in the number of red crab (*Gecarcoidea natalis*) burrows; there was also a significant reduction in vehicle-related mortality of robber crabs (*Birgus latro*) and migrating red crabs during the year.
- Christmas Island continued to maintain an on-island captive breeding program for two native reptile species and supported off-island captive breeding through a partnership with Sydney's Taronga Zoo. Biodiversity surveys confirmed that the drastic decline in wild populations of native reptiles is continuing.
- Kakadu National Park continued its collaborative project with the University of Sydney and the Territory Wildlife Park for the wild release of captive-bred northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) that have been trained to avoid cane toads (*Rhinella marina*); initial results suggest this behaviour is passed to their offspring. As a result of this work, a larger wild quoll population was detected than was thought to exist in the area of the park where the research was conducted.
- Surveys of nesting flatback turtles (*Natator depressus*) on Kakadu's Gardangarl (Field Island) confirmed numbers of this threatened species remain steady (see case study page 57).
- 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.
- The results of the second island-wide survey for Pulu Keeling National Park, which was conducted in 2012, indicated the population of the endangered Cocos buff-banded rail (*Gallirallus philippensis andrewsi*) is stable. A risk assessment and initial planning were undertaken for translocation of a small population from the park to an island in the southern atoll of the Cocos (Keeling) group.
- For the first time in many years, sooty terns (*Onychoprion fuscata*) also known as whalebirds attempted to breed on Norfolk Island; previous breeding has been restricted to nearby uninhabited Phillip Island which is free of introduced rats and feral cats (see case study on page 58).

## Flatback turtle surveys on Gardangarl

Around August each year, staff and volunteers at Kakadu National Park embark on a major survey of flatback turtles on Gardangarl (Field Island).

The island lies just off the coast and forms part of the park. It provides crucial habitat for flatback turtles, which are listed nationally as a vulnerable species.

The annual survey provides much-needed data on how the turtle populations are faring. Very little is known globally about flatback turtle numbers, and it is the only marine turtle species listed globally as 'data deficient'. When the IUCN attempted to assess the conservation status of the flatback turtle there wasn't enough data to know whether turtle numbers are declining, stable or increasing, so the park's ongoing work is crucial.

Anne O'Dea is a research project officer at Kakadu and has organised the turtle surveys for the last few years.

"The turtle surveys are a real team effort," she said. "Park staff and traditional owners are joined by rangers from Garig Gunak Barlu National Park and volunteers including some overseas volunteers through Conservation Volunteers Australia—everyone pitches in help.

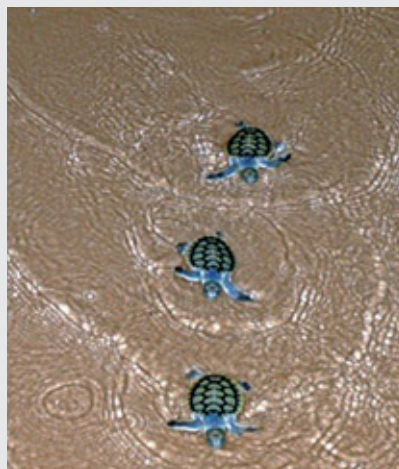
"We camp out on the island and work in shifts over 20 nights, watching the beach at night and recording details of the many turtles that use the island as a nesting beach.

"The number of turtles surveyed has stayed pretty steady over the last five years, with the team recording an average of three and four turtles a night. We had a small spike in 2010 when we were finding up to five or six a night, but in 2011 the numbers seem to have returned to more normal levels.

"It's great to see more than 70 per cent of the turtles successfully nesting over the survey period—that's been consistent over the last five years."

The surveys are based on a methodology developed over 40 years of turtle research in Australia. Incidental monitoring was done for nesting turtles on Field Island starting with Ian Morris and some trainees in the early 1980s, and annual surveys began in 1994.

The turtle surveys are a highlight for Kakadu staff each year and are generating important information for park management. A summary of the 2002–2005 monitoring data from Field Island concluded that the 'Kakadu Marine Turtle Monitoring Program has proven its worth by generating useful data of ever increasing quality that will be of pivotal use in monitoring flatback turtle populations at a regional and on a national scale.'



*Flatback turtle hatchlings head out to sea off Gardangarl. Photo: Parks Australia*

- A consultant was engaged to provide advice on a sustainable forestry industry on Norfolk Island and the role of Norfolk Island National Park in such an industry. Negotiations are underway with the Norfolk Island Government to develop an agreement on future management of the park's forestry zone in light of the consultant's findings.
- At Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, annual threatened animal surveys and rare plant baseline surveys found the numbers of target species to be stable or increasing. The park's population of the threatened mala or rufous hare-wallaby (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*) is now the largest population on the Australian mainland. The first ever survey of the park's ant fauna was conducted in a joint venture with the CSIRO. Fifty new species were recorded, many undescribed, in one of the first detailed surveys of local ant communities in central Australia.
- Monitoring to quantify the health of the waterholes at the base of Uluru and to gain an improved understanding of the cause of previous frog mortality found water chemistry and heavy metal concentrations to be within the normal ranges. A further mortality event in 2012 has sparked further research via a dedicated PhD study.

## Protecting Norfolk's wildlife

For the first time in many years whale birds have attempted to breed on Norfolk Island, however, these migratory seabirds are facing a number of challenges from introduced predators as well as human impacts.

Known locally as whale birds because their return to the area to breed coincides with the northern migration of the humpback whale, these birds are also known as sooty terns. While Phillip Island has long been a stronghold of the whale birds they have now been detected nesting in the Cord area of the national park.

Local residents contacted park staff early in the season with concerns that cats were killing large numbers of nesting whale birds in the Cord area.

Unfortunately, cat control is very difficult. Trapping is not very successful when there is such a huge food source available outside the traps. But we set some traps anyway—and not surprisingly, had very little success in capturing the offenders.

To try to find out more about what was happening in the breeding area and to see if we could better target our cat control, we set up a couple of remote cameras. Not only have we filmed cats, but the footage has given us a better understanding of other threats—from people, dogs and rats.

In one of the camera locations, at the start of the 10 day recording period, there were eight adult birds, two young chicks and three eggs in the viewing area. A few days later, we captured images of a cat going through the colony at night. Interestingly, the adult birds did not flinch and remained on their eggs and protecting their chicks. While we didn't observe the cat taking any birds we know they are doing some damage from the feathers in the many cat faeces collected from the area.

We're continuing to monitor what happens in the colony in the hope of improving our management of threats to these nesting whale birds.

This year we've also managed to capture a fantastic development for our park—the first recorded breeding of boobook owls in three years.

The boobook was almost extinct in the mid 1980s, with just one female bird left on the island—therefore the world. After a concerted effort to reintroduce the species by breeding it with the closely related New Zealand morepork owl, numbers grew to around 40 birds. In 2007 breeding began to drop off again and we weren't sure why. There are a number of theories we are investigating, it could be genetic inbreeding or lack of food supply due to a long dry spell a few years ago.

This year we monitored one family. What was particularly interesting was the amount of daytime activity from what is typically a nocturnal species. We caught them hunting in broad daylight which is really unusual.

We're also investigating the possibility of testing the owls to see if they have retained their Norfolk Island characteristics.

The story of the birds' activity has renewed a lot of interest in them and their conservation story, both on Norfolk, and with interest and offers of help coming in from New Zealand and Australia.



*The whale bird or sooty tern is a familiar sight in the skies above Norfolk's offshore islands where flocks of many thousands return to breed each year.  
Photo: Parks Australia*

### 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 12 are increasing, three remain steady, three are decreasing and population data are deficient for six species. (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/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12) and at Appendix B: Portfolio Budget Statements reporting 2011–12).

- Approximately 125 hectares of remote infestations of bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) at Booderee National Park were sprayed in June 2012 as part of the park's successful aerial spraying program, which has resulted in a 90 per cent reduction in high-density infestations since 2004. Following the success of trials last year, a further 48 hectares of bitou bush were treated by spraying with splatter guns and 45 hectares by ground spraying, with the intention of patch burning the treated areas in autumn. This technique has minimal impact on high-value native vegetation communities compared to the earlier technique of broad-scale aerial spraying and broad-scale fire block burning.
- Christmas Island National Park continued to facilitate and support the successful partnership with the Shire of Christmas Island, Australian Government agencies and Phosphate Resources Limited for island-wide cat management. At least 300 feral cats have been removed from settled areas of the island since the partnership was initiated in mid-2011, and this has led to a noticeable improvement in the breeding success of red-tailed tropicbirds (*Phaethon rubricauda*) at the Settlement breeding colony.
- Christmas Island continued management of yellow crazy ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*), with the focus on preparations for a further aerial spraying campaign later in 2012 and continued support for the three-year biological control research project being conducted by La Trobe University. The single known infestation of Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) remains contained and monitoring did not detect any other outbreaks across the island.
- Kakadu National Park continued monitoring and control programs for invasive weed species including *Mimosa pigra*; grassy weeds and aquatic weeds continue to be the major challenge. A limited feral animal control program was implemented in May–June 2012 with 47 buffalo and 1,065 feral pigs shot. The program was restricted to approximately one-third of the park, primarily in the northern wetland areas.
- Weed control programs in Norfolk Island National Park were completed in five of the 19 coups identified in the park's weed control strategy. Argentine ants (*Linepithema humile*), a relatively recent introduction to the island, were detected in the botanic garden for the first time. The colony was treated and initial monitoring suggests that the early treatment has been successful.
- Bait stations and monitoring cameras were installed in Pulu Keeling National Park and visual impact surveys were conducted in response to the potential entry of rats from a shipwrecked suspected illegal entry vessel in June 2012; preliminary investigations found no evidence of rats, but further monitoring will be undertaken (see case study on page 61). Weed control was undertaken during several trips to the park, funded in part by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program. Encouragingly, coral berry (*Rivina humilis*) was recorded at fewer sites and at significantly reduced density.
- The Buffel Grass Management Strategy for Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park continued to guide buffel grass control activities; works included continuation of the Conservation Volunteers Australia control program which has contributed to removing around 80 hectares of buffel grass from around the base of Uluru and from other areas of the park to reduce its spread. Fox, feral cat and rabbit control was increased to reduce population explosions following continuing good rains however populations continue to increase.



## Action stations on Pulu Keeling

Pulu Keeling National Park doesn't see a lot of visitors. The park covers North Keeling Island, an uninhabited coral atoll far out in the Indian Ocean as well as its surrounding waters to 1.5 km. This remote and isolated oceanic island is 3,000 kilometres north-west of Perth and 24 kilometres from the nearest Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The island's very remoteness has helped maintain its internationally significant seabird life and rich biodiversity. Even the park rangers can land only when seas are calm, and they reach the island by swimming over a reef, floating their equipment onto the shore.

Oceanic islands are particularly vulnerable to introduced invasive species. Therefore, access to the island is normally strictly controlled to minimise the accidental introduction of invasive animals, weeds and diseases.

When smoke was seen coming from the island in June 2012, it was clear something was afoot. An asylum seeker boat had beached on the island, and authorities quickly launched search and rescue boats in response, resulting in the safe rescue of all asylum seekers.

The landing of the boat immediately rang alarm bells for the national park because of its potential to introduce rats. Pulu Keeling is the only place in the world where you find the Cocos buff-banded rail—a ground dwelling bird about the size of a small chicken. The atoll's native species have never had to deal with rats, which would pose a major threat by raiding nests and destroying eggs.

To complicate matters, rough seas were making access to the island extremely difficult. Rangers from the national park attended as soon as they could, searching for any sign of rats.

Chief Ranger, Ismail Macrae was one of four staff to visit the island to search for rats.

"Thankfully, we didn't find any signs of rats," Ismail said. "We searched around the asylum seeker boat and checked for rat evidence around camp areas and food stores, but there were no signs of rodents."



*The introduction of rats to Pulu Keeling would be a major threat to the endemic and endangered Cocos buff-banded rail. Photo: Parks Australia*

"We hope the risk is over, but we have to do continued monitoring to make sure. There are cameras that will be automatically triggered by any rats investigating the area. We've also set up an ink card tracking system, which captures the footprints of any curious wildlife. In combination, these measures should give us a good feel for any remaining rat risk. We have already been back once to check the monitoring equipment, a few weeks after we set it up, and that first round of results showed no signs of rats.

"We are also progressing a translocation project for the buff-banded rail. In collaboration with the Cocos Keeling Island Shire Council we plan to move a population of the birds to nearby Direction Island, which is rat-free. It's an insurance policy, so if something like a cyclone or introduced pest strikes Pulu Keeling we'll have a safe and healthy population living nearby."

## KRA 2: Cultural heritage management

### Objective

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

### Actions

- Identify, protect and conserve cultural heritage values for which the parks were declared/recognised.
- Minimise threats to cultural values.
- Work with traditional owners to assess and maintain key cultural sites.
- 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.

### 2011–12 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.
- 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 establishing 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.

### Maintenance and promotion of traditional cultural values

- Booderee held over 150 cultural interpretation sessions for visiting school groups and other visitors as part of spring, summer and autumn school holiday programs, with significantly increased attendance compared to last year.
- Discussions continued with the Booderee Board of Management regarding broad cultural heritage directions for the draft second management plan; the cultural heritage strategy was held over for further consideration.
- Kakadu produced DVDs recording the views of Bininj on various management issues and on preparation of the new management plan for the park.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta continued to revise the park’s Cultural Heritage Action Plan, with a revised draft presented to the Uluru–Kata Tjuta Board of Management for approval in mid-2012.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta improved the security of the current men’s keeping place and instigated visitor monitoring in the area; funding was also provided by the department’s Indigenous Heritage Program to build a new men’s keeping place.

### Histories, pre-histories and knowledge recording

- Kakadu produced a report on the life history of a significant traditional owner Na Godjok Nayinggul who recently passed away; similar reports on other key people have commenced. The park also completed oral history projects recording the history and preparing statements of significance for Anlarr (Nourlangie Camp), the old Jim Jim pub and Munmalary.
- Through the partnership agreement between the National Archives of Australia and the Director, approved audio and video materials from Kakadu continued to be transferred for long-term storage and protection.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta began oral history recordings with senior traditional owners concerning traditional medicine production.

## 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. <sup>PBS</sup>
- Engage Indigenous staff and/or contractors to provide park services. <sup>PBS</sup>
- 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.

## 2011–12 results

### Indigenous staffing and contractors

- Overall the number of directly employed Indigenous staff declined slightly throughout the year in the jointly managed parks. The overall number of Parks Australia staff has also declined. <sup>PBS</sup>
- The number of Indigenous staff engaged as intermittent and irregular employees and contractors to provide services at Kakadu National Park has increased slightly. <sup>PBS</sup>
- The Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program, funded by Working on Country, also provides resources allowing Kakadu to host 11.5 community rangers in park related employment. <sup>PBS</sup>
- Parks Australia continued to support the agreement between the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation and the park in employing Anangu at Uluru–Kata Tjuta, including acknowledging and recompensing senior Anangu for their traditional knowledge and skills.
- Anangu participation in flexible employment at Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park through the Mutitjulu Community Ranger program has declined due in part to the cessation of funding for two workforce development coordinators (previously funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations). <sup>PBS</sup>
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta supported the attendance of Anangu staff and the park's workforce development coordinator at the department's Indigenous employees conference and supported Anangu Indigenous Staff Network committee members to attend leadership and governance training. The park hosted network members during their network meeting held in Yulara in March 2012.
- The number of Indigenous staff directly employed at Booderee National Park remained stable. <sup>PBS</sup>
- In its 2011 annual report, WBACC Contracting Services reported that it employed 14 full time, four permanent part time and up to 10 casual staff to deliver services to Booderee National Park. <sup>PBS</sup>

### Training

- The Junior Ranger programs at Booderee, Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta national parks continued.
- At Booderee, a broad range of training was provided to Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council and park staff in accordance with the training strategy. A new training strategy for the period 2011 to 2015 was completed.
- Booderee continued as a host employer of student based apprentices; these positions were filled by three Wreck Bay Community Year 11 students. The park also supported six Indigenous students from the Wreck Bay Community in completing work experience in the park.
- At Kakadu, 12 Bininj staff continued certificate level studies and numeracy and workplace English language and literacy training.

- Kakadu staff convened training and workshop forums between the park and neighbouring Indigenous Protected Areas and other Indigenous managed areas.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta completed the park’s Intergenerational Employment and Training Strategy and a review of the park’s Anangu Trainee Management Guidelines. The park also developed a six-day community engagement and work readiness development program.
- Two Anangu trainees at Uluru–Kata Tjuta completed accredited programs of study in conservation and land management.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta and Kakadu national parks each had a specified Indigenous trainee ranger position. Kakadu employed three Indigenous school-based apprentices.

### Contribution of Aboriginal enterprises

- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council were contracted to provide \$1.7 million in cleaning, road maintenance, entry station, horticultural and infrastructure maintenance services to Booderee National Park.<sup>PBS</sup>
- The Director and Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council continued to negotiate on the service level agreements for the second round of outsourcing at Booderee, including infrastructure maintenance and horticultural services.<sup>PBS</sup>

### Boards of management

- Three replacement Council members were appointed to the Booderee National Park Board of Management during the year. The Board met six times, with a focus on review of comments received on the draft second management plan that was released for public comment in May 2011.
- The Kakadu National Park Board of Management met quarterly and allocated additional meeting days to allow for development of the new management plan.
- Three meetings of the Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management were held, supported by meetings of the Board’s consultative committees. The park continued to engage Pitjantjatjara interpreters for Board, consultative committee and other meetings to improve communication with traditional owners and community members.

## 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.<sup>PBS</sup>
- 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.

## 2011–12 results

### Visitor numbers and satisfaction

- Visitor surveys were undertaken at Norfolk Island and Uluru–Kata Tjuta national parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens, with high overall satisfaction levels recorded from respondents (Norfolk Island—100 per cent, Uluru–Kata Tjuta—96 per cent, Australian National Botanic Gardens—93 per cent).<sup>PBS</sup>
- An estimated 1.37 million people visited Commonwealth terrestrial reserves, a 0.1 per cent increase from 2010–11. Numbers were steady at most reserves, with a decrease of 1.5 per cent recorded at Uluru–Kata Tjuta and a decrease of 5.9 per cent at Kakadu. (NB: the 2010–11 annual report understated the decline in visitation experienced that year as the total visitor figure included some incorrect data; the preceding figures are based on the corrected figure for 2010–11.)

### Education/interpretation programs

- The ANBG hosted 12,234 school and tertiary students from 240 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 102 school holiday interpretation sessions, focusing on Aboriginal cultural values and conservation themes, with over 2,600 attendees. A further 49 interpretation sessions were delivered to primary schools, high schools, universities and special interest groups, attracting nearly 2,000 attendees in total.
- Kakadu delivered 1,084 seasonal interpretive programs incorporating natural and cultural content and provided essential orientation, safety and interpretive information to 43,728 visitors prior to and upon arrival in the park via the Bowali Visitor Centre.
- Christmas Island staff provided a range of school-based educational activities for Christmas Island District High School, visiting schools and the community.
- Cocos-based staff provided two environmental educational sessions at the Cocos Islands District High School and one community ‘hands on’ marine turtle talk. They also conducted the annual high school trip to Pulu Keeling National Park.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta staff delivered free interpretive events to visitors including the daily ranger-guided Mala Walk at Uluru.

### Tourism and visitor facilities

- Booderee completed the signage for five new information shelters (for key visitation precincts), including the roll-out of Dhurga/Dharawal language and cultural knowledge concepts and information about camping, park management, rules and regulations and walking trails options.

- Booderee initiated the design of a short-term tie-up and loading jetty to replace Murray's Wharf which had become unsafe.
- At Norfolk Island the upgrade of the visitor area at the Captain Cook monument was completed and has been extremely well received by visitors and locals. Construction of an interpretive centre in the botanic garden was completed.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta held a brand-repositioning workshop at the park in May 2012 with traditional owners, Mutitjulu Community members and other key stakeholders to identify the park's marketing position in the Red Centre National Landscape.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta installed new interpretative signage for key park visitor sites and, in consultation with Anangu, continued the design and development of new interpretive signage for the base of climb and the entry station.

### Awards and events

- In March 2012 Kakadu was named as one of Australia's top three tourist attractions, behind Sydney's Taronga Zoo and first place winner the Melbourne Museum. This followed the park taking out the top prize in the Northern Territory's Brolga Awards, winning the Major Tourist Attraction. The award recognises Kakadu's pivotal role in attracting visitors to the Northern Territory as well as the park's commitment to offering memorable experiences to its visitors.
- 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 ANBG hosted an extensive range of popular public programs and events including monthly botanical workshops, Science Week displays and the popular Summer Sounds concert series.
- Booderee promoted three main events in which staff participated, with accompanying interpretative information—Clean Up Australia Day, World Environment Day and the annual Whale Census Day.

## 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. <sup>PBS</sup>
- Form new and effective partnerships with government agencies, neighbours and stakeholders.
- Co-fund research projects with other agencies under equitable funding arrangements. <sup>PBS</sup>
- Play a leadership role in targeted collaborative biodiversity research, such as through Australia's Virtual Herbarium and the Australian Seed Bank Partnership.

## 2011–12 results

- Constructive partnerships in managing Commonwealth reserves continued with state government parks agencies and other relevant departments including: the Australian Government's Department of Defence; Department of Regional Australia, Local Government and Sport; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Australian Customs and Border Protection Service; and Tourism Australia. Other partnerships were with industry groups including the Transport and Tourism Forum, and with councils, universities, non-government organisations and community groups. <sup>PBS</sup>
- 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 University of Sydney (see case study on this page). <sup>PBS</sup>
- The ANBG and the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research (CANBR) continued 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.

### Student researchers

Booderee National Park's relationship with major academic institutions is producing high quality, long-term ecological data on its important wildlife.

We work closely with academic institutions including the Australian National University, Sydney University and the University of NSW to find some of the brightest young minds to complete their PhDs in a magnificent field setting. Their research is designed to be fully integrated into the park's operations and management. These important partnerships rely on the support and commitment of our staff at Booderee who help coordinate and guide the students' work.

Eight students have worked in the park this year. Sandra Vogel is commencing a study into the fine-scale population structure and demography in little penguins while Dr Damian Michael has examined the spatial use of habitats and vegetation types by the



*Chris MacGregor measuring bitou bush.  
Photo: Parks Australia*



*Felicia Pereoglou weighing a rare eastern chestnut mouse. Photo: Christopher MacGregor, Fenner School of Environment and Society, The Australian National University*

diamond python, the park's largest natural predator. Martin Westgate is completing his study into amphibians in the park, concluding they appear largely unaffected by wildfire; instead their distribution and abundance is more strongly influenced by vegetation type.

Felicia Pereoglou has examined the biology and ecology of the rare eastern chestnut mouse, in particular its use of formerly disturbed habitats in the first stages of recovery. Felicia's work is illustrating how capable the mice are at dispersing to different areas of the park, and their strong response to early and mid stages of heathland recovery following wildfire.

An unexpected outcome of successfully reducing fox numbers within the park appears to be a substantial increase in wallabies, so this has become a focus of a number of studies. Claire Foster is looking at the effect of too many wallabies browsing on the park's vegetation and the subsequent impact on other animals. Ingrid Stirnemann is well advanced on a study into vegetation and fire mosaics and their effects on birds and terrestrial mammals, using remote cameras, while Rebecca Stutz is determining how trees re-establish in an herbivore abundant environment.

Chris MacGregor from the Australian National University is permanently located at Booderee and works closely with staff and the other students on the wide range of studies conducted in the park. Their work is critical to understanding how Booderee's rich diversity of plants and animals react to climate change and possible increases in the incidence and intensity of fire—and how we can adapt and improve park management in response.

- The ANBG continued to support the coordination of the Australian Seed Bank Partnership. The partnership is working to implement a 10-year business plan to build a national network of conservation seed banks for Australian flora.
- The ANBG continued its membership of technical working groups under the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and Taxonomic Databases Working Group. The Australian National Herbarium continued to play a driving and coordinating role for projects undertaken by the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria.
- Booderee National Park continued its support for volunteers working on natural resource management projects including Booderee parkcare (approximately 10,000 person hours). Booderee also maintained its cooperative arrangements with other land management agencies in the region and continued to lead regional fox management.
- Christmas Island National Park continued to facilitate and support the successful partnership and collaborative approach for island-wide cat management with the Shire of Christmas Island, the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport and Phosphate Resources Limited.
- Christmas Island received high levels of stakeholder and community support for on and off-park road management activities to protect robber crabs and migrating red crabs. Detention centre staff and contractors are now receiving 'crab friendly' driving tips as part of internally-delivered induction programs.
- Christmas Island staff supported the response by the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority to the sinking of the phosphate carrier the MV *Tycoon* at Flying Fish Cove in January 2012 by providing initial impact assessments and monitoring of oil, diesel and phosphate plumes; wildlife monitoring and clean up; and logistical support for marine impacts studies by independent and WA Fisheries researchers.
- 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 with the Northern Territory Bushfires Council and other Northern Territory Government agencies, as well as the West Arnhem Shire Council and the Northern Land Council, to cooperatively manage fire across tenure.
- The Kakadu Research Advisory Committee met in May 2012, with a focus on how traditional owners wanted research managed and undertaken under the next management plan; the values of the park and the development of a management evaluation framework were also discussed.
- Pulu Keeling National Park continued to use the Home Island office to build positive working relationships with stakeholders, locals and tourists. Three meetings of the Pulu Keeling National Park Community Management Committee were held during the year.
- Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park staff met regularly with representatives of the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; these meetings included matters related to permit conditions for the construction of new developments in the Mutitjulu Community.



- Uluru–Kata Tjuta continued to lead the development of a literacy and numeracy program in collaboration with Anangu Jobs and the Nyangatjatjara College. The park continued a relationship with the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education to provide accredited study programs in conservation and land management for the park’s traditional owner staff and for selected participants in the Mutitjulu Community Ranger program.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta established a partnership with Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia Pty Ltd to share training events and facilities, creating efficiencies in training delivery. Discussions also commenced on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Parks Australia and the Ayres Rock Resort.
- Uluru–Kata Tjuta supported teams from Conservation Volunteers Australia working on weed control in the park (see case study on this page).

## Thanks to our volunteers

For more than 10 years a partnership between Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park and Conservation Volunteers Australia has been tackling one of the Northern Territory’s most invasive weeds—buffel grass.

Volunteers from all over the world have given over 6,400 individual days to remove buffel grass by hand from over 80 hectares in some of the most visited areas at Uluru. The program has received both national and international media exposure, including Channel Nine’s Getaway travel program. The volunteer tourists attracted through the program have contributed significantly to Central Australia’s regional economy through the purchase of food supplies, use of local services, optional tours and coach and airline transfers.

Uluru’s ranger team have also been working with volunteer staff members from Ayers Rock Resort. Together they are tackling buffel grass infestations around Uluru and in the more remote areas of the park. This work is part of Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park’s ongoing buffel grass control strategy.

Historically, buffel grass was planted at Uluru to help stabilise the soil around the monolith. Unfortunately, it is an extremely efficient weed that out-competes the native grasses to form large monocultures, particularly in drainage lines and disturbance areas. For these reasons, the grass particularly affects the moist, rare habitats at the base of both Uluru and Kata Tjuta, potentially endangering those species that seek refuge from the heat in these shady niches including echidnas, fat-tailed pseudoantechinuses and burrowing frogs.

The last group of conservation volunteers have finished their buffel work in the park. Conservation Volunteers Australia and Parks Australia will continue to work together to deliver conservation outcomes in the park and more broadly across Australia’s Red Centre National Landscape.

## 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. <sup>PBS</sup>
- 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. <sup>PBS</sup>
- 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. <sup>PBS</sup>
- Audit energy and water use and waste in Commonwealth reserves and implement actions to provide efficiencies and improvements.

### 2011–12 results

#### Management planning

- Management plans are in place for Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Norfolk Island and Kakadu national parks and the ANBG. Draft management plans for Booderee National Park and Christmas Island National Park were released for public comment on 4 May 2011 and 28 March 2012 respectively; both plans are in the process of being finalised, taking into account comments received during their public comment periods. A draft plan is currently being prepared for Pulu Keeling National Park and work has commenced on preparation of the sixth management plan for Kakadu National Park.
- Reserve management plan implementation schedules are in place for Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Norfolk Island and Kakadu national parks and the ANBG. Implementation schedules are not in place for the reserves with expired management plans.
- A technical audit was undertaken on the implementation of the fifth Kakadu National Park Management Plan and will be used to inform the development of the sixth plan for the park.

## Climate change

- Climate change strategies were developed for Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling national parks. A climate change strategy was prepared for Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park and has received support from the park's Board of Management. 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. <sup>PBS</sup>
- A significant decrease in total energy consumption by parks and reserves was recorded in 2011–12, confirming the trend of recent years. This represented an 11.9 per cent reduction in the volume of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from stationary sources compared to the average over the past three years and a 10.2 per cent reduction for transport sources. Initiatives for 2011–12 included: the replacement of two diesel-powered generators in the South Alligator District of Kakadu National Park with more efficient systems, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by over 83 tonnes per annum; and the move to fertilise newly planted trees by hand instead of using large diesel-powered machinery for the Christmas Island Mine-site to Forest Rehabilitation program reduced both fuel costs and the quantity of fertiliser wasted. <sup>PBS</sup>
- Further information on greenhouse gas emissions is provided in the environmental sustainability report at Appendix C.

## Financial and business management

- The Auditor-General issued an unqualified audit report for the 2011–12 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.

## Risk and work health and safety

- There was no net reduction in the number of extreme, very high or high risks in risk watch lists in 2011–12. <sup>PBS</sup>
- The Director has participated in the Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking Scheme since 2002–03. In 2011–12, the Director scored 7.9 out of a possible 10 compared to an average score for all Australian Government agencies of 6.6. For the past seven years, the Director has consistently scored above the average for all agencies. <sup>PBS</sup>
- Parks Australia recorded 216 work health and safety incidents over the year. While slightly higher than the number recorded last year there was a reduction in the number of moderate and major injuries for both staff and visitors. <sup>PBS</sup>

- Parks staff and contractors sustained two major injuries. Two park visitors died (a drowning of a rock fisherman in Christmas Island National Park and a missing person in Kakadu National Park, presumed by police to be due to crocodile attack) and there were four major injuries to visitors. <sup>PBS</sup>

## KRA 7—Biodiversity science, knowledge management and use

### Objectives

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

### Actions

- Provide high quality, comprehensive and current information to the Australian community through publications and enhanced websites to facilitate and foster understanding of park values and Australia's natural and cultural heritage. <sup>PBS</sup>
- Undertake research designed to engage with end users and support evidence-based decision making by environmental managers and policy makers. <sup>PBS</sup>
- Increase knowledge of Australia's biodiversity through research and training. <sup>PBS</sup>
- 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.

### 2011–12 results

#### Websites and publications

- The Parks Australia websites and blog ([parksaustralia.gov.au](http://parksaustralia.gov.au) and [kakadu.com.au](http://kakadu.com.au)) received 757,527 visits (an average of 2,081 visits a day) in the 2011–12 financial year. This was a 27 per cent increase in visitation on the prior year; this strong growth was boosted by increased social media initiatives, rich media content and more material that met the Government Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0. <sup>PBS</sup>

#### Biodiversity knowledge

- The ANBG continued to redevelop the living collection information system to better support the operational activities of the nursery, seed bank, horticulture and plant records activities, and to integrate with provenance data in the herbarium system. A special labelling project for the living collection placed 3,739 labels on plants in over 146 sections along parts of the main path and rock garden, significantly improving interpretative use and value of the plant collections for visitors to the botanic gardens.

- 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 continued its contract with 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.
- The CANBR's association with the Taxonomy Research and Information Network, and other projects associated with the Atlas of Living Australia is changing due to the conclusion of the current funding round; the ANBG is negotiating transition arrangements with the Atlas of Living Australia.
- The ANBG updated the Australian Plant Image Index to make 4,129 additional images accessible on the internet. It also maintained the currency of data for the Australian Plant Name Index, including extensive editing of existing data and the capture of new data.
- The Australian National Herbarium added data for 15,326 herbarium specimens. A total of 889,804 specimens are now recorded in the database and available to the public through the internet.
- The Australian National Herbarium's highly successful summer botanical intern program completed its 20th year in February 2012. Second and third year university students received work experience and formal training in herbarium botany and plant conservation.
- Australian National Herbarium staff undertook an island-wide survey of the flora of Christmas Island, including Christmas Island National Park. Approximately 250 specimens of native and introduced species were collected, with over 1,000 corresponding vouchered digital images. Specimens will be lodged with the Australian National Herbarium and images made available via the Australian Plant Image Index.
- 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 (daisies), Orchidaceae (orchids), Amaranthaceae (amaranths) and biogeography of the Australian flora.







## 5 Management and accountability

### **Corporate governance**

Ministerial directions

Funding

Planning documents

Executive management

Boards of management and advisory committees

Other consultative mechanisms

Control arrangements

External review

### **Work health and safety**

### **Compliance and enforcement under the EPBC Act**

### **Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance**

### **Social inclusion**

### **Freedom of information**

← For more than two years Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park Interpretation and Education Officer Karen Scrivens has sat down with traditional owners including Reggie Uluru to make sure the right stories are told and that the information is presented the right way on the park's signs. The revamped signs are providing visitors with new insight into the park's cultural and natural history. Photo: Parks Australia

## 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. During 2011–12 that person was the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP.

## Ministerial directions

The EPBC Act requires the Director to perform functions and exercise powers in accordance with any directions given by the Minister, unless the EPBC Act provides otherwise. During 2011–12 no Ministerial directions were given to the Director under the EPBC 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 2011–12 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 2011–12 the department provided \$41.5 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 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities Portfolio Budget Statements 2011–12.

## 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 that 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 2011–12 internal audits were undertaken on *Review of Procurement and Contract Management Practices*, *Review of Portfolio and Project Management Practices* and *Accounting Health Check*. The committee endorsed the process for preparation of the 2011–12 financial statements.



Members of the committee at 30 June 2012 were:

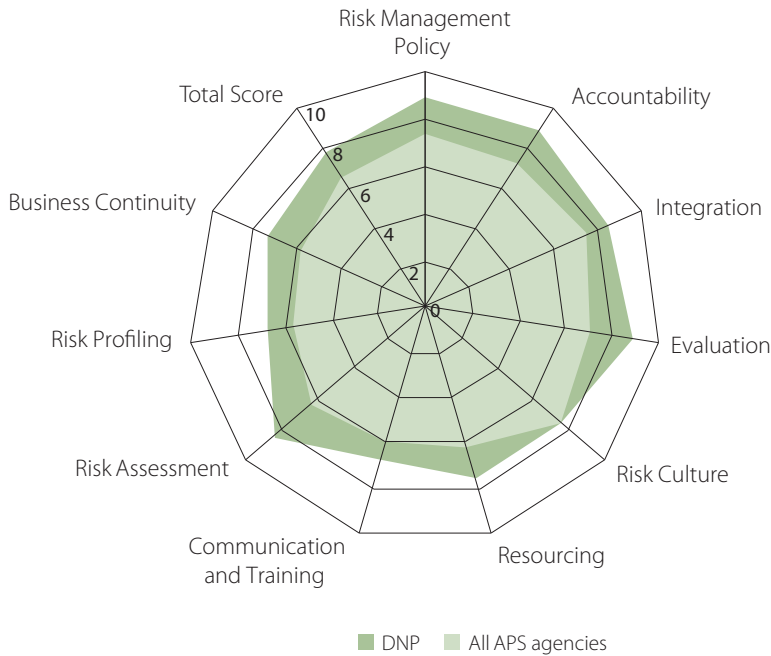
- Paul Hickey, independent member and Chair
- Peter Hoefer, independent member
- Tony Fleming, independent member
- Peter Cochrane, Director of National Parks.

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 which monitors higher level risks for each branch and for Parks Australia as a whole. These risks are reviewed quarterly by the Audit Committee.

**Figure 5: Risk management benchmarking scores for the Director of National Parks in 2011–12 compared to the average for 138 Australian Government agencies**



(Source: Comcover 2012)

The Director has participated in the Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking scheme since 2002–03. This scheme assesses 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 2011–12 the Director scored 7.9 out of a possible 10 compared to an average score for all Australian Government agencies of 6.6. For the last seven years the Director has consistently scored above the average for all agencies (see Figure 5).

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

### Indemnities and insurance

In 2011–12 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 to 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.

## 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 2011–12 financial statements of the Director of National Parks.

## Work health and safety

In January 2012 the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991* was replaced by the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and this had some implications for the management and reporting of health and safety issues. This section is presented in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 2, Part 4 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*. The department's annual report contains more detailed health and safety information related to departmental employees undertaking the work of the Director of National Parks.

The Director maintains a strong commitment to the health, safety and welfare of Parks Australia workers (employees, contractors and volunteers). Parks Australia was an active participant on the department's Health and Safety Committee, which has oversight of all health and safety issues within the portfolio. 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, reporting progress to the department's Health and Safety Committee.

Parks Australia workers 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 workers and all relevant policy and procedural information is available electronically.

There are no matters to report under sections 29, 46 or 47 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991* which was the relevant regime for the year to 31 December 2011. The annual reporting requirements of the new *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* are addressed below.

### Initiatives and outcomes

Table 9 sets out health and safety initiatives undertaken during the year and the outcomes achieved. The full outcomes of these initiatives are yet to be realised but the health and safety systems are proving to be robust.

**Table 9: Work health and safety initiatives and outcomes achieved in 2011–12**

Initiative	Outcome
Prepared for new work health and safety legislation	Clear and focused adaptation to the new legislative regime, including clarified responsibilities for joint agency work
Briefed the senior executive team on new work health and safety legislation	Clear understanding of the duty of care by executive officers
Briefed all other Parks Australia staff	Clear understanding of due diligence requirements
Systematically upgraded ParkSafe policy and all job safety analyses and safe operating procedures	Improved coherence of the work health and safety management system
Revised tender and contract documents to cater for expansion of duty of care to all 'workers'	Clear definition of expanded work health and safety obligations
Implemented new reporting/notification procedures	Adaptation to new definitions of notifiable incidents
Developed Cooperative Compliance Program (CCP) with ComCare	A coordinated approach to a significant upgrade in work health and safety management, focusing on Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta national parks
Engaged two officers to guide the CCP	Two extra staff provided greater momentum to all initiatives and were helped by the use of mutual learning with sister agencies
Established a rolling program of workshop inspections (part of CCP extended to all remote sites)	Improved safety in key sites for industrial type activities
Consolidated a program of immediate internal investigations of incidents that signal exposure to significant hazards	Greater resilience in work health and safety management and greater confidence in staff members to manage their own health and safety risks
Revised all stakeholder relationships for compensation cover	Clarification that no relevant 'worker' is without workers compensation cover
Vetted new program initiatives on the basis of work health and safety risk exposure	New program initiatives are cleared only when all identifiable risks are managed

## 5

### Incidents and investigations

No investigations were conducted during 2011–12 relating to the operations of the Director. During 2011–12 Parks Australia recorded 216 work health and safety incidents (see Table 10). While slightly higher than the number recorded last year there was a reduction in the number of moderate and major injuries for both staff and visitors.

**Table 10: Five-year overview of safety incidents in terrestrial reserves**

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12
<b>Staff, volunteers and contractors</b>					
Minor injury or near miss <sup>(a)</sup>	57	41	56	67	70
Moderate injury <sup>(b)</sup>	21	31	15	20	14
Major injury <sup>(c)</sup>	0	1	5	7	2
Total	78	73	76	94	86
<b>Visitors, permit holders and residents</b>					
Minor injury or near miss <sup>(a)</sup>	84	60	70	59	101
Moderate injury <sup>(b)</sup>	42	21	26	34	23
Major injury <sup>(c)</sup>	6	7	15	18	4
Death	1	4	2	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>130</b>

(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 risk for visitors to Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta national parks.

The visitor incidents for 2011–12 included two fatalities. There was a drowning of a rock fisherman in Christmas Island National Park and a missing person in Kakadu National Park presumed by police to have been a crocodile attack.

## 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 2011–12:

- On 23 September and 29 September 2011, in the Darwin Court of Summary Jurisdiction, six Indonesian nationals were found guilty of offences against section 354A of the EPBC Act relating to the taking of trepang (a native species) from Ashmore Reef Marine National Nature Reserve. Penalties ranged from prison terms (suspended upon the defendant entering into a three-year, \$2,000 good behaviour bond) to fines of \$2,000 for each offence.

**Table 11: Compliance and enforcement in terrestrial reserves during 2011–12<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Members of the public	Tourism operators	Other commercial operators
EPBC Act and Regulation incidents detected	99	11	15
Offenders unknown	12	0	1
Verbal cautions issued	40	0	3
Warning letters issued	9	6	4
Infringement notices issued	86	1	0
Continuing investigations	6	2	5
Permit suspensions	0	0	0
Court cases pending	0	0	0
Cases taken to court	0	0	0
Convictions	0	0	0

(a) Excludes notices of charges payable issued

## Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

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

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

The Director's statement under section 516A of the Act relating to the organisation's contribution to ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance is at Appendix 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 have no longer been required to report on these functions.

The Commonwealth Disability Strategy has been overtaken by a new National Disability Strategy which sets out a ten year national policy framework for improving life for all Australian with disability, their families and carers. A high level report to track progress for people with disability at a national level will be produced by the Standing Council on Community, Housing and Disability Services to the Council of Australian Governments and will be available at [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au). The Social Inclusion Measurement and Reporting Strategy agreed by the Government in December 2009 will also include some reporting on disability matters in its regular *How Australia is Faring* report and, if appropriate, in strategic change indicators in agency Annual Reports. More detail on social inclusion matters can be found at [www.socialinclusion.gov.au](http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au).

## 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 63–65 and additional information on portfolio responsibilities for social inclusion is contained in the department's annual report for 2011–12.

## Freedom of information

Under section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), the Director of National Parks is required to publish a range of information online as part of an Information Publication Scheme (IPS). This requirement is in Part II of the FOI Act and has replaced the former requirement to publish a section 8 statement in an annual report.

The information required to be published online includes an agency plan that describes how the Director of National Parks proposes to comply with its obligations under the IPS, its structure, functions, appointments, annual reports, consultation arrangements and details of a Freedom of Information contact officer. Information routinely released from Freedom of Information requests and routinely provided to parliament must also be published online. This information is available at [www.environment.gov.au/parks/ips.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/ips.html)

### 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) 6275 9207

Fax: (02) 6274 2837

Email: [foi@environment.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:foi@environment.gov.au)



*Monitoring of Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park's suite of threatened species is a high priority for the natural and cultural resource management team and regular fauna surveys are conducted; Photo: Parks Australia*







## 6 Financial Statements

**Director of National Parks financial statements and audit report for the year ended 30 June 2012**

← *Ranger Sarah Thorne testing water quality at one of the four waterholes at the base of Uluru.*  
*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 2012, which comprise: Statement by the Director and Chief Financial Officer; Statement of Comprehensive Income; Balance Sheet; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; and Notes to and forming part of the financial statements comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

#### *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 is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and 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***

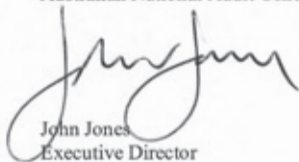
In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

### ***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 Park's financial position as at 30 June 2012 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



John Jones  
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
4 October 2012

## Statement by the Director and Chief Executive Officer

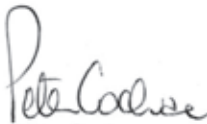
### DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2012 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, as amended.

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

Signed



Peter Cochrane  
Director

4<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Signed



Michelle Callaway  
Chief Financial Officer

4<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS**  
**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2012*

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee benefits	3A	28,854	29,244
Supplier expenses	3B	28,465	28,389
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	16,840	8,732
Net loss (Gain) on Sale of assets	3D	433	(38)
Write-down and impairment of assets	3E	-	177
Other		95	152
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>74,687</b>	<b>66,656</b>
<b>LESS :</b>			
<b>OWN-SOURCE INCOME</b>			
<b>Own-source revenue</b>			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	13,995	17,313
Grants from Portfolio Agency	4B	41,485	46,444
Interest	4C	1,590	1,618
Sublease rental income		152	178
Other		602	1,252
<b>Total own-source revenue</b>		<b>57,824</b>	<b>66,805</b>
<b>Gains</b>			
Other	4D	4,430	16,508
<b>Total gains</b>		<b>4,430</b>	<b>16,508</b>
<b>Total own-source income</b>		<b>62,254</b>	<b>83,313</b>
<b>Net cost of services</b>		<b>12,433</b>	<b>(16,657)</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<b>(12,433)</b>	<b>16,657</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
Changes in asset revaluation reserves		-	58,099
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>58,099</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income (loss) attributable to the Australian Government</b>		<b>(12,433)</b>	<b>74,756</b>

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



**DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS**  
**BALANCE SHEET**  
*as at 30 June 2012*

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	43,689	41,540
Trade and other receivables	5B	897	2,869
Other	5C	235	141
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>44,821</b>	<b>44,550</b>
<b>Non-Financial Assets</b>			
Land and buildings	6A,C	77,294	78,940
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	6B,C	130,596	140,543
Intangibles	6D,E	232	249
Other	6F	530	355
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>208,652</b>	<b>220,087</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>253,473</b>	<b>264,637</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	7A	2,111	3,016
Other	7B	4,198	2,514
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>6,309</b>	<b>5,530</b>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employee provisions	8	7,693	7,164
Other		32	71
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>7,725</b>	<b>7,235</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>14,034</b>	<b>12,765</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>239,439</b>	<b>251,872</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity		36,445	36,445
Reserves		125,572	125,572
Retained surplus		77,422	89,855
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>239,439</b>	<b>251,872</b>

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 2012*

	Retained Earnings		Asset Revaluation Reserves		Contributed Equity		Total Equity	
	2012 \$000	2011 \$000	2012 \$000	2011 \$000	2012 \$000	2011 \$000	2012 \$000	2011 \$000
<b>Opening balance</b>								
Balance carried forward from previous period	89,855	73,198	125,572	67,473	36,445	34,196	251,872	174,867
Adjustment for errors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Adjusted opening balance</b>	<b>89,855</b>	<b>73,198</b>	<b>125,572</b>	<b>67,473</b>	<b>36,445</b>	<b>34,196</b>	<b>251,872</b>	<b>174,867</b>
<b>Comprehensive income</b>								
Revaluation adjustments	-	-	-	58,099	-	-	-	58,099
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	(12,433)	16,657	-	-	-	-	(12,433)	16,657
<b>Total comprehensive income (loss)</b>	<b>(12,433)</b>	<b>16,657</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>58,099</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(12,433)</b>	<b>74,756</b>
of which:								
Attributable to the Australian Government	(12,433)	16,657	-	58,099	-	-	(12,433)	74,756
<b>Transactions with Owners</b>								
Contributions by Owners	-	-	-	-	-	2,249	-	2,249
Equity injection (refer Note 16)	-	-	-	-	-	2,249	-	2,249
<b>Sub-total transactions with owners</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,445</b>	<b>239,439</b>	<b>251,872</b>
<b>Closing balance at 30 June</b>	<b>77,422</b>	<b>89,855</b>	<b>125,572</b>	<b>125,572</b>	<b>36,445</b>	<b>36,445</b>	<b>239,439</b>	<b>251,872</b>
<b>Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government</b>	<b>77,422</b>	<b>89,855</b>	<b>125,572</b>	<b>125,572</b>	<b>36,445</b>	<b>36,445</b>	<b>239,439</b>	<b>251,872</b>

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

**DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS**  
**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**  
*for the period ended 30 June 2012*

	Notes	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Goods and services		17,956	15,486
Receipts from Government		41,485	46,444
Interest		1,629	1,575
Net GST received		1,670	1,015
Other		609	1,252
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>63,349</b>	<b>65,772</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Employees		28,189	28,889
Suppliers		27,745	29,556
Other		133	116
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>56,067</b>	<b>58,561</b>
<b>Net Cash from operating activities</b>	9	<b>7,282</b>	<b>7,211</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		34	61
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		5,158	6,227
Purchase of intangibles		9	107
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>5,167</b>	<b>6,334</b>
<b>Net Cash used by investing activities</b>		<b>(5,133)</b>	<b>(6,273)</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Contributed equity		-	2,249
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>2,249</b>
<b>Net Cash from financing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>2,249</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>2,149</b>	<b>3,187</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the reporting period		<b>41,540</b>	<b>38,353</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	5A	<b>43,689</b>	<b>41,540</b>

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

**DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS**  
**SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS**  
as at 30 June 2012

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>BY TYPE</b>		
<b>Commitments Receivable</b>		
Sublease rental income	1,305	1,095
GST recoverable on commitments <sup>1</sup>	7,245	6,419
<b>Total Commitments Receivable</b>	<b>8,550</b>	<b>7,514</b>
<b>Commitment Payable</b>		
<b>Capital Commitments</b>		
Buildings; Infrastructure, plant and equipment <sup>2</sup>	3,155	1,122
<b>Total Capital Commitments</b>	<b>3,155</b>	<b>1,122</b>
<b>Other Commitments</b>		
Operating leases <sup>3</sup>	74,588	66,698
Other commitments <sup>4</sup>	4,166	3,835
<b>Total Other Commitments</b>	<b>78,754</b>	<b>70,533</b>
<b>Total Commitments Payable</b>	<b>81,909</b>	<b>71,655</b>
<b>Net Commitments by Type</b>	<b>73,359</b>	<b>64,141</b>
<b>BY MATURITY</b>		
<b>Commitments Receivable</b>		
<b>Other Commitments Receivable</b>		
One year or less	685	528
From one to five years	1,148	835
Over five years	6,717	6,151
<b>Total Other Commitments Receivable</b>	<b>8,550</b>	<b>7,514</b>
<b>Commitments Payable</b>		
<b>Capital Commitments</b>		
One year or less	3,155	1,122
<b>Total Capital Commitments</b>	<b>3,155</b>	<b>1,122</b>
<b>Operating Lease Commitments</b>		
One year or less	1,028	903
From one to five years	4,112	3,610
Over five years	69,448	62,185
<b>Total Operating Lease Commitments</b>	<b>74,588</b>	<b>66,698</b>
<b>Other Commitments</b>		
One year or less	2,460	3,051
From one to five years	1,706	784
Over five years	-	-
<b>Total Other Commitments</b>	<b>4,166</b>	<b>3,835</b>
<b>Total Commitments Payable</b>	<b>81,909</b>	<b>71,655</b>
<b>Net Commitments by Maturity</b>	<b>73,359</b>	<b>64,141</b>

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

**DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS**  
**SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS**  
*as at 30 June 2012*

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- 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**

*Lease/Sublease rental income* - The Director of National Parks has three leases/subleases as follows:

- cafe within the Australian National Botanic Gardens which is subject to an annual increase of 3%;
- 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.

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 2012*

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**Note Description**

<b>1</b>	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
<b>2</b>	Events after the Balance Sheet Date
<b>3</b>	Expenses
<b>4</b>	Income
<b>5</b>	Financial Assets
<b>6</b>	Non-Financial Assets
<b>7</b>	Payables
<b>8</b>	Employee Provisions
<b>9</b>	Cash Flow Reconciliation
<b>10</b>	Contingent Liabilities and Assets
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<b>12</b>	Related Party Disclosures
<b>13</b>	Executive Remuneration
<b>14</b>	Remuneration of Auditors
<b>15</b>	Financial Instruments
<b>16</b>	Appropriations
<b>17</b>	Compensation and Debt Relief
<b>18</b>	Reporting of Outcomes
<b>19</b>	Cost Recovery Policy

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

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### 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 2011; 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

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#### ***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

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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 2011-12. 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 2012.

#### **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.



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

### **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 or Discounted cashflows
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

## DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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.

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:

	2011-12	2010-11
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 2012. 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, where relevant, 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.

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**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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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 (2010-11: 4-5 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2012.

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.

**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**

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b><u>Note 3A - Employee Benefits</u></b>		
Wages and salaries	21,844	22,746
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	1,617	1,481
Defined benefit plans	2,309	2,170
Leave and other entitlements	2,979	2,729
Separation and redundancies	74	52
Other employee expenses	31	66
<b>Total employee benefits</b>	<b>28,854</b>	<b>29,244</b>
<b><u>Note 3B - Suppliers</u></b>		
Goods and Services are made up of:		
Professional services	3,083	4,055
Property expenses	2,218	2,270
Repairs and maintenance	3,786	3,778
Parks operation & maintenance	3,881	3,318
Employee related expenses	1,943	1,834
Information technology & communication	1,313	1,174
Service delivery charges	3,900	3,904
Other	4,095	3,929
<b>Total Goods and Services</b>	<b>24,219</b>	<b>24,262</b>
<b>Goods and Services are made up of:</b>		
Provision of goods - related entities	122	22
Provision of goods - external parties	2,987	3,155
Rendering of services - related entities	14,129	15,015
Rendering of services - external parties	6,981	6,070
<b>Total Goods and Services</b>	<b>24,219</b>	<b>24,262</b>
<b>Other supplier expenses</b>		
Operating lease rentals:		
Minimum lease payments	1,085	887
Contingent rentals	3,161	3,240
<b>Total other supplier expenses</b>	<b>4,246</b>	<b>4,127</b>
<b>Total supplier expenses</b>	<b>28,465</b>	<b>28,389</b>
<b><u>Note 3C - Depreciation and Amortisation</u></b>		
<b>Depreciation:</b>		
Buildings	3,007	2,676
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	13,808	6,046
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>16,815</b>	<b>8,722</b>
<b>Amortisation:</b>		
Intangibles	25	10
<b>Total amortisation</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation</b>	<b>16,840</b>	<b>8,732</b>

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

**Note 3: Expenses (Cont)**

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b><u>Note 3D - Sale of Assets</u></b>		
Infrastructure, plant & equipment		
Proceeds from sale	(135)	(61)
Carrying value of assets sold	568	23
<b><i>Net (gain)/loss from sale of assets</i></b>	<b>433</b>	<b>(38)</b>

**Note 3E - Write-down and impairment of assets**

<b>Financial assets</b>		
Impairment of receivables	-	92
<b>Non-financial assets</b>		
Write down of buildings	-	-
Write down of infrastructure, plant & equipment		85
<b>Total write-down and impairment of assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>177</b>

**Note 4: Income**

***OWN-SOURCE REVENUE***

**Note 4A: Sale of goods and rendering of services**

Provision of goods - external parties	22	21
Rendering of services - related entities	3,588	5,692
Rendering of services - external parties	10,385	11,600
<b><i>Total sale of goods and rendering of services</i></b>	<b>13,995</b>	<b>17,313</b>

**Note 4B: Revenue from Government**

Grants:

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	41,485	46,444
<b><i>Total revenue from Government</i></b>	<b>41,485</b>	<b>46,444</b>

**Note 4C- Interest**

Deposits	1,590	1,618
<b><i>Total Interest</i></b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,618</b>

**GAINS**

**Note 4D - Other Gains**

Resources received free of charge	3,900	3,903
Assets first recognised	530	12,605
<b><i>Total other gains</i></b>	<b>4,430</b>	<b>16,508</b>



**Note 5: Financial Assets**

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b><u>Note 5A - Cash and Cash Equivalents</u></b>		
Cash on deposit	43,616	41,520
Cash on hand	73	20
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>43,689</b>	<b>41,540</b>
<b><u>Note 5B - Trade and Other Receivables</u></b>		
<b><u>Goods and Services</u></b>		
Goods and services - related entities	84	455
Goods and services - external parties	347	579
<b>Total receivables for goods and services</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>1,034</b>
<b><u>Other Receivables</u></b>		
Net GST receivable from ATO		294
Other receivables	471	1,639
<b>Total other receivables</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>1,933</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>2,967</b>
Less: Impairment allowance account		
Goods and services	-	(93)
Other	(5)	(5)
<b>Total impairment allowance account</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(98)</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>2,869</b>

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

**Receivables (gross) are aged as follows:**

Not overdue	537	1,531
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	32	476
31 to 60 days	22	82
61 to 90 days	13	98
More than 90 days	298	780
	365	1,436
<b>Total receivables (gross)</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>2,967</b>

**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	(5)	(98)
<b>Total impairment allowance account</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(98)</b>

Reconciliation of the impairment allowance account:

Movements in relation to 2012

	Goods and services 2012 \$'000	Other receivables 2012 \$'000	Total 2012 \$'000
Opening balance	(93)	(5)	(98)
Amounts written off	93	-	93
Amounts recovered and reversed	-	-	-
Increase/decrease recognised in net surplus	-	-	-
Closing balance	-	(5)	(5)

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)

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 5C - Other Financial Assets</b>		
Accrued Revenue	235	141
<b>Total other financial assets</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>141</b>

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

**Note 6: Non-Financial Assets**

**Note 6A: Land and Buildings**

Land at fair value	7,326	6,826
Buildings on land		
- work in progress	563	557
- fair value	72,411	71,557
- accumulated depreciation	(3,006)	-
<b>Total buildings on land</b>	<b>69,968</b>	<b>72,114</b>
<b>Total land and buildings</b>	<b>77,294</b>	<b>78,940</b>

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	2,026	1,597
- fair value	142,308	138,946
- accumulated depreciation	(13,738)	-
<b>Total infrastructure, plant and equipment</b>	<b>130,596</b>	<b>140,543</b>

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.

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 (2011-12)**

	Land	Buildings	Total Land & Buildings	Infrastructure Plant & Equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2011</b>					
Gross book value	6,826	72,114	78,940	140,543	219,483
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net book value 1 July 2011</b>	<b>6,826</b>	<b>72,114</b>	<b>78,940</b>	<b>140,543</b>	<b>219,483</b>
Additions					
by purchase	-	831	831	4,438	5,269
by recognition	500	-	500	22	522
Depreciation expense	-	(3,008)	(3,008)	(13,807)	(16,815)
Disposals - by sale	-	(16)	(16)	(553)	(569)
Write-down and impairment recognised through the operating result	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	47	47	(47)	-
<b>Net book value 30 June 2012</b>	<b>7,326</b>	<b>69,968</b>	<b>77,294</b>	<b>130,596</b>	<b>207,890</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2012 represented by:</b>					
Gross book value	7,326	72,974	80,300	144,334	224,634
Accumulated depreciation	-	(3,006)	(3,006)	(13,738)	(16,744)
	<b>7,326</b>	<b>69,968</b>	<b>77,294</b>	<b>130,596</b>	<b>207,890</b>

**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
<b>As at 1 July 2010</b>					
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)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2010</b>	<b>6,826</b>	<b>58,523</b>	<b>65,349</b>	<b>86,034</b>	<b>151,383</b>
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)	-
<b>Net book value 30 June 2011</b>	<b>6,826</b>	<b>72,114</b>	<b>78,940</b>	<b>140,543</b>	<b>219,483</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2011 represented by:</b>					
Gross book value	6,826	72,114	78,940	140,543	219,483
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>6,826</b>	<b>72,114</b>	<b>78,940</b>	<b>140,543</b>	<b>219,483</b>

\* 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)

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

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 6D: Intangibles</b>		
Computer software		
Purchased - in use	148	102
Accumulated amortisation	(25)	-
Internally developed - in use	16	54
Accumulated amortisation	-	-
<b>Total Computer Software</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>156</b>
Water Entitlements	93	93
<b>Total Water Entitlements</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Total intangibles</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>249</b>

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 (2011-12)**

	Computer Software Purchased \$'000	Computer Software Developed \$'000	Water Entitlements \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2011</b>				
Gross book value	102	54	93	249
Accumulated amortisation	-	-	-	-
<b>Net book value 1 July 2011</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>249</b>
Additions				
Purchased	8	-	-	8
Amortisation expense	(25)	-	-	(25)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2012</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2012 represented by:</b>				
Gross book value	110	54	93	257
Accumulated amortisation	(25)	-	-	(25)
	<b>85</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>232</b>

**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
<b>As at 1 July 2010</b>				
Gross book value	-	60	93	153
Accumulated amortisation	-	(1)	-	(1)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2010</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>152</b>
Additions				
Purchased	107	-	-	107
Amortisation expense	(5)	(5)	-	(10)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2011</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2011 represented by:</b>				
Gross book value	102	54	93	249
Accumulated amortisation	-	-	-	-
	<b>102</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>249</b>

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

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 6F: Other Non-Financial Assets</b>		
Prepayments	530	355
<b>Total other non-financial assets</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>355</b>

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

**Note 7: Payables**

<b>Note 7A - Suppliers</b>		
Trade creditors and accruals	1,393	2,252
Operating lease rentals	718	764
<b>Total supplier payables</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>3,016</b>

Supplier payables expected to be settled within 12 months:

Related entities	1,183	1,795
External parties	928	1,221
<b>Total supplier payables</b>	<b>2,111</b>	<b>3,016</b>

Settlement is usually made net 30 days.

<b>Note 7B - Other Payables</b>		
Salaries and wages	524	462
Superannuation	93	78
Net GST Payable to the ATO	105	-
Unearned revenue	3,428	1,930
Other Payables	48	44
<b>Total other payables</b>	<b>4,198</b>	<b>2,514</b>

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

**Note 8: Employee Provisions**

Leave	7,693	7,164
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<b>7,693</b>	<b>7,164</b>

Employee Provisions are expected to be settled in:

No more than 12 months	3,266	2,881
More than 12 months	4,427	4,283
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<b>7,693</b>	<b>7,164</b>



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

**Note 9: Cash Flow Reconciliation**

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents per Balance Sheet to Cash Flow Statement</b>		
<b>Cash and cash equivalents as per:</b>		
Cash Flow Statement	43,689	41,540
Balance sheet	43,689	41,540
<b>Difference</b>	-	-
<b>Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:</b>		
Net cost of services	(12,433)	16,657
<b>Non-cash items</b>		
Depreciation/amortisation	16,840	8,732
Take up of assets for the first time	(530)	(12,605)
Write down of non-financial assets	10	85
(Gain) / loss on disposal of non-current assets	423	(38)
<b>Changes in Assets and Liabilities</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in net receivables	1,679	180
(Increase)/decrease in GST receivables	399	(389)
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(175)	105
(Increase)/decrease in accrued revenue	(94)	(43)
Increase/(decrease) in unearned revenue	1,497	(4,057)
Increase/(decrease) in employee provisions	610	377
Increase/(decrease) in supplier payables	(906)	(1,829)
Increase/(decrease) in other payables	(38)	36
Increase/(decrease) in other provisions	-	-
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>7,282</b>	<b>7,211</b>

**Note 10: Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets**

No contingent assets or liabilities exist for the Director of National Parks for the current financial year (2010-11: 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.

## DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### Note 12: Related Party Disclosures

##### Director of National Parks

The Director of National Parks during the year was Mr Peter Cochrane. The aggregate remuneration of the Director is disclosed in Note 13: Senior Executive Remuneration.

##### Loans to Director and Director related entities

There were no loans made to either the Director or entities related to the Director during 2011-12 (2010-11: 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 2011-12 (2010-11 Nil).

#### Note 13: Senior Executive Remuneration

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

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
<b>Short-term employee benefits:</b>		
Salary	762,563	593,376
Annual Leave Accrual	16,578	(13,868)
Other <sup>1</sup>	26,905	93,465
<b>Total short-term employee benefits</b>	<b>806,046</b>	<b>672,973</b>
<b>Post-employment benefits:</b>		
Superannuation	201,754	101,581
<b>Total post-employment benefits</b>	<b>201,754</b>	<b>101,581</b>
<b>Other long-term benefits</b>		
Long service leave	33,810	(6,361)
<b>Total other long-term benefits</b>	<b>33,810</b>	<b>(6,361)</b>
<b>Termination benefits</b>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,041,610</b>	<b>768,194</b>

Notes:

1. Note 13A is prepared on an accrual basis (therefore the performance bonus expenses disclosed above may differ from the cash 'Bonus paid' in Note 13B).

2. Note 13A excludes acting arrangements and part-year service where total 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 Reportable Remuneration Paid to Substantive Senior Executives During the Reporting Period

2012						
Annual average reportable remuneration <sup>1</sup>	Senior Executives No.	Reportable Salary <sup>2</sup> \$	Contributed Superannuation <sup>3</sup> \$	Reportable Allowances <sup>4</sup> \$	Bonus paid <sup>5</sup> \$	Total \$
Total remuneration (including part-time arrangements):						
Less than \$150,000	1	55,334	43,833	-	-	99,167
\$150,000 to \$179,999						-
\$180,000 to \$209,999	2	161,907	25,851	-	-	187,758
\$210,000 to \$239,999	1	171,782	45,556	-	-	217,338
\$240,000 to \$269,999						
\$270,000 to \$299,999						
\$300,000 to \$329,999	1	190,452	109,695	-	-	300,147
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>					

2011						
Annual average reportable remuneration <sup>1</sup>	Senior Executives No.	Reportable Salary <sup>2</sup> \$	Contributed Superannuation <sup>3</sup> \$	Reportable Allowances <sup>4</sup> \$	Bonus paid <sup>5</sup> \$	Total \$
Total remuneration (including part-time arrangements):						
Less than \$150,000	2	48,921	37,708	-	-	86,629
\$150,000 to \$179,999	1	164,722	25,754	-	-	190,476
\$180,000 to \$209,999						
\$210,000 to \$239,999						
\$240,000 to \$269,999						
\$270,000 to \$299,999	1	180,866	92,035	-	-	272,901
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>					

Notes:

- 1 This table reports substantive senior executives who received remuneration during the reporting period. Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 2 Reportable salary<sup>1</sup> includes the following:
  - a) gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
  - b) reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' to account for tax benefits); and
  - c) exempt foreign employment income.
- 3 The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average actual superannuation contributions paid to senior executives in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period, including any salary sacrificed amounts, as per the individuals' payslips.
- 4 Reportable allowances<sup>1</sup> are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.
- 5 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. 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.
- 6 Various salary sacrifice arrangements were available to senior executives including superannuation, motor vehicles, and expense payment fringe benefits. Salary sacrifice benefits are reported in the 'reportable salary' column, excluding salary sacrificed superannuation, which is reported in the 'contributed superannuation' column.

**DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**Note 13C: Other Highly Paid Staff**

2012						
Annual average reportable remuneration <sup>1</sup>	Staff No.	Reportable Salary <sup>2</sup> \$	Contributed Superannuation <sup>3</sup> \$	Reportable Allowances <sup>4</sup> \$	Bonus paid <sup>5</sup> \$	Total \$
Total remuneration (including part-time arrangements): \$150,000 to \$179,999	6	138,665	22,233	-	-	160,898
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>					

2011						
Annual average reportable remuneration <sup>1</sup>	Staff No.	Reportable Salary <sup>2</sup> \$	Contributed Superannuation <sup>3</sup> \$	Reportable Allowances <sup>4</sup> \$	Bonus paid <sup>5</sup> \$	Total \$
Total remuneration (including part-time arrangements): \$150,000 to \$179,999	2	142,033	19,273	-	-	161,306
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>					

**Notes:**

1 This table reports staff:

- a) who were employed by the entity during the reporting period;
  - b) whose reportable remuneration was \$150,000 or more for the financial period; and
  - c) were not required to be disclosed in Tables A, B or director disclosures.
- Each row is an average figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.

2 Reportable salary<sup>1</sup> includes the following:

- a) gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
- b) reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' to account for tax benefits); and
- c) exempt foreign employment income.

3 The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average actual superannuation contributions paid to senior executives in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period, including any salary sacrificed amounts, as per the individuals' payslips.

4 Reportable allowances<sup>1</sup> are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.

5 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. 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.

6 Various salary sacrifice arrangements were available to senior executives including superannuation, motor vehicles, and expense payment fringe benefits. Salary sacrifice benefits are reported in the 'reportable salary' column, excluding salary sacrificed superannuation, which is reported in the 'contributed superannuation' column.

**Note 14: Remuneration of Auditors**

	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Financial Statement audit services are provided to Director of National Parks by the Auditor-General.		
The fair value of the services provided was:	<u>81</u>	<u>81</u>
No other services were provided by the Auditor-General.		

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 15: Financial Instruments		2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Note 15A - Categories of financial instruments</b>			
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
<b>Loans and receivables</b>			
Cash	5A	43,689	41,540
Trade and Other Receivables	5B	1,132	2,716
<b>Carrying amount of financial assets</b>		<b>44,821</b>	<b>44,256</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>			
<b>At amortised cost</b>			
Trade creditors and accruals	7A	2,111	3,016
Other payables	7B	3,428	1,930
<b>Carrying amount of financial liabilities</b>		<b>5,539</b>	<b>4,946</b>
<b>Note 15B - Net income and expense from financial assets</b>			
<b>Loans and receivables</b>			
Interest revenue		1,590	1,618
Write down - financial assets	3D	-	(92)
<b>Net gain/(loss) loans and receivables</b>		<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,526</b>
<b>Net gain/(loss) from financial assets</b>		<b>1,590</b>	<b>1,526</b>

**Note 15C - Net income and expense from financial liabilities**

There was no net income/expenses from financial liabilities in 2011-12. (2010-11: 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 (2012: \$902,845 and 2011: \$2,967,423). The Director of National Parks has assessed the risk of the default on payment and has allocated \$5,105 in 2012 (2011: \$97,819) 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
	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000	2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
Cash at Bank	43,689	41,540	-	-
Trade debtors and other receivables	772	1,378	365	1,338
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,461</b>	<b>42,918</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>1,338</b>



**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 2012**

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Trade and other receivables	32	22	13	293	360
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>360</b>

**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
<b>Total</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>1,338</b>

**Note 15F - Liquidity risk**

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

The following tables illustrate the maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities

	On demand 2012 \$'000	within 1 year 2012 \$'000	1 to 5 years 2012 \$'000	> 5 years 2012 \$'000	Total 2012 \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	2,111	-	-	2,111
Other payables	-	3,428	-	-	3,428
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,539</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,539</b>

	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,946</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,946</b>

**Note 15G - Market risk**

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

**Interest Rate Risk**

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

**Note 15H - Financial Assets Reconciliation**

		2012 \$'000	2011 \$'000
<b>Financial Assets</b>			
<b>Total financial assets as per balance sheet</b>	Notes	<b>44,821</b>	44,550
Less: non- Financial Instrument components		-	-
GST Receivable	5B	-	294
Total non - financial instrument components		-	294
<b>Total financial assets as per financial instruments note</b>		<b>44,821</b>	<b>44,256</b>

## 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 \$41.485m Grant from Portfolio Agency (2010-11: \$46.444m). The Director of National Parks did not receive an equity injection in 2011-12 (2010-11: \$2.249m).

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 2011-12 (2010-10: 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.*

	<b>Outcome 1</b>	
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Departmental</b>		
Expenses	(74,687)	(66,694)
Own-source income	62,254	83,313
<b>Net cost of outcome delivery</b>	<b>(12,433)</b>	<b>16,619</b>

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

#### Note 19: Cost Recovery Policy

##### **Significant cost recovery arrangements**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Park Use, Educational Services and Parking Fees	9,937	11,219
<b>Total receipts subject to cost recovery policy</b>	<b>9,937</b>	<b>11,219</b>





*For nature lovers, Christmas Island National Park provides fantastic opportunities to observe unique plants and animals in their natural habitats. The park protects 85 square kilometres – about two-thirds of the island. A small but environmentally significant marine area extends 50 m seaward from the low water mark, protecting much of the island's fringing coral reefs. It's home to a rich array of marine life and you'll find hundreds of species of tropical fish, dolphins, whale sharks, manta rays and varieties of unspoiled coral. Pictured is a Clark's anemonefish. Unaffected by the anemone's sting, it hides amongst the anemone's tentacles to stay safe from other predators. Photo: Parks Australia*





*Pulu Keeling National Park – part of the Cocos Islands – is a wonderland for crabs, thousands of which cover the park's forest floor and coastal fringe. The little nipper is common under the Pisonia forest. You'll occasionally see robber crabs in the forest, land crabs in the saltmarsh and on the fringes of the lagoon, yellow nippers, red crabs and the horn-eyed host crab. Three species of hermit crabs are present in large numbers on the beaches. The red hermit crab, pictured, is a relentless scavenger that combs the shoreline and nearby vegetation for food. Photo: Parks Australia*







## 7 Appendices

**Appendix A: Agency Resourcing Statement 2011–12**

**Appendix B: Portfolio Budget Statements reporting 2011–12**

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

**Appendix D: Compliance index**

← *Green Patch is a fantastic place to take the family when visiting Booderee National Park for the day or to camp. One of the many locals that you will see on the lawns around Green Patch is the swamp wallaby.*  
*Photo: June Andersen*

# Appendix A: Agency Resourcing Statement 2011–12

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
<b>Opening balance/Reserves at bank</b>	41,540	-	41,540
<b>REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT</b>			
<b>Ordinary annual services<sup>1</sup></b>			
Outcome 1	-	-	-
<b>Total ordinary annual services</b>	-	-	-
<b>Other services</b>			
Non-operating	-	-	-
<b>Total other services</b>	-	-	-
<b>Total annual appropriations</b>	-	-	-
<b>Payments from related entities<sup>2</sup></b>			
Amounts from the portfolio department	41,485	41,485	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,485</b>	<b>41,485</b>	-
<b>Total funds from Government</b>	<b>41,485</b>	<b>41,485</b>	-
<b>FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES</b>			
Interest	1,629	1,629	-
Sale of goods and services	17,956	17,956	-
Other	2,313	164	2,149
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,898</b>	<b>19,749</b>	<b>2,149</b>
<b>Total net resourcing for DNP</b>	<b>104,923</b>	<b>61,234</b>	<b>43,689</b>

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 Bill (No.1) 2011–12
- 2 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 2011–12

## KEY RESULT AREA 1—NATURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

### PBS Target—Viable populations of selected significant species maintained

- Park managers have nominated 37 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 3 species are increasing; 16 species are remaining steady; 8 species are falling; 1 species is likely to be extinct; 2 species may be locally extinct; and population data are deficient for 7 species.

#### Booderee National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
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.	<p>▲ <b>Numbers rising</b></p> <p>Numbers continue to steadily increase in burnt sites since the last major wildfire in 2003 and remain steady in unburnt sites.</p>
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.	<p>► <b>Numbers steady</b></p> <p>Numbers have been stable for the life of the monitoring program. Ongoing nesting activity has been observed.</p>
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.	<p>► <b>Numbers steady</b></p> <p>Numbers have been stable for the life of the monitoring program.</p>
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. Control of invasive kikuyu grass in nesting habitat.	<p>► <b>Numbers steady</b></p> <p>This is a stable and very healthy population displaying exceptionally high breeding success.</p>



Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
Long-nosed bandicoot <i>Perameles nasuta</i>	No	Monitoring program for bandicoots and primary food source (invertebrates) in place since 2003.	Controlling fox populations.	► <b>Numbers steady</b> Populations peaked in 2005–06 before declining in 2008–09. Numbers increased in 2010 and are now steady. This is typical of documented trends in recovering bandicoot populations.
Green and golden bell frog <i>Litoria aurea</i>	Vulnerable	Call back monitoring of breeding sites since 1996. PhD research project on all frogs has been underway since 2007.	No action being undertaken.	<b>Presumed to be locally extinct</b> Not positively detected in the park for seven years. Likely to be locally extinct, despite little change to habitat or hydrology. Viable populations nearby.
Giant burrowing frog <i>Heleioporus australiacus</i>	Vulnerable	Call back monitoring of breeding sites since 1996. PhD research project on all frogs has been underway since 2007.	No action being undertaken.	► <b>Numbers steady</b> Numbers were stable for the life of the monitoring program. Regular monitoring has ceased.
Common brushtail possum <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	No	Monitoring programs for distribution and abundance in place since 2003.	Controlling fox populations.	▼ <b>Numbers falling</b> Populations increased after intensive fox baiting was implemented but have now started to decline.
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.	► <b>Numbers steady</b> Numbers have been stable for the life of the monitoring program.
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.	<b>May be locally extinct</b> Numbers declined strongly in early 2000s and the species has not been detected in the park since 2007.
Eastern chestnut mouse <i>Pseudomys gracilicaudatus</i>	No	PhD research project commenced in 2008.	Controlling fox populations. Protecting habitat from fire.	▼ <b>Numbers falling</b> Population peaked in 2008–09 and is continuing to decline.



## Christmas Island National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
Christmas Island pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus murrayi</i>	Critically Endangered	Opportunistic monitoring of pipistrelle call activity but established program no longer conducted.	–	<b>Presumed to be extinct</b> The pipistrelle is 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 biennial biodiversity monitoring (island-wide survey or IWS) 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) continued.  Christmas Island Reptile Advisory Panel established to provide scientific advice for the management of reptiles.	<b>▼ Numbers falling</b> Reptile species are continuing to undergo a rapid population decline in the wild. However, captive populations of Lister's gecko and blue-tailed skinks are being maintained or increasing. Forest skinks have not bred in captivity and may be extinct in the wild.
Red crab <i>Gecarcoidea natalis</i>	No	Biennial monitoring (IWS) of burrow counts to determine distribution and density. Survey has used consistent methodology since 2001. Most recent IWS was conducted in 2011.  An independent scientific study monitoring the off-target impacts of Fipronil baiting, published in 2011, showed that Fipronil did not have off-target impacts.	Continued crazy ant management program including completion of IWS in 2011 and continuation of indirect biological control research project. Aerial baiting is being planned and will be conducted in mid to late 2012.  Australian Government announcement in 2011 of \$4m to continue management of crazy ant and other invasive species.  Continued red crab management program including traffic management, road infrastructure development and education.  Crazy Ant Scientific Advisory Panel continued to provide advice for the management of crazy ants.	<b>► Numbers steady</b> (possible slight decline) Population numbers appear to have declined from 2001 to 2009. However, an analysis of data collected from the 2011 IWS indicates a slight recovery since the 2009 IWS of between 3% and 8%.

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
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 were inconclusive. However, mapping undertaken as part of the 2011 IWS showed that distribution (nest occupancy) across the island was relatively stable from 2009 to 2011. External researcher is investigating aspects of population ecology, particularly demographics. Initial results suggest low reproduction success in recent years due to intense rains in 2010.	Continuation of the Christmas Island Mine-site to Forest Rehabilitation Program, which focuses on the rehabilitation of Abbott's booby nesting habitat.	<b>? Data deficient</b>  Trend is currently unknown but short-term data, which should be used with caution, suggest the nest occupancy rate was relatively stable from 2009 to 2011.

## Kakadu National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring <sup>1</sup>	Actions	Trend
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.  Next five-year full floristic and fauna survey commences in 2012–13.	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, with monitoring of survival rates.	<b>► Numbers steady</b>  Significant population decline occurred following the arrival of cane toads. The remaining population is low but stable.  Reports of sightings throughout the park are received periodically.  A number of captive-bred 'toad-smart' quolls are surviving and reproducing.

<sup>1</sup> The full floristic and fauna survey of the park's 132 permanent fire plots was the initiative that first identified the small mammal decline across Australia's Top End. These surveys are conducted five-yearly and the survey scheduled for 2012–13 provides the next opportunity to gauge the status of many of these threatened species.

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring <sup>1</sup>	Actions	Trend
Northern brown bandicoot <i>Isodon macrourus</i>	No	Biodiversity Hotspot Surveys. Incidental sighting database records any sightings or road kills. Next five-year full floristic and fauna survey commences in 2012–13.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality.	▼Numbers falling Population declining consistent with pattern of small mammal decline across northern Australia.
Northern brushtail possum <i>Trichosurus arnhemensis</i>	No	Biodiversity Hotspot Surveys. Incidental sighting database records any sightings or road kills. Next five-year full floristic and fauna survey commences in 2012–13.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality.	▼Numbers falling Population declining consistent with pattern of small mammal decline across northern Australia.
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. Next five-year full floristic and fauna survey commences in 2012–13.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality. Sightings in new areas are followed up with targeted surveys.	▼Numbers falling Population declining consistent with pattern of small mammal decline across northern Australia.
Black-footed tree-rat <i>Mesembriomys gouldii</i>	No	Biodiversity Hotspot Surveys. Incidental sighting database records any sightings or road kills. Next five-year full floristic and fauna survey commences in 2012–13.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality.	▼Numbers falling Population declining consistent with pattern of small mammal decline across northern Australia.
Pale field rat <i>Rattus tunnneyi</i>	No	Biodiversity Hotspot Surveys. Incidental sighting database records any sightings or road kills. Next five-year full floristic and fauna survey commences in 2012–13.	Landscape unit-based fire management to improve habitat quality.	▼Numbers falling Population declining consistent with pattern of small mammal decline across northern Australia.
Flatback turtle <i>Natator depressus</i>	Vulnerable; Marine; Migratory	Continuation of yearly survey and capture program (annual survey since 1995).	–	►Numbers steady Monitoring shows population is steady.

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring <sup>1</sup>	Actions	Trend
Estuarine crocodile <i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	Marine; Migratory	Continuation of survey and capture program that has been underway since 1979.  Satellite tracking project has been underway since 2005.	–	► <b>Numbers steady</b>  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.

## Norfolk Island National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
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. 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 feral animal control (rats, cats, crimson rosellas) through most of their habitat.	► <b>Numbers steady</b>  Current population estimate of 240 individuals (Dutson, 2010). 300% increase over the past decade (approx). Probably stable at present and not likely to increase further until more habitat is available.

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
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). Breeding recorded in one nest box this year. 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.	► <b>Numbers steady</b> Current population estimate of 40 individuals. In the mid-1980s there was only one bird, so there has been a historic increase in population numbers.
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.	? <b>Data deficient</b> Current population estimate of 2,200 mature individuals (Dutson, 2010). Insufficient data to estimate trend.
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.	? <b>Data deficient</b> May be gradual decline that 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).
Wedge-tailed shearwater <i>Ardenna pacifica</i>	Marine; Migratory	No monitoring program at present.	Weed and feral animal control.	? <b>Data deficient</b> Unable to determine. No trends at present.

## Pulu Keeling National Park

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
Red-footed booby <i>Sula sula</i>	Marine; Migratory	Annual fauna survey conducted since 1985. However, monitoring was not undertaken in 2011 due to access issues.	Community education and compliance activities.	► <b>Numbers steady</b> Analysis of data indicates population remains steady at around 30,000 breeding pairs.
Cocos buff-banded rail <i>Gallirallus philippensis andrewsi</i>	Endangered	Monitoring commenced in late 1999. Monitoring now included in the IWS (so far, conducted in 2009 and 2012).	In collaboration with the Cocos Islands Shire and scientists, translocation of a small population (in accordance with the recovery plan) is being planned for 2012–13.	► <b>Numbers steady</b> Most recent monitoring results estimated the current population at approximately 1,000 individuals.



## Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park<sup>2</sup>

Species	EPBC Act status	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
<i>Tjakura</i> —great desert skink <i>Liopholis kintorei</i>	Vulnerable	15th annual <i>tjakura</i> survey (Feb–Mar 2012) identified 93 active burrows.	Continued fire management to improve habitat quality. Continued predator monitoring. Feral strategy finalised and acted upon—cat trapping programs successful but unable to effectively trap foxes.	► <b>Numbers steady</b> The number of <i>tjakura</i> burrows in 2012 is not significantly different from 2011 numbers.
Mala—rufous hare-wallaby <i>Lagorchestes hirsutus</i>	Endangered	Annual mala survey undertaken in September 2011. 70 individuals were caught and the mark-recapture population estimate was 214 animals (95% confidence limits 168–282).	Continued active management within the 170-hectare predator-proof enclosure, such as mosaic burning (20% regeneration to 80% mature spinifex) and supplementary feeding.  Daily inspection of enclosure fence.	▲ <b>Numbers rising</b> The number of mala is increasing within the predator-proof enclosure. Further research will begin in 2012 to help ascertain when mala have reached their carrying capacity within the enclosure. UKTNP now has the largest known population of mainland mala in existence and as such is extremely important to the species' ongoing survival.
<i>Murtja</i> —brush-tailed mulgara <i>Dasyercus blythi</i>	No <sup>2</sup>	Active mulgara burrows, fresh scats and feed diggings found in large numbers across all 21 survey quadrats in the habitat area. 23 individuals were trapped and a new population was discovered in the east of the park.	Continued fire management to improve habitat quality. Continued predator monitoring. Feral strategy finalised and acted upon—cat trapping programs successful but unable to effectively trap foxes.	▲ <b>Numbers rising</b> A significant increase in the mulgara population detected in 2012 as compared to 2011 and 2010.

<sup>2</sup> 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
<i>Itjariitjari</i> —southern marsupial mole <i>Notoryctes typhlops</i>	Endangered	None	Currently determining habitat preferences and distribution across the park. Future studies will involve trench surveying.	<b>? Data deficient</b> Marsupial mole signs (tracks/pop holes) found in all 8 spinifex habitat types in 2010 surveys—surface habitat preferences apparent but unable to conclude from the data how those sites differed statistically in respect to the number of signs that occurred at each site. Currently analysing and publishing the results.
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 and two are not.	Currently determining habitat preferences and visitor influences on existing populations.	<b>? Data deficient</b> 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.
Striated grasswren <i>Amytornis striatus</i>	No	Biannual monitoring (next monitoring to be conducted in September 2012).	Continued 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.	<b>? Data deficient</b> Monitoring in 2010 located 5 pairs in a small area of complex spinifex in the south of the park. This is the largest number recorded since initial surveys in 1992; however, birds are unable to be located at any other sites in the park, suggesting this part of the park provides key habitat elements.
Rare plant survey	No	Three-year baseline study and annual monitoring of 15 prioritised plants completed in 2010.	Individual management actions for each species, including fire management regimes, erosion control and camel control.	<b>► Numbers steady</b> Numbers stable for most species. Further monitoring of 5 species will include studies to understand fire tolerances and factors that influence juvenile recruitment rates in the rarer species.

## 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 12 species are increasing; 3 species are remaining steady; 3 species are falling; and population data are deficient for 6 species.

### Booderee National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
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.	<b>▲Numbers rising</b> Numbers increased in 2011–12, 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.
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 enclosure trials to assess vegetation recovery.	125 ha aerially sprayed in June 2012, with further spraying of 48 ha using splatter guns and 45 ha using ground spraying. No burning conducted in 2012. Ground application of herbicide followed by spot burning is the more prevalent strategy with decreasing aerial application as bitou density reduces.	<b>▼Numbers falling</b> 90% reduction in the area of high density infestation and 75% reduction in the area of medium density infestation between 2004 and 2012. Effective aerial treatment undertaken this year. Post treatment recovery of native plant species is slow due to high levels of preferential grazing by native species.

### Christmas Island National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
Yellow crazy ant <i>Anoplolepis gracilipes</i>	Biennial biodiversity IWS to determine supercolony distribution. The survey has used consistent methodology since 2001. A survey was completed in 2009 and a further survey was completed in 2011.	Undertook 2011 IWS, which underpins control program. Prepared for aerial baiting program to be conducted later in 2012. Continued to fund research by La Trobe University into biological control. Completed a study on the off-target species impacts of Fipronil bait.	<b>▲Numbers rising</b> 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 with 784 ha supercolonies baited. Ongoing monitoring indicates aerial baiting has been successful in reducing ant numbers in former supercolonies. However, based on the results from the 2011 IWS, new supercolonies are emerging with about 600 ha mapped.

Christmas Island National Park continued

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
False curry bush <i>Clausena excavata</i>	Survey conducted as part of 2011 IWS.	No specific control work has been undertaken.	<b>? Data deficient</b> No baseline data to date so no trend can be detected. The risk of increasing numbers and distribution under intact rainforest canopy would be of significant concern.
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 was 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.	<b>▼ Numbers falling</b> (for known infestation) Trend is declining but it is possible that, despite monitoring, there are other undetected infestations that may be increasing.
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 control of cats in settled areas. This work is supported by Australian Government agencies, the Shire and Phosphate Resources Ltd and has resulted in the removal of over 300 feral cats since the program commenced in mid-2011.	<b>? Data deficient</b> (possible decline) Little baseline data to date so no trend can be accurately detected. Until recent control efforts, anecdotal evidence suggested that numbers appeared to be rising. However, current efforts have removed a significant part of the feral cat population.

Kakadu National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
Mimosa <i>Mimosa pigra</i>	Mimosa stands have been mapped and there is an annual monitoring program.	Integrated eradication program conducted.	<b>► Numbers steady</b> Under control, virtually absent from the park.
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.	<b>▲ Numbers rising</b> The range of this species is increasing.
Gamba grass <i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	Ongoing monitoring as part of integrated weed program.	Eradication program conducted.	<b>► Numbers steady</b> Under control within the park, but a large infestation is advancing towards the park's southern boundary and presents a high risk to the park.

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
Mission grass <i>Pennisetum polystachion</i>	Ongoing monitoring as part of integrated weed program.	Treated in a number of strategic areas; opportunistic control elsewhere.	<b>▲ Numbers rising</b> The range of this species is increasing.
Olive hymenachne <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	Ongoing monitoring as part of integrated weed program.  Species is subject to several current research projects.	Systematic control at a number of key locations; opportunistic control elsewhere.	<b>▲ Numbers rising</b> The range of this species is increasing.
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.	<b>► Numbers steady</b> Extent of infestations varies greatly between locations and over time.
Water buffalo <i>Bubalus bubalis</i>	Incidental sightings database maintained.	Limited control program implemented in May–June 2012 with 75 buffalo seen and 47 shot. Program was limited to approximately 1/3 of the park, primarily in the northern wetland areas. Some southern sections of the park, which have the greatest number of buffalo, could not be included. Ongoing opportunistic control.	<b>▲ Numbers rising</b> Numbers are increasing.
Feral pig <i>Sus scrofa</i>	Incidental sightings database maintained.	Limited control program implemented in May–June 2012 with 1,389 pigs seen and 1,065 shot. Program was limited to approximately 1/3 of the park, primarily in the northern wetland areas. Ongoing opportunistic control.	<b>▲ Numbers rising</b> Numbers are increasing.

## Norfolk Island National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
Black rat <i>Rattus rattus</i>	Monthly survey of presence/absence of rats. Trapping and baiting program provides an indication of presence/absence.	Over 1,000 bait stations are set through the park and baited each month. Snap traps are also set in some areas.  Predation by rodents is listed as a priority threatening process under the Norfolk Island Region Threatened Species Recovery Plan.	<b>? Data deficient</b>  Interesting results from a change in bait (previous bait had been in place for 12 years). Initial very high bait take, which began to settle after seven months. Too early to be able to assess impacts on rat populations.



## Norfolk Island Park continued

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
Feral cat <i>Felis catus</i>	Trapping program provides a presence/absence indication. Continued gut analysis to determine prey composition (e.g. rats, native birds).	Cat trapping occurs every second month.  Predation by feral cats is listed as a priority threatening process under the Norfolk Island Region Threatened Species Recovery Plan.	<b>? Data deficient</b>  Unable to quantify population size. Uncertain whether rodent control program in park is impacting on feral cat numbers in the park.
Red guava <i>Psidium cattleianum</i>	Monitoring program recently commenced.	Completed weed control in 4 of the 19 coups identified in the rehabilitation strategy; 4 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.	<b>? Data deficient</b>  Unable to determine. No trends at present.
African olive <i>Olea europaea africana</i>	Monitoring program recently commenced.	Completed weed control in 4 of the 19 coups identified in the rehabilitation strategy; 4 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.	<b>? Data deficient</b>  Unable to determine. No trends at present.

## Pulu Keeling National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
Yellow crazy ant <i>Anoplolepis gracilipes</i>	Monitoring included in the IWS (so far completed in 2009 and 2012).	Continued monitoring program and planning for control programs.  Revised quarantine protocols to control access.	<b>▲ Numbers rising</b>  Colonies fairly widespread, with some sites recorded at supercolony density. Analysis of the results of 2012 IWS will provide further baseline data.
Coral berry <i>Rivina humilis</i>	Ongoing mapping activities.  IWS completed in 2012.	Coral berry treated with herbicide as part of trial to devise suitable long-term control measures.  Revised quarantine protocols to control access.	<b>▼ Numbers falling</b>  Increased distribution and density observed in western part of the park over recent years. Analysis of the results of 2012 IWS will provide an indication of trends following control program, although densities have been reduced in controlled areas.

## Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park

Species	Monitoring	Actions	Trend
Buffel grass <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Monitoring of native biodiversity following buffel removal around Uluru.	Final round of contracted buffel control program completed in October 2011. Ongoing control actions will be carried out opportunistically by rangers when possible.  Trial study to determine the effects of fire and spraying on buffel conducted in 2011 but proved unsuccessful; trial will be repeated in 2012.	<b>▲ Numbers rising</b>  A high rainfall year and failure of control trials has seen buffel grass distribution and density increase.
Feral cat <i>Felis catus</i>	UKTNP Vertebrate Pest Monitoring Plan activated. This involves a combination of track monitoring and remote surveillance cameras.	Continued cat trapping program.	<b>▲ Numbers rising</b>  Despite successful cat trapping activities, numbers across the whole park continue to rise. This rise in numbers is due to the favourable conditions experienced in the previous 12 months and the subsequent boom in small mammal numbers.
European wild rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Monitoring prioritised to the mala enclosure and involves active burrow counts.	Phostoxin used to treat and re-treat warrens in the mala enclosure. Rabbit burrow numbers decreased from more than 200 burrows to 30.	<b>▼ Numbers falling in the mala paddock</b> <b>▲ Numbers rising in the remainder of the park</b>  Rabbit numbers have increased across the park as a result of extremely good conditions in the past 12 months. Rabbit control work in the mala enclosure has been prioritised over the rest of the park due to the negative impact rabbits have on mala populations.
European red fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	UKTNP Vertebrate Pest Monitoring Plan activated. This involves a combination of track monitoring and remote surveillance cameras.	Continued fox trapping program.	<b>▲ Numbers rising</b>  Fox trapping activities have been unsuccessful and numbers across the whole park continue to rise. This rise in numbers is due to the favourable conditions experienced in the previous 12 months and the subsequent boom in small mammal numbers.

### 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 declined slightly throughout the year in the jointly managed parks. The overall number of Parks Australia staff has also declined.
- The number of Indigenous staff engaged as intermittent and irregular employees and contractors to provide services at Kakadu National Park has increased slightly. <sup>PBS</sup>
- The Kakadu Indigenous Ranger Program, funded by Working on Country, also provides resources allowing Kakadu to host 11.5 community rangers in park related employment.
- Anangu participation in flexible employment at Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park through the Mutitjulu Community Ranger program has declined due in part to the cessation of funding for two workforce development coordinators (previously funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations).
- The number of Indigenous staff directly employed at Booderee National Park remained stable.
- In its 2011 annual report, WBACC Contracting Services reported that it employed 14 full time, 4 permanent part time and up to 10 casual staff to deliver services to Booderee National Park.

### KEY RESULT AREA 4—USE AND APPRECIATION OF PROTECTED AREAS

#### PBS Target—Visitor satisfaction levels greater than 95 per cent

- Visitor surveys were undertaken at Norfolk Island and Uluru–Kata Tjuta national parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens, with high overall satisfaction levels recorded from respondents (Norfolk Island—100 per cent, Uluru–Kata Tjuta—96 per cent, Australian National Botanic Gardens—93 per cent).

### 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 or high risks in risk watch lists in 2011–12.
- The Director has participated in the Comcover Risk Management Benchmarking Scheme since 2002–03. In 2011–12, the Director scored 7.9 out of a possible 10 compared to an average score for all Australian Government agencies of 6.6. For the past seven years, the Director has consistently scored above the average for all agencies.

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

- Parks staff and contractors sustained two major injuries. Two park visitors died (a drowning of a rock fisherman in Christmas Island National park and a missing person in Kakadu National Park, presumed by police to be due to crocodile attack) and there were four major injuries to visitors.

#### **PBS Target—Three new actions implemented which produce significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions**

- A significant decrease in total energy consumption by parks and reserves was recorded in 2011–12, confirming the trend of recent years. This represented an 11.9 per cent reduction in the volume of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from stationary sources compared to the average over the past three years and a 10.2 per cent reduction for transport sources.
- Replacement of two diesel-powered generators in the South Alligator District of Kakadu National Park with more efficient systems that require less fuel resulted in a saving of approximately 85 litres of diesel fuel per day, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by over 83 tonnes per annum.
- Booderee National Park's ongoing program of improvements at Bristol Point campground continued with the installation of instantaneous gas hot water heaters, energy efficient lights and a second solar inverter.
- Although more labour intensive, the move to fertilise newly planted trees by hand instead of using large diesel-powered machinery for the Christmas Island Mine-site to Forest Rehabilitation program reduced both fuel costs and the quantity of fertiliser wasted. Targeting fertiliser specifically to newly planted trees, rather than blanketing the area, limits weed growth and subsequent competition. By fertilising the forest rehabilitation site in this way, less vehicle fuel and chemicals are used and staff time spent on weed control is also reduced.

#### **KEY RESULT AREA 7—BIODIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

#### **PBS Target—Five per cent increase in website unique users and publications accessed**

- The Parks Australia websites and blog ([parksaustralia.gov.au](http://parksaustralia.gov.au) and [kakadu.com.au](http://kakadu.com.au)) received 757,527 visits (an average of 2,081 visits a day) in the 2011–12 financial year. This was a 27 per cent increase in visitation on the prior year; this strong growth was boosted by increased social media initiatives, rich media content and more material that met the Government Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0.

## 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 2011–12 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 2011–12 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 2011–12 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 will ensure visitors contribute to the cost of park management.

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

The Director of National Parks' key outcome as identified in the 2011–12 Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 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, working with traditional owners and stakeholders, providing appropriate recreation and tourism and improving understanding of the values of reserves.*

Activities undertaken during 2011–12 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/11-12](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/publications/annual/11-12).

### 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 produce duplex documents to reduce paper use.

Climate change strategies, including actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, are in place for six of seven Commonwealth terrestrial reserves; a climate change strategy was prepared for Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park during 2011–12 and has received support from the park's Board of Management.

For a summary of activities undertaken in 2011–12 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). 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 paper consumption in Table C3 and for water use in Table C4.

## 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
- 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 to ensure environmental, economic and social objectives and considerations are outlined and integrated. 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.

A significant decrease in total energy consumption by parks and reserves was recorded in 2011–12, confirming the trend of recent years. This represented an 11.9 per cent reduction in the volume of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from stationary sources compared to the average over the past three years and a 10.2 per cent reduction for transport sources (Tables C1 and C2).

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 replacing its diesel-powered generators with more efficient systems that require less fuel. During 2011–12, two electricity generators were replaced in the South Alligator District, resulting in a saving of approximately 85 litres of diesel fuel per day and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by over 83 tonnes per annum. Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park is also undertaking a program of generator engine rebuilds that will ensure equipment is operating at optimal performance levels.

The ANBG is also limited in its ability to reduce energy consumption due to its requirements for maintaining plant and herbarium specimens under very specific conditions. The ANBG continues to aim for a 10 per cent offset in its energy use and in 2011–12 purchased 115,118 kilowatt hours of GreenPower (approximately 11 per cent of purchased electricity). The ANBG has commenced Stage 2 of recommended works from an energy audit to replace the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system in one of its buildings to deliver electricity savings in 2012–13. The ANBG is also continuing to introduce more electric vehicles to support horticultural operations and in 2011–12 introduced an electric powered people mover for public tours. ANBG transport energy use has increased, primarily as a result of an increase in off-road usage of 4WD vehicles for fieldwork supporting the Alpine Research Project.

Parks and reserves continue to implement and undertake a range of actions to improve energy use. Although these actions may not result in a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, they do reflect the efforts being made to improve operations, including in areas that are remote and therefore provide limited opportunities for large impact changes. Actions and improvements include:

- the application of special reflective paint on the roof of the Bowali Visitor Centre and the administration building in Kakadu National Park to lower the surface temperature and ensure more efficient use of the air-conditioning system
- Booderee National Park's ongoing program of improvements at Bristol Point campground continued with the installation of instantaneous gas hot water heaters, energy efficient lights and a second solar inverter
- the move to fertilise newly planted trees by hand instead of using large diesel-powered machinery for the Christmas Island Mine-site to Forest Rehabilitation program. Although this is more labour intensive, the change reduces fuel costs and the quantity of fertiliser

wasted. Targeting fertiliser specifically to newly planted trees, rather than blanketing the area, limits weed growth and subsequent competition. By fertilising the forest rehabilitation site in this way, less vehicle fuel and chemicals are used and staff time spent on weed control is also reduced.

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 increasingly uses alternatives to air travel such as tele-and videoconferencing.

**Table C1: DNP terrestrial reserves greenhouse gas emissions 2008–12**  
—stationary energy use

	2008–09 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	2009–10 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	2010–11 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	Annual average 2008–11 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	2011–12 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	% change compared with average
Australian National Botanic Gardens	1,630.5	1,233.3	1,262.1	1,375.3	1,287.3	-6.4
Booderee National Park	274.6	178.0	159.2	203.9	146.2	-28.3
Christmas Island National Park	44.0	48.8	47.7	46.8	65.6	40.0
Kakadu National Park	1,346.3	1,263.9	1,177.3	1,260.5	903.6	-28.3
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	6.3	5.3	3.3	5.0	3.1	-37.5
Pulu Keeling National Park	16.6	14.8	13.0	14.8	10.1	-31.7
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	1,391.5	1,265.3	1,165.1	1,274.0	1,265.8	-0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,709.8</b>	<b>4,009.4</b>	<b>3,821.6</b>	<b>4,180.3</b>	<b>3,681.7</b>	<b>-11.9</b>

**Table C2: DNP terrestrial reserves greenhouse gas emissions 2008–12**  
—transport energy use

	2008–09 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	2009–10 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	2010–11 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	Annual average 2008–11 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	2011–12 (tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> e)	% change compared with average
Australian National Botanic Gardens	32.2	25	23.3	26.8	32.4	20.7
Booderee National Park	101.2	73.1	68.5	80.9	63.5	-21.5
Christmas Island National Park	75.8	82.9	83.5	80.7	80.4	-0.4
Kakadu National Park	445.0	761.3	571.9	592.7	520.4	-12.2
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	22.0	17.5	12.8	17.4	10.7	-38.6
Pulu Keeling National Park	5.6	3.4	2.8	3.9	4.3	9.3
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	126.7	171.7	133.8	144.1	138.1	-4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>808.5</b>	<b>1,134.8</b>	<b>896.6</b>	<b>946.7</b>	<b>849.8</b>	<b>-10.2</b>

## Environmental performance—waste

Obtaining accurate measurements of greenhouse emissions from 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, double-sided printing, 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 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. Paper usage increased slightly (4 per cent) in 2011–12 compared with the previous reporting year and declined by 14 per cent compared with the average use of the previous three years (see Table C3). Several reserves use 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper for printing. In 2011–12, Parks Australia purchased an average of 4.0 reams of paper per employee (excluding metropolitan office-based staff). This slight increase from the 2010–11 figure (3.7) reflects the bulk purchasing patterns of remote parks. Parks and reserves remain well under the departmental target of 10 reams per employee per year. Over time, technology upgrades at all locations will provide more opportunities to print double-sided, thereby 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 obtained 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 aluminium. Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park is operating the Mutitjulu waste site facility in line with the *Waste Management Guidelines for Small Communities in the Northern Territory—Working Towards Best Practice 2009* and has engaged the services of an appropriate service provider to manage the site. Recycling facilities continue to be available in all ANBG offices and onsite facilities, including composting of organic kitchen waste. The ANBG is a 'rubbish bin free' site for the public; visitors are encouraged to take home their waste for recycling. In 2011–12 approximately 500 cubic metres of plant material was recycled as mulch and used onsite.



**Table C3: DNP terrestrial reserves paper consumption 2008–12—reams of paper**

	Reams of paper 2008–09 (reams/ person)	Reams of paper 2009–10 (reams/ person)	Reams of paper 2010–11 (reams/ person)	Average reams of paper 2008–11	Reams of paper 2011–12 (reams/ person)	% change compared with average
Australian National Botanic Gardens	240 (3.9)	300 (5.0)	320 (5.5)	287	282 (4.8)	-2
Booderee National Park	400 (13.0)	60 (2.1)	45 (1.8)	168	56 (2.1)	-67
Christmas Island National Park	50 (1.8)	50 (1.4)	50 (1.8)	50	50 (1.9)	0
Kakadu National Park	211 (3.1)	378 (5.6)	227 (3.3)	272	366 (6.3)	35
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	65 (18.6)	45 (9.0)	40 (8.0)	50	37 (7.4)	-26
Pulu Keeling National Park	4 (2.0)	3 (1.5)	4 (2.0)	4	4 (2.0)	9
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	304 (7.2)	82 (2.1)	140 (3.5)	175	66 (108)	-62
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>826 (3.7)</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>861 (4.0)</b>	<b>-14</b>

## 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 water holes in reserves is monitored regularly and activities in each reserve must not interrupt the natural flow of water. The capacity to measure water consumption at each reserve is improving but consistent data are not yet available. This year the historical data in Table C4 for Booderee have been updated to reflect the availability of more accurate park-wide reporting of water use, including campgrounds.

The 18 per cent increase in water use recorded across the reserves in 2011–12 was due largely to fluctuations in climatic conditions, particularly in Uluru–Kata Tjuta and Kakadu, which experienced drier conditions this year after a particularly wet year in 2010–11. Kakadu housing was also occupied at higher levels during the year.

Since 2011, the ANBG has been extracting non-potable water from Lake Burley Griffin for irrigation requirements. In addition, the ANBG continues to use water-saving initiatives such as soil sensors, water-saving irrigation components and priority watering, recycling of water from catchment ponds and use of mulch to reduce evaporation. Norfolk Island

National Park operates entirely on harvested rainwater; new tanks with a larger capacity have been installed for the office and the newly constructed information centre. Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park has commenced a process to develop and implement a new and improved water management system for the Muṯitjulu community and the park headquarters precinct. This will ensure the quality of drinking water is acceptable and improved data collection to enable the park to better monitor usage.

Parks and reserves continue to upgrade water infrastructure and institute savings where possible. Activities range from upgraded water reticulation infrastructure at Cave Beach in Booderee National Park to modified watering regimes at the Christmas Island Mine-site to Forest Rehabilitation program nursery.

**Table C4: DNP terrestrial reserves—water consumption 2008–12**

	2008–09 (kL)	2009–10 (kL)	2010–11 (kL)	2011–12 (kL)
Australian National Botanic Gardens	165,965	172,431	122,178 <sup>(a)</sup>	128,368 <sup>(a)</sup>
Booderee National Park <sup>(b)</sup>	9,551	10,680	10,525	8,480
Christmas Island National Park	not recorded	13,242	8,148	9,473
Kakadu National Park	not recorded	82,452	40,923	53,507
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden <sup>(c)</sup>	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
Pulu Keeling National Park	52	54	18	14
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park	72,855	40,995	50,430	74,782
<b>Total</b>	<b>not applicable</b>	<b>319,854</b>	<b>232,222</b>	<b>274,624</b>

- (a) The ANBG non-potable water extraction project was completed during 2010–11. In 2011–12 potable water usage was 57,483 kL and non-potable was 70,885 kL.
- (b) Booderee National Park previously reported water use at the park depot only. Now that park-wide data are available, the table has been updated.
- (c) Norfolk Island National Park operates entirely on harvested rainwater.

## Appendix D: Compliance index

This annual report has been prepared in accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011*.

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## Glossary and shortened forms

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

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