



Australian Government
Director of National Parks



Director of National Parks | **Annual Report 2004–05**

*Managing the Australian
Government's protected areas*

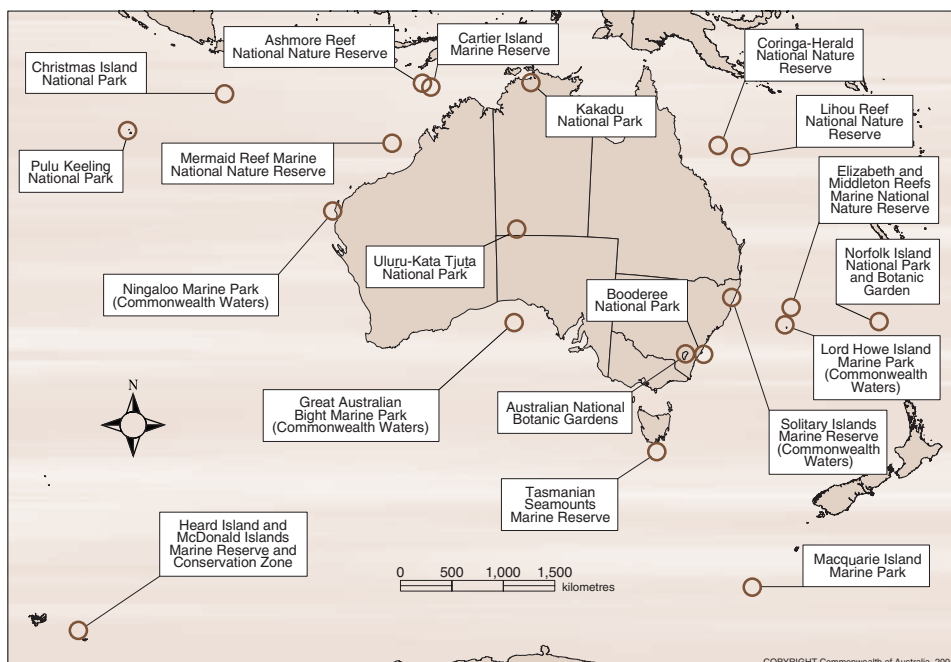
An Organisational Snapshot

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

In 2004–05, the Director of National Parks:

- managed seven terrestrial reserves comprising six national parks and the Australian National Botanic Gardens
- managed 13 marine reserves
- managed Calperum and Taylorville Stations via a contract with Austland Services Pty Ltd
- employed 263.8 full-time equivalent staff around Australia
- recorded a total price of outputs of \$58.965 million
- progressed several new marine protected area proposals.

Figure 1: Locations of Commonwealth parks and reserves managed by the Director of National Parks in 2004–05



Managing the Australian Government's protected areas

Our mission

To assist the Minister and the Department of the Environment and Heritage in the conservation and appreciation of Australia's biological diversity and associated cultural heritage, through leadership and cooperation in the management of the Australian Government's protected areas.

Highlights for 2004–05

- Developed a shared tourism vision for Kakadu to reposition the park, emphasising sustainable tourism and Indigenous culture
- Celebrated Australia Day at Uluru with the Governor-General
- No significant disruptions to business by wildfire or other major natural events
- Improved cooperation with state-based managers who assist in the management of Commonwealth marine reserves
- Adopted a performance assessment framework, including agency-level indicators to inform future reporting
- Developed and introduced ParkSafe, an integrated occupational health and safety management system specifically tailored to park workforce requirements
- Consolidated the Australian National Parks Fund's financial position

About this report

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Cochrane', is displayed on a light grey rectangular background.

Peter Cochrane

Director of National Parks

12 September 2005

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Director's review



The year in review

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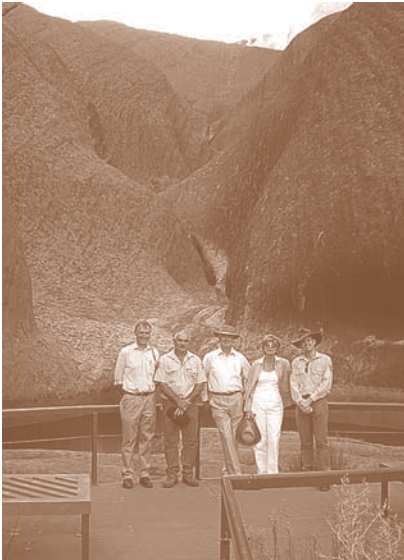
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The year in review



The Governor-General Major General Michael Jeffery, with Mrs Jeffery at Mutitjulu waterhole after delivering his pre-Australia Day message at Uluru, also with (from left) Peter Cochrane, board member Graeme Calma and then park manager Tony English.

The past year has, overall, been one of consolidation for Parks Australia and for management of the Australian Government's protected area estate.

For the first time in several years, there were no significant disruptions by natural or human disasters to our core business. The year was thankfully free of major incidents such as the tragic death of a German tourist in Kakadu from crocodile attack in 2002 and the serious wildfires at Uluru in 2002 and Booderee in late 2003. The solid efforts of park staff in effectively managing the risks inherent in protected area management played no small part in 2004–05 being a comparatively trouble-free year.

Strong financial management and controls saw an operational cash surplus of \$1.4 million for the year, following five years of deficits. The Government's provision of additional funding to compensate for the removal of entry fees at Kakadu National

Park combined with increased revenue at other parks and the lack of significant disruptions were the major contributing factors. Careful budget management and a tight capital budget have enabled us to rebuild our cash reserves to an adequate level. However, the triennial asset base revaluation adversely impacted our accrual position by \$1.6 million, creating a deficit of \$0.207 million for 2004–05.

On the administrative side, the successful introduction of ParkSafe during the year and the ongoing development of our strategic planning and performance framework will underpin a more accountable and effective management effort in future years.

Against this background, many significant achievements were recorded during the year. The State of the Parks report that constitutes the bulk of this annual report presents detailed achievements for each property for which the Director is responsible. A number of short case studies provide more detailed information to highlight the diversity of activities and issues we manage. The following examples illustrate the range of actions and achievements during the year.

Managing terrestrial reserves

The ongoing recovery of Booderee National Park following the severe Christmas 2003 fires became evident during the year. Damaged campgrounds were reopened and vegetation regrowth has been impressive. A partnership with the Australian National University resulted in an Australian Research Council linkage grant to study the interaction between fire and biodiversity. Initial results show the park in unexpectedly good shape after the fires.

The continued success of the new visitor infrastructure and boat shuttle service at Twin Falls Gorge in Kakadu National Park that were opened in early 2004 has been pleasing. Visitor support has been good and has allowed safe access to the area in a way that minimises risk from crocodile attack. The participation by young Indigenous people as interpreters has been an outstanding success.

The management of commercial filming and photography at Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park has been a contentious issue for some years. New commercial filming and photography guidelines were endorsed by the Uluru Board in 2005 after a wide-ranging review by a working group comprising park staff, traditional owners, filmmakers, photographers and the tourism industry. The new approach includes a more consistent and straightforward permit approval process while protecting traditional owners' rights and cultural interests.

The drought that has affected much of south-east Australia for several years has posed particular difficulties for the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra. Improved efficiencies in water delivery and better-targeted watering have reduced irrigated water use by 25 per cent over the past year. We achieved this without significant detriment to the world's largest and most diverse collection of Australian plants. However, the long-term viability of the collection remains a concern with increasing water prices and supply constraints. We are seeking to have the Gardens included in the scope of an ACT Government submission to the National Water Initiative for a recycled water capability.

On Norfolk Island, the completion of the Mount Pitt road reconstruction project marks the close of a long and difficult project. A case study in the State of the Parks section gives some detail of the complexities that can arise in managing major construction projects in remote environments.

Two conservation-related initiatives in other areas are also worthy of highlight, although neither is an Australian Government reserve. A non-statutory management plan for Calperum and Taylorville Stations in the South Australian Riverland was finalised in collaboration with Austland Services Pty Ltd which manages the properties under contract. And the Director's contract with the Department of

Defence for management of Beecroft Weapons Range at Jervis Bay in New South Wales ceased in August 2004, ending a decade-long conservation partnership. Importantly, the Department has taken over environmental stewardship of this important site, employing our former staff through a smooth transition.

Managing marine protected areas

The Government is committed to a continuing and major investment in developing new marine protected areas through the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas Programme.

In 2004–05 the major focus was on continuing to develop reserve options in the south-east marine region of Australia's waters, within the 11 broad areas of interest identified in the South-East Regional Marine Plan developed under Australia's Oceans Policy. Planning for reserve identification also commenced in the northern marine planning region. In relation to the proposed declaration of the Cod Grounds off the New South Wales coast as an Australian Government reserve, the Government has funded a structural adjustment package to assist fishers who may be affected by the declaration. It is expected that this package will be implemented in 2005–06.

Research and monitoring studies were conducted to survey the condition of the reserves and to increase the scientific knowledge on which management decisions are made. Generally, while there was some significant coral bleaching, the values for which these reserves were declared are in good condition. Particular studies were made of terrestrial pest species such as ginger ants at Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve to improve our capacity to understand and control these species.

A highly successful workshop was held to enhance cooperation with state-based park managers who assist in the management of some Australian Government reserves where they abut state marine reserves to ensure consistency of management approach.

Our capacity to ensure compliance with legislative requirements was improved through the development of a database to streamline permit administration and establishment of a single after-hours contact point for marine incident management.

Updated information for visitors to Ashmore Reef and Mermaid Reef National Nature Reserves helped ensure that visitors understand and abide by the reserve rules and enjoy their visit.

Species inventories

We made major progress on preparing inventories of the species listed under environmental legislation that occur in the six terrestrial national parks. Exhaustive

work undertaken over the past two years is now assisting managers to establish priorities for threatened species management, to refine pest management, and to identify research priorities.

Management planning

The second management plan for the Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) came into effect immediately upon the cessation of its predecessor and a draft plan (the first) for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve was released for public comment. The latter has now been finalised following the public comment period and is expected to be in effect in the near future.

New management plans are under development for Kakadu National Park and Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve. Progress on both plans has been unsatisfactory and their completion is now a major priority.

Supporting joint management

Our joint management with Indigenous traditional owners of the three mainland parks continues to be the most challenging but at the same time the most rewarding of our activities. Our efforts to increase direct and indirect employment of Indigenous staff and the successful graduation of trainees to full-time ongoing positions represent a positive contribution to the Government's reconciliation agenda. The increasing number of Indigenous tourism business ideas in Kakadu and Booderee is encouraging.

Reviews of the Kakadu and Uluru leases are under discussion with the Northern and Central Land Councils respectively. The Northern Land Council has agreed to arrangements for replacement payments to traditional owners following the removal of entry fees to Kakadu in December 2004 and the consequent loss of traditional owners' share of park revenue.

The Mutitjulu community within Uluru, like many remote Indigenous communities, has suffered entrenched economic and social problems for some time. It is thus very pleasing to report that Parks Australia is contributing (along with many other groups) to an innovative 'working together' project called *Tjungu Waakaripai*, established by the community to deliver long-term change. A case study in the State of the Parks section provides details of the project, which already has seen some early successes.

I attended three board meetings at Kakadu, four at Uluru and three at Booderee during 2004–05. New members were appointed to the Kakadu and Booderee Boards including new chairs for both. On a sad note, the premature passing of a long-serving

and highly respected member of the Kakadu Board was mourned by all those who knew and had worked with him.

Visitors

Some 1.39 million people visited our terrestrial parks and botanic gardens during the year. High numbers were recorded at Uluru, Booderee and the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Following wide-ranging public criticism of Kakadu as a tourism destination, the Kakadu Board, in partnership with the Australian and Northern Territory governments and the local tourism industry, developed a new shared vision for the park. In February 2005 our Parliamentary Secretary, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory jointly launched the Board's new vision at Kakadu.

A supporting report, *A Shared Vision for Tourism in Kakadu National Park*, was produced through consultations with traditional owners and the tourism industry, led by the former head of the Australian Tourism Commission, John Morse AM. Respecting Indigenous culture, helping visitors understand and appreciate the beauty of the region and promoting sustainable tourism are its principal goals. A high priority for 2005–06 will be making the vision a reality. The Australian Government is currently finalising a formal response to the report's recommendations.

Corporate governance

A small group of senior staff further refined the Parks Australia Strategic Planning and Performance Assessment framework and associated performance indicators to facilitate reporting against outcomes set down in the Divisional Plan. The indicators will be used from 2005–06 to report performance at the agency level. The indicator set will be extended during 2005–06. Our specific objective is to be able to report explicitly on how well we do our job. The indicator set is also being employed, or tailored to fit, in new management plans so their progress can be monitored and reported consistently with this overall framework.

An experienced audit committee continued to oversee our planning and performance framework and financial management. The committee has a majority of independent members with wide experience in the public sector and park management. They make an invaluable contribution to the rigour and integrity of our activities.

Weekly meetings of the Parks Australia senior executive and the heads of the business management and strategic development sections provided regular guidance for operational and strategic issues. The executive has been bolstered in the past year

with the recruitment of Bruce Leaver, as a senior adviser, who brings a wealth of experience and expertise in protected area management issues.

A particularly pleasing achievement over the past year has been the successful introduction of ParkSafe, the Parks Australia integrated occupational health and safety management system. ParkSafe addresses the range of hazards arising from the nature of our work and the location of our estate. The appointment of staff dedicated to implementing ParkSafe will allow us to systematically and confidently pursue improved occupational health and safety outcomes.

Business management

On 19 July 2004, the Prime Minister announced that entry fees to Kakadu National Park would be abolished, a commitment confirmed during the 2004 election campaign. Implementation of this commitment was handled most professionally by staff and came into effect in December 2004 in advance of the date nominated by the Prime Minister. The Government provided a budget supplement in current and forward year funding estimates to ensure the continued effective management of the park.

The 2004–2006 certified agreement for staff of the Department of the Environment and Heritage continued to operate effectively. Of these staff, 264 are seconded to the Director to manage terrestrial parks. Another 13 staff of the Department's Marine Division manage marine protected areas under delegation from the Director.

Last year's operational review of Booderee was implemented, producing a workforce aligned with emerging operational needs. The restructure has resulted in improved performance in several areas including entry fee compliance monitoring and incident reporting. The operational review of the Darwin Office is being progressively implemented while planning for reviews at Uluru and Kakadu are under way. This year we also prepared and adopted our first Business Continuity Plan.

World Conservation Congress

I led the Australian Government delegation to the IUCN World Conservation Congress which was held in Bangkok in November 2004. IUCN—the World Conservation Union—comprises government, non-government, institutional members and individuals whose objective is conservation of nature and natural resources.

The World Commission on Protected Areas, one of the six IUCN Global Commissions, is the principal international forum for protected area issues. Australia was again very active in the Commission's deliberations at the 2004 Congress.

Significant outcomes were endorsement of the Durban Action Plan developed at the World Parks Congress in 2003, confirmation of the IUCN protected area management categories system (used extensively in Australia) and support for review of the guidelines for the categories.

Tri-National wetlands agreement

In December 2004 Kakadu hosted a successful visit by Papua New Guinea officials under the Tri-National Wetlands Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement, signed by Australia, Indonesia and PNG in 2002, promotes information-sharing and capacity-building for Kakadu, Wasur National Park in Indonesia and the Tonda Wildlife Management Area in PNG, all of which contain internationally significant wetlands and face similar management challenges. A programme of work is being finalised with three joint activities proposed for 2005–06.

Traditional owners' New Zealand visit

In May 2005 a delegation of traditional owners from Kakadu, Uluru and Booderee travelled to New Zealand at the invitation of Maori Paramount Chief Tumu Te Heu Heu. The trip was a valuable opportunity to share ideas and strategies for Indigenous peoples' involvement in conservation and followed an earlier visit to Uluru by Maori representatives and New Zealand officials.

The visitors were warmly received by their New Zealand hosts and were impressed by the initiatives under way to promote Maori involvement in conservation. There are many lessons we can learn from our New Zealand colleagues in this regard. Our thanks go to Chief Tumu and the New Zealand Department of Conservation for hosting the visit.

Formal recognition of achievements

Members of Parks Australia were recognised in the Department's Australia Day Achievement Awards, including Booderee staff and volunteers who assisted with battling the Windermere fire emergency in the park over Christmas 2003 and Buck Salau's ongoing leadership of weed control and crocodile management in Kakadu. Also recognised were Helen Halliday and Michael Nelson for their contribution to workforce planning and staff relations and to web site design and management.

The Australian National Botanic Gardens won the ecotourism category at the Canberra and Capital Region Tourism Awards for the third year in a row, firmly positioning the Gardens as one of the Canberra region's significant tourist attractions.



Parks Australia's David Phillips (left) and Peter Coyne (right) with the Comcover award for Excellence in Project Risk Management.

Our nomination of the Twin Falls case study was placed second in the category 'Excellence in Project Risk Management' in Comcover's 2004 Awards for Excellence in Risk Management. The case study described the measures taken to manage risk from crocodile attack for visitors to this iconic part of Kakadu. This award, together with our participation in Comcover's risk management benchmarking, resulted in a significant

insurance premium discount. Our risk benchmark ranking improved to four stars in 2004–05.

The annual report for 2003–04 received a silver award in the 2005 Australasian Reporting Awards.

The coming year

As usual, the coming year presents us with many challenges.

Staff and visitor safety continues to be a high priority. The budgetary supplementation provided by the Government following the lifting of entry fees at Kakadu has assisted us to provide enhanced visitor services in the park. Better reporting and accountability, occupational health and safety, recruitment, and succession planning are other major areas for attention. Planning for further marine protected areas will create funding pressures in the medium term.

Strengthening traditional owner benefit from, and participation in, joint management remains a key objective. The ongoing success of contracting arrangements with the traditional owners of Booderee provides a model for further contracting out of services to local Indigenous enterprises.

Two significant future risks that have not yet been fully addressed are worth highlighting. Funding for maintenance and replacement of ageing capital infrastructure in the larger parks require on-going attention, notwithstanding improved arrangements for capital infrastructure planning introduced in 2003–04.

Also, rehabilitation of old uranium mining sites including Coronation Hill in the Gunlom area of Kakadu will require significant additional resources. This issue is of great concern to traditional owners and is an obligation under the park lease.

Other key priorities include responding to the apparent biodiversity loss on Christmas Island, stimulating tourism in Kakadu, working in a whole-of-government context to help address social and community dysfunction in the Mutitjulu community and making more headway on controlling key threats from weeds and feral animals across our protected area estate.

Dedicated staff

Finally, it is an honour and a pleasure to work with the committed and talented team that is Parks Australia. Their capabilities, experience and expertise enable us to successfully tackle the most varied challenges—from fire use and control, visitor rescues and incident management to hosting VIPs, policy development, cutting-edge research in conservation biology and taxonomy and managing our diverse interactions with the commercial operators and businesses that work in our parks. Combined with the dedicated contributions from hundreds of volunteers, many of whom have given weeks of work as guides, educators and labourers tackling weeds or track maintenance, a remarkable effort is made to protect our parks and botanic gardens and present them to the public as places of learning, appreciation and discovery.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Cochrane', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Cochrane

Director of National Parks

Financial and Commonwealth reserves system summary



Financial summary

Figure 2: Revenues

Figure 3: Expenses

Table 1: Variance analysis

Table 2: Overview of financial results

System-wide summary

Table 3: Terrestrial Commonwealth reserves

Table 4: Marine Commonwealth reserves

Table 5: Protected area management categories

Table 6: Overview of individual reserves

Financial summary

A positive result was achieved for 2004–05. The goal of reversing declining cash reserves was met through finding operational efficiencies across the estate and delaying some non-critical capital expenditure.

Impacting on these efforts however, was the financial affect of asset write-downs, after the cyclical asset revaluation required under the Finance Minister's Orders. This resulted in a small deficit of \$0.207 million.

Overall, revenue for 2004–05 was up by 3.7 per cent and expenditure was up by 4.3 per cent. The items shown in Table 1 below were the principal contributors.

Table 1: Variance analysis

Business area	Revenues	Expenses
Jointly managed parks	Up \$0.500 million, primarily due to insurance recoveries from the 2003 Booderee fires (\$0.640 million) and assets being recognised for the first time (\$0.246 million). This was offset by lesser than expected park use fees (\$0.343 million) at Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park from declining visitor numbers.	Up \$0.592 million due to write-down of assets from the revaluation.
Other parks and reserves	Up \$1.284 million due to final Beecroft recoveries (\$0.135 million), better than expected revenue at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (\$0.131 million) and MOUs in relation to Christmas Island with the Department of Finance and Administration (\$0.245 million) and the Department of Transport and Regional Services (\$0.712 million) not included in original budget.	Up \$2.415 million in line with increased activities at Christmas Island (\$1.089 million) and Beecroft (\$0.087 million) compounded by write-down of assets across parks and reserves of \$1.200 million.
Contribution to Australia's Virtual Herbarium	Transfer of NHT funding to the Director of National Parks.	Transfer of NHT funding to Australia's Virtual Herbarium.
Governance, corporate services and Executive	Down \$0.087 million, primarily relating to less interest revenue due to reduced cash reserves over the year.	Down \$1.101 million with timing issues primarily related to staffing and delays in consultancy engagements.

Figure 2: Revenues

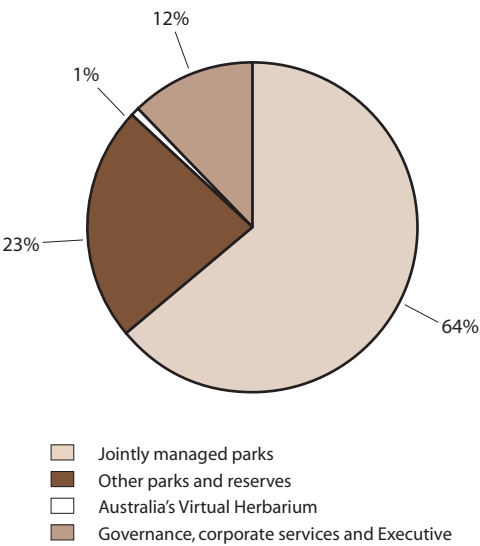


Figure 3: Expenses

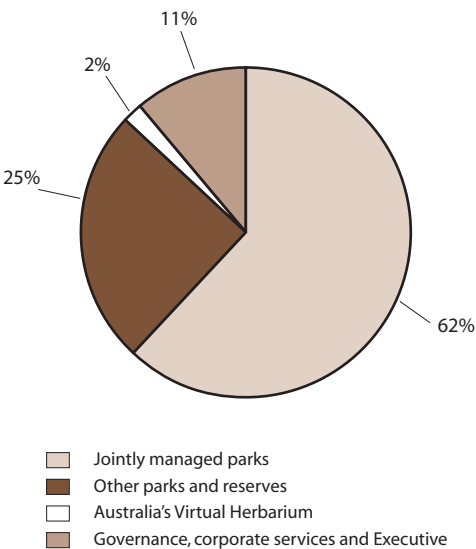


Table 2: Overview of financial results

		2004 Actuals \$000s	2005 Actuals \$000s	2005 Budget \$000s	2005 Variance \$000s
Jointly managed parks ^a	Revenue	34,606	36,863	36,363	500
	Expenses	(36,511)	(36,956)	(36,364)	(592)
	Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,905)	(93)	(1)	(92)
Other terrestrial parks and reserves ^b	Revenue	13,139	13,589	12,304	1,284
	Expenses	(13,097)	(14,719)	(12,303)	(2,415)
	Surplus/(Deficit)	42	(1,130)	1	(1,131)
Total terrestrial parks and reserves	Revenue	47,745	50,452	48,667	1,785
	Expenses	(49,608)	(51,675)	(48,667)	(3,008)
	Surplus/(Deficit)(a)	(1,863)	(1,223)	0	(1,223)
Contribution to Australia's Virtual Herbarium	Revenue	763	763	363	400
	Expenses	(763)	(884)	(363)	(521)
	Surplus/(Deficit)	0	(121)	0	(121)
Governance, corporate services and Executive ^c	Revenue	3,027	7,311	7,398	(87)
	Expenses	(5,686)	(6,175)	(7,275)	1,101
	Surplus/(Deficit)	(2,659)	1,136	123	1,014
Total Director of National Parks	Revenue	51,535	58,526	56,428	2,098
	Expenses	(56,057)	(58,733)	(56,305)	(2,427)
	Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,522)	(207)	123	(329)

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

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

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

System-wide summary

Table 3: Terrestrial Commonwealth reserves

Year ending 30 June	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Expenses (\$000s)	49,411	52,774	54,650	57,545	58,965
Revenue (\$000s) ^a	63,776	64,383	62,947	53,022	58,758
Number of staff	273.2	278.9	280.5	287.8	263.8 ^b
Number of reserves	7	7	7	7	7
Area protected (ha)	2,131,300	2,131,300	2,131,300	2,131,300	2,131,300

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

(b) Does not include staff involved in managing marine areas and therefore not directly comparable with previous years

Table 4: Marine Commonwealth reserves

Year ending 30 June	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Expenses (\$000s)	1,225	2,235	2,126	1,981	2,531
Number of staff	18.5	17.5	13	12	12.6
Number of reserves	12	12	13	13	13
Area protected (ha)	20,758,100	20,758,100	27,218,100	27,244,080	27,244,080

Table 5: Protected area management categories

IUCN protected area management category ^a	Ia Strict nature reserve	II National park	IV Habitat/ species management area	VI Managed resource protected area
Number of reserves	8	7	2	3
Area (ha) ^b	8,542,900	2,374,800	300,200	18,158,800

(a) No reserves proclaimed under the EPBC Act have been classified Ib (wilderness area), III (natural monument) or V (protected landscape/seascape)

(b) Parts of some reserves are of a different IUCN category from the reserve as a whole. The figures represent the overall classification and do not take account of internal zones of different classification

Table 6: Overview of individual reserves

Area name	Area (ha)	Year declared	2004–05 net operating cost (\$000s)	2004–05 capital expenditure (\$000s)	2004–05 externally revenue raised (\$000s)	2004–05 payment to traditional owners (\$000s)
Terrestrial reserves						
Australian National Botanic Gardens (p 45)	90	1991	9,644	392	384	not applicable
Booderee National Park (p 53)	6,312	1992	6,757	656	1,793	251
Christmas Island National Park (p 62)	8,719	1980	2,610	161	1,123	not applicable
Kakadu National Park (p 69)	1,980,400	1979	16,977	1,525	2,222	1,040
Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden (p 81)	656	1986	1,017	125	60	not applicable
Pulu Keeling National Park (p 87)	2,602	1995	733	28	24	not applicable
Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park (p 93)	132,566	1977	10,956	2,267	8,374	1,997
Marine reserves^a						
Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve (p 103)	58,337	1983	497			not applicable
Cartier Island Marine Reserve (p 110)	17,237	2000	31			not applicable
Coringa–Herald National Nature Reserve (p 114)	885,250	1982	26			not applicable
Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve (p 119)	187,726	1987	76			not applicable
Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) (p 123)	1,937,162	1998	173			not applicable
Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve and Conservation Zone (p 130)	6,457,815	2002	60			not applicable
Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve (p 139)	843,670	1982	14			not applicable
Lord Howe Island Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) (p 141)	300,063	2000	12			not applicable
Macquarie Island Marine Park (p 147)	16,205,928	1999	137			not applicable
Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve (p 150)	53,987	1991	6			not applicable
Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) (p 154)	243,559	1987	200			not applicable
Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters) (p 159)	15,746	1993	133			not applicable
Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve (p 163)	38,897	1999	0			not applicable

(a) In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on training wardens, travel (on management-related expenses for the whole estate), workshops and conference attendance. Another \$619,701 was spent on activities for the identification of new marine protected areas.



Organisational structure

Figure 4: Parks Australia organisation chart as at 30 June 2005

The executive team

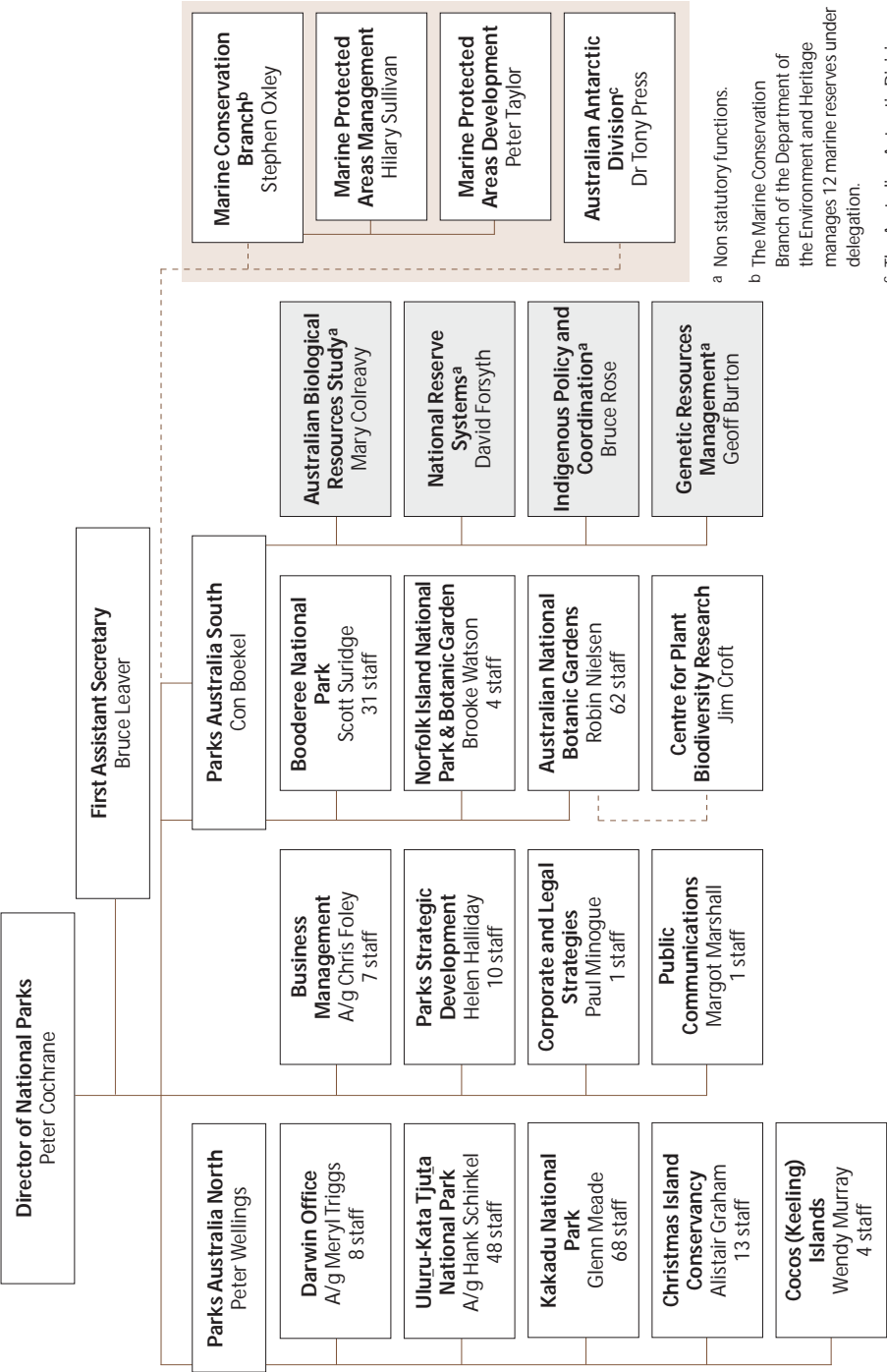
Boards of management membership

Table 7: Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management

Table 8: Kakadu National Park Board of Management

Table 9: Booderee National Park Board of Management

Figure 4: Parks Australia organisation chart as at 30 June 2005



The executive team



Peter Cochrane

Director of National Parks

Peter was appointed Director of National Parks in October 1999 and reappointed in October 2002. Two of his priorities have been building relationships with traditional owners of jointly managed parks, and improving agency corporate governance, accountability and transparency.

He has worked for the oil and gas industry on national environment and competition policy issues, and as an adviser to two federal Ministers on environment and natural resources issues. He has a background in field ecology and eco-physiology of native plants.

Peter has a Masters degree in Public Policy and a Bachelor of Science.



Bruce Leaver

First Assistant Secretary

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

Bruce serves on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Conservation and Heritage Advisory Committee and the ACT Bushfire Council.

He is the incoming convener of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee which oversees the cooperative management programme for the alpine national parks in Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT.



Peter Wellings

Assistant Secretary, Parks Australia North

Peter has spent over 20 years working in the field of national park management, mostly in the Northern Territory.

His interests include the appreciation and protection of the natural and cultural values of landscapes, working with Indigenous land owners in the joint management of national parks, policy development to progress economic futures that sustain

conservation programmes and joining local community development with the protection of landscape values. A current major focus is working, at both the national and regional levels, on issues relating to tourism futures in national parks and strategic futures for Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks.



Con Boekel

Assistant Secretary, Parks Australia South

Con has worked in both the public and private sectors, mainly in conservation, education, training, and information technology. Career highlights include training Indigenous teachers and rangers in the Northern Territory, biodiversity information management, threatened species conservation and protected area management.

Con has also contributed to the implementation of Australia's Natural Heritage Trust and to organisational change with respect to information management and information technology. He has worked on national parks in Victoria and the Northern Territory. In the private sector he grew strawberries for four years.

Con has a Master of Environmental Science, Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma of Education, and Graduate Diploma of Intercultural Studies.



Stephen Oxley

Assistant Secretary, Marine Environment Policy Branch

Stephen joined the Department of the Environment and Heritage in April 2004 after three years as an Australian Public Service adviser on Indigenous affairs.

Prior to joining the public service he worked for nine years in a government policy advisory role. During this period his major policy focus was on primary industry, sustainable natural resource management, rural industry structural adjustment, quarantine, regional development and transport.

He is also a trained print journalist with extensive experience in country newspapers and spent a year in the National Press Gallery.

Stephen holds tertiary qualifications in agriculture.



Michelle Callaway

Acting Director, Business Management Section

Michelle has diverse accounting experience in private industry and joined the Australian Public Service in 2001.

She has worked with the Director of National Parks for three years and thoroughly enjoys the challenges that park management has to offer.

Boards of Management membership

Boards of Management have been established under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Kakadu and Booderee National Parks. Tables 7, 8 and 9 show members of each board for 2004–05.

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



Donald Fraser

Chair, Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management

Donald Fraser has been a member of the Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management since 1 January 2002, and its chairman since 2003. Donald is a senior law man dedicated to maintaining and teaching *tjukurpa* (traditional Aboriginal law in the western desert region) and leading *Anangu* (western desert Aboriginal people) and other staff and visitors.

In this position, he provides leadership and direction on *Anangu* issues and ensures that *tjukurpa* values are preserved and continued. He is the first chair to work under the successful new structure of the Board, with equal representation of *Anangu* men and women, and equal representation of *Anangu* living inside and outside the park.

Table 7: Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park Board of Management

Donald Fraser (Chair)	Traditional owner nominee
Alison Carroll	Traditional owner nominee
Margaret Smith	Traditional owner nominee
Rene Kulitja	Traditional owner nominee
Barbara Tjikatu	Traditional owner nominee
Windlass	Traditional owner nominee
Johnny Tjinggo	Traditional owner nominee
Graeme Calma	Traditional owner nominee
Peter Cochrane	Director of National Parks
Vicki Gillick	Northern Territory Government nominee
David Bennett	Minister for Tourism nominee
vacant	Minister for Environment and Heritage nominee



Jacob Nayinggul

Chair, Kakadu National Park Board of Management

Jacob Nayinggul became the chair of the Kakadu Board of Management in 2005. Jacob, of the Manilikarr Clan, is a senior traditional owner of an area in the north-east of Kakadu National Park. Jacob is highly respected and especially well regarded throughout the region for his customary knowledge. He has a long history with both the establishment and

management of Kakadu National Park.

Outgoing board chair, Jonathan Nadji, is acknowledged for his contribution and leadership during consultations towards the fifth management plan, advising on the development of Twins Falls, formulation of the Tourism Vision Statement and providing guidance to park management.

Table 8: Kakadu National Park Board of Management

Jonathon Nadji (Chair)	Traditional owner nominee (until 31 January 2005)
Jacob Nayinggul (Chair)	Traditional owner nominee
Jessie Alderson	Traditional owner nominee
Jane Christopherson	Traditional owner nominee
Bessie Coleman	Traditional owner nominee (until 31 January 2005)
Victor Cooper	Traditional owner nominee
Russell Cubillo	Traditional owner nominee
Yvonne Margarula	Traditional owner nominee
Steve Wilika	Traditional owner nominee
Sandra McGregor	Traditional owner nominee (until 31 January 2005)
Mick Markham	Traditional owner nominee (from 4 April 2005)
Michael Banggalang	Traditional owner nominee (from 4 April 2005)
Jeffrey Lee	Traditional owner nominee (from 4 April 2005)
Peter Cochrane	Director of National Parks
Peter Wellings	Parks Australia
Rick Murray	Tourism industry expertise
Peter Whitehead	Nature conservation expertise
Marilynne Paspaley	Northern Territory Government nominee



Tom Brown

Chair, Booderee National Park Board of Management

Tom Brown, who has lived at Wreck Bay all his life, was chair of the Booderee National Park Board of Management from April 2003 to February 2005. He participated in activities which resulted in the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community gaining freehold title to their land. This freehold is vested in the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council for which Tom has worked since 1992.

During his chairmanship, the Board worked with consultants on the pre-design for a cultural centre and saw the commencement of contracting park services to the business arm of the Community Council.

Table 9: Booderee National Park Board of Management

Tom Brown (Chair)	Traditional owner nominee (until 2 February 2005)
Craig Ardler (Chair)	Traditional owner nominee (from 3 February 2005)
Darren Brown	Traditional owner nominee (until 2 February 2005)
Ivern Ardler	Traditional owner nominee (from 3 February 2005)
Lorraine Ardler	Traditional owner nominee
Julie Freeman	Traditional owner nominee
Phillip McLeod	Traditional owner nominee
Anthony Roberts	Traditional owner nominee (until 2 February 2005)
Leon Brown	Traditional owner nominee (from 3 February 2005)
Bruce Yuke	Traditional owner nominee (until 2 February 2005)
Gavin McLeod	Traditional owner nominee (from 3 February 2005)
Peter Cochrane	Director of National Parks
Assoc Prof Robyn Bushell	Tourism expertise
Prof John Morrison	Science expertise
Capt Tony Aldred	Department of Defence
Wayne Jeffs	Department of Tourism and Regional Services



Corporate overview



The Minister and Parliamentary Secretary

The Director of National Parks

Functions

Other responsibilities

Parks Australia's values and approaches

The Minister and Parliamentary Secretary



The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, launching new interpretive signage for the Sydney Region Gully at the Australian National Botanic Gardens on 23 May 2005.

Ministerial responsibility for Australian Government protected areas transferred from the Hon Dr David Kemp MP to Senator the Hon Ian Campbell on 19 July 2004. Following the October 2004 election, Senator Campbell was reappointed as Minister for the Environment and Heritage and the Hon Greg Hunt MP was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister. From November 2004 Mr Hunt had ministerial responsibility on behalf of Senator Campbell for terrestrial Commonwealth

reserves established under the EPBC Act, and for the Director of National Parks. Senator Campbell retained responsibility for Commonwealth marine reserves.

In this report reference to the Minister includes the Parliamentary Secretary.

Ministerial responsibilities in relation to the Director include the approval of proposals for establishment of Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones under the EPBC Act, approval of management plans for Commonwealth reserves, establishment and appointment of members of boards of management for Commonwealth reserves jointly managed with Aboriginal owners, resolution of disputes between the Director and boards of management, and the approval of Commonwealth reserve use fees and other charges.

The Director of National Parks

The Director of National Parks is a corporation sole under 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.

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 may also notify the Director under the CAC Act of general policies of the Government that are to apply to the Director.

The EPBC Act provides for the proclamation and management of Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones. The term 'Commonwealth reserves' includes all the areas proclaimed under the EPBC Act with names such as national parks, marine parks, national nature reserves, marine national nature reserves, marine reserves, and botanic gardens. Thus 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 locations of the Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones are shown at Figure 1.

The Director is assisted by staff of Parks Australia, a division of the Department of the Environment and Heritage. For 2004–05, staff of the Australian Antarctic Division of the Department, under delegation from the Director, undertook management of the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve while staff of the Marine Division, under delegation from the Director, undertook management of the remaining Commonwealth reserves established in Commonwealth marine areas.

In this report, reference to Parks Australia refers to the Director of National Parks and Parks Australia staff.

Functions

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

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

- to administer the Australian National Parks Fund
- any other functions conferred on the Director under any other Act
- to do anything incidental or conducive to the performance of any of the functions mentioned above.

Other responsibilities

The holder of the office of Director of National Parks, Peter Cochrane, has been delegated functions and powers by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage and the Secretary of the Department of the Environment and Heritage for programmes that complement the statutory functions of the Director. Parks Australia staff administer these programmes.

Under these delegations, the Director administers the National Reserve System Programme—a programme of the Natural Heritage Trust that includes the Indigenous Protected Areas Programme. Outputs of the National Reserve System Programme are reported in the annual reports of the Natural Heritage Trust and the Department of the Environment and Heritage. Under section 45 of the *Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997*, the Director has been delegated the power to approve proposals to spend moneys within the meaning of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, in relation to the Natural Heritage Trust Reserve, to the limit of programme funds approved by the Minister.

The Director also manages the Australian Biological Resources Study and the development of Australian Government policy on management of Australia's genetic resources. Outputs of both programmes are reported in the Department's annual report.

Parks Australia's values and approaches

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

- caring for the environment
- respecting and responding to the values of Indigenous landowners and other partners
- engaging with and responding to stakeholders
- providing leadership and being active team contributors

- being personally committed to learning and development
- committing to excellence
- accepting responsibility and being accountable
- acting with integrity and achieving results.

Objectives are achieved by:

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





Planning, reporting and performance

Director of National Parks strategic planning and performance assessment framework

Portfolio Budget Statements

Department of the Environment and Heritage strategic plan and corporate plan

Parks Australia Divisional Plan

Management plans

Management plan implementation schedules

Management plan prescriptions not to be implemented

Performance indicators

Table 10: Portfolio Budget Statements sub-outcome: Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves

Table 11: Proposed performance indicators for future reporting

Director of National Parks strategic planning and performance assessment framework

This annual report is one of a number of documents in the Director of National Parks strategic planning and performance assessment framework. Other major elements of the framework are described in this section of the report.

Portfolio Budget Statements

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

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

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

Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves

There is one output identified under the sub-outcome:

Output 1.1: Parks and reserves

Table 10 reports against performance measures for the sub-outcome identified in the Portfolio Budget Statements.

Detailed performance information for individual Commonwealth reserves is included in the State of the Parks section of this report (page 43).

Department of the Environment and Heritage strategic plan and corporate plan

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

Parks Australia Divisional Plan

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

KRA1: natural heritage management

KRA2: cultural heritage management

KRA3: joint management

KRA4: visitor management and park use

KRA5: stakeholders and partnerships

KRA6: business management

KRA7: biodiversity knowledge management

Not all key result areas are relevant to all reserves. For example, KRA3: joint management, is applicable only to the three jointly managed reserves—Uluru–Kata Tjuta, Kakadu and Booderee National Parks. This situation is reflected in the State of the Parks section of this report commencing on page 43.

Strategies to achieve the outcomes set down in the strategic and corporate plans are elaborated in more detail in branch, section, work team and individual work plans and in management plan implementation schedules.

Management plans

Section 366 of the EPBC Act requires the Director, or in the case of a jointly managed park, the Director and the relevant board of management, to prepare management plans for Commonwealth reserves.

Management plans provide for the protection and conservation of the reserve. They must state how the reserve is to be managed and how the features of the reserve are to be protected and conserved.

At 30 June 2005, the Director was responsible for the management of 20 Commonwealth reserves, 17 of which had management plans in place. A draft first plan for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve was released for public comment in March 2005 and work continued on preparing draft plans for the two remaining reserves. The second management plan for the Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) came into effect on 17 May 2005 immediately following the conclusion of the preceding plan.

Management plan implementation schedules

Parks Australia routinely prepares management plan implementation schedules to identify how and when each of the prescriptions in a management plan will be implemented. As such, implementation schedules contribute to determining the annual work plans for individual reserves.

At 30 June 2005, 17 implementation schedules were in effect.

The template for implementation schedules was further developed and refined during the year.

Management plan prescriptions not to be implemented

During the life of a management plan it may become clear that some of its prescriptions cannot be implemented because, for example, they have become redundant or impractical. No such prescriptions were identified in 2004–05.

Performance indicators

During the year, the Director of National Parks strategic planning and performance assessment framework was further developed through the formulation of an initial set of performance indicators that will facilitate reporting against the KRAs and outcomes set down in the Parks Australia Divisional Plan. The indicators will be used from 2005–06 to report performance at the agency level.

Details of the proposed indicators are shown in Table 11. Further extension of the indicator set will be undertaken during 2005–06.

Table 10: Portfolio Budget Statements sub-outcome: Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves

Performance measures	Results for 2004–05
Natural values for which Commonwealth reserves were declared and/or recognized have been maintained.	Management of all Commonwealth reserves was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the relevant Australian IUCN reserve management principles set out in the EPBC Regulations.
Populations of species listed in the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> and their habitats have been conserved.	Comprehensive inventories of species listed under the EPBC Act were prepared for the six terrestrial national parks to assist in establishing more rigorous management and research priorities.

Performance measures	Results for 2004–05
<p>Management of Commonwealth Reserves is based on best practice principles, measured through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of Park profiles completed and updated annually; • all fire management plans in place and implemented for relevant reserves; • all weed management plans in place and implemented; • feral species management plans in place and implemented; • weed and feral species management plans reviewed. 	<p>The Director and Parks Australia continued to strive to meet best practice standards in the management of Commonwealth reserves.</p> <p>Updated park profiles were completed and most reserves had current management plans during the year. Relevant fire, weed and feral animal plans were implemented as part of reserve management activities.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage is protected, measured through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completion and implementation of cultural heritage management plans; • completion of inventories of cultural places; • establishment of keeping places; • recording of oral histories; and • inclusion of appropriate questions relating to cultural heritage in visitor satisfaction surveys. 	<p>Cultural heritage was effectively protected through implementation of measures in management plans.</p> <p>Progress was made in developing a heritage strategy for Commonwealth heritage (including cultural heritage) for which the Director is responsible, in line with EPBC Act requirements.</p>
<p>Indigenous land ownership, and indigenous knowledge and conservation is successfully integrated into Commonwealth Reserves management, measured through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing indigenous park enterprises and indigenous employment in Commonwealth Reserves on indigenous lands; • consultation mechanisms, eg direct consultation and industry consultative committees, are effective in involving stakeholders in developing and implementing Commonwealth Reserve plans of management; and • visitors to Commonwealth Reserves enjoy a satisfying and safe experience. 	<p>The Director, boards of management and Parks Australia staff continued to work closely with traditional owners to increase traditional owner participation in the control and administration of jointly managed national parks.</p> <p>Arrangements with Indigenous park enterprises were enhanced and consultations with traditional owners regarding development and implementation of management plans proceeded effectively.</p> <p>The visitor data system being developed by Parks Australia in conjunction with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service was modified to include a module that will allow collection of qualitative data from park visitors.</p>

Table 11: Proposed performance indicators for future reporting

Key result area / outcome	Performance indicator
KRA1: Natural Heritage Management	
1.1 Natural values for which Commonwealth reserves were declared and/or recognised have been maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular targetted monitoring of key values and threats undertaken
1.2 The impacts of threats to natural values have been minimised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of taxa in cultivation in botanic gardens as proportion of total number of species in taxonomic; ecological and geographic; and horticultural themes in the collection policy
KRA2: Cultural Heritage Management	
2.1 Cultural heritage values, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, for which parks were declared or are recognised have been protected and conserved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequacy and recency of inventories of cultural sites
2.2 Living cultural traditions are being maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level and nature of support provided by park management to maintain and promote traditional cultural values
2.3 The impacts of threats to cultural values have been minimised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Histories, prehistories and knowledge recorded (oral, written and pictorial) where culturally appropriate
2.4 Wide awareness and appreciation that parks are managed and presented as living cultural landscapes and seascapes has been achieved	
KRA3: Joint Management	
3.1 Joint management is being practised through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of lease provisions and prescriptions contained in management plans • implementation of relevant decisions made by boards of management • growing capacity and increasing participation of traditional owners in park management • positive, harmonious relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of traditional owners and relevant Aboriginal people employed directly and indirectly • Training provided for and undertaken by traditional owners and relevant Aboriginal people (staff, contractors and community people) • Contribution of Aboriginal enterprises operating in parks • Proportion of board of management actions addressed within agreed timelines

Key result area / outcome	Performance indicator
KRA4: Visitor Management and Park Use 4.1 Visitors to Commonwealth reserves enjoy inspirational, satisfying and safe experiences 4.2 Visitor impacts (on reserve management, values, the environment and other visitors) are within acceptable levels 4.3 Public awareness and appreciation of the values of Commonwealth reserves have been enhanced 4.4 Commercial operators provide a high quality service to park visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual numbers, types and demographics of park visitors • Annual numbers and demographics of people participating in educational, interpretive and other programmes • Levels of satisfaction of park users
KRA5: Stakeholders and Partnerships 5.1 Volunteers contribute to area management based on clearly defined roles 5.2 Stakeholders, eg. neighbours, state agencies and park user groups, are involved in and contribute effectively to park management activities 5.3 Commercial partnership opportunities are encouraged and evaluated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual contribution to active partnership effort • Consultation with stakeholders and partners • Level of satisfaction of the Minister and the Parliamentary Secretary
KRA6: Business Management 6.1 Planning and decision-making are based on best available information; legislative obligations; Parks Australia policy; and social justice principles 6.2 Financial and business management are based on better practice and Government requirements 6.3 High levels of staff expertise and performance are recognised and valued 6.4 Obligations under the EPBC Act and regulations relating to management of Commonwealth reserves are complied with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which management plans are implemented • Annual number of reportable incidents involving staff and park users • No 'A' or 'B' findings from the annual ANAO audit of Director of National Parks financial statements • Expenditure does not exceed budget • Successful operation of business continuity plan

Key result area / outcome	Performance indicator
KRA7: Biodiversity Knowledge Management 7.1 High quality, comprehensive and current information is available to the Australian community to facilitate and foster understanding, appreciation, sound conservation and appropriate use of Australian biodiversity 7.3 Taxonomic, biogeographic and conservation biology research and biological collections management capacity in relevant sections of the Australian community are enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and value of biodiversity research grants and contracts funded per annum against strategic priorities • The number of biodiversity information publications and online taxonomic tools and resources produced • Number of studentships supported for biodiversity knowledge management • Number of taxa documented, revised or newly described

Note: The above outcomes are derived from a wider set of outcomes contained in the Parks Australia Divisional Plan and the numbers allocated to them are those in the plan. Some of the outcomes in the plan relate to functions delegated to the Director that are additional to the Director's statutory functions and therefore have been excluded from this table.



State of the Parks report

Guide to the State of the Parks report

Australian National Botanic Gardens

Booderee National Park

Christmas Island National Park

Kakadu National Park

Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden

Pulu Keeling National Park

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park

Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve

Cartier Island Marine Reserve

Coringa–Herald National Nature Reserve

Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve

Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve and Conservation Zone

Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve

Lord Howe Island Marine Park

(Commonwealth Waters)

Macquarie Island Marine Park

Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve

Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)

Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters)

Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve

Calperum and Taylorville Stations

Case studies

Education and tourism—a winning combination (ANBG)

Contracting services to the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community (Booderee National Park)

Declining biodiversity on Christmas Island (Christmas Island National Park)

Construction of crab crossings (Christmas Island National Park)

The tourism vision for Kakadu National Park

Uwagi—Aboriginal burning and research on country (Kakadu National Park)

Mount Pitt road reconstruction (Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden)

Catalina JX 435 commemorative ceremony (Pulu Keeling National Park)

The Muṯitjulu community *Tjunga Waakaripai* project (Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park)

Volunteers move on buffel grass (Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park)

Developing a cultural database including oral histories (Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park)

Ginger ant research at Ashmore Reef (Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve)

Biological control of insect pests in the Coringa–Herald Pisonia forests (Coringa–Herald National Nature Reserve)

Advanced warden training for marine protected areas

Guide to the State of the Parks report

The State of the Parks report presents systematic and consistent background information on each Commonwealth reserve proclaimed under the EPBC Act as well as the additional responsibility of Calperum and Taylorville Stations.

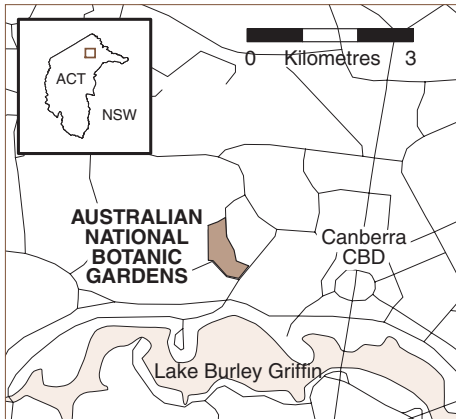
The following information is common to the reports on each place:

- **Area and locational information** derived from the Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database (CAPAD) is provided.
- The World Conservation Union (**IUCN**) **protected area management category** is identified for each reserve, and where parts of the reserve come under different categories this is indicated. The IUCN categories are formally assigned under the EPBC Act, and schedule 8 of the EPBC Regulations defines the Australian IUCN reserve management principles applying to each category.
- Where possible, each reserve's **biogeographic context** is described by reference to the national biogeographic regionalisations: terrestrial (Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia—IBRA) or marine (Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia—IMCRA).
- The report summarises the relevance of **international agreements** to each reserve, recognising both the international significance of the reserves and the Director's legal responsibility to take account of Australia's obligations under each agreement.
- The report summarises the occurrence in each reserve of **species listed under the EPBC Act** as threatened, migratory or marine, and the status of relevant recovery plans.
- Information on the **total number of different types of plant and animal species** recorded for each place is included, to the extent of available knowledge. For the six terrestrial national parks, Parks Australia has worked to refine understanding of the species recorded from each park and species for which each park is significant. The species information for these six parks includes the numbers of species which are a priority for management (defined as being all threatened species plus those non-threatened species for which the park contains more than 1 per cent of its population).
- Monitoring is a key aspect of successful park management, and **major monitoring efforts** for the year are reported.
- Future planning is ongoing, and **future challenges** are reported for each area.
- **Management arrangements** (such as boards of management, committees, management agreements with state agencies) are described.
- The report provides information by **key result area** on major issues, actions and performance results for 2004–05.

Also included in this section are **case studies** that provide more detailed reporting on management of specific issues.

Australian National Botanic Gardens

<http://www.anbg.gov.au>



Special features

The Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) is a major scientific, educational and recreational resource. It was one of the first botanic gardens in the world to adopt the study and display of indigenous species as a principal goal. One-third of the known flowering plant species that occur in Australia, and about half the known eucalypt species, are represented in its living collection.

The ANBG contributes to meeting Australia's obligations under various

international environment conventions to which Australia is a signatory. In particular, the Convention on Biological Diversity recognises the importance of botanic gardens in ex situ and in situ conservation, research, training, plant identification and monitoring, raising public awareness, providing access to genetic resources, and global cooperation in relation to sustainable use of plant biodiversity.

Location	Latitude 35°16' South, Longitude 149°06' East
Area	90 hectares
Proclamation date	17 September 1991
IUCN category	Category IV
Biogeographic context	Houses plants from a vast range of biogeographic regions—alpine to tropical, coastal to central desert
Management plan	Second plan in effect, expires 9 January 2009

Other significant management documents	<p>Management plan implementation schedule; risk assessment and management schedule; ANBG Masterplan (National Capital Authority); Capital Works and Maintenance Plan 2002–05; ANBG Fire Procedures 2004–05; kangaroo and wallaby management plans; ANBG Education Service Policy; ANBG Photograph Collection Policy; Agreement for the Establishment and Operation of the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research (CPBR) between the Director of National Parks and the CSIRO</p> <p>The ANBG is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List</p>	
Financial	Operating	\$9.644 million
	Capital	\$0.392 million
	Revenue	\$0.384 million
Visitors	439,600 (est)	
Permits	Permits issued for 4 commercial activities; licences issued for 59 weddings or wedding photography; licences issued to publish 1,225 photographs from the collection	

International conventions and agreements

World Heritage Convention	Supports Australia's World Heritage sites through research, plant collections, plant identification, and horticultural and educational programmes
Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	Supports Australia's obligations under the Ramsar Convention through access to plant identification services and data on aquatic plants in the Australian National Herbarium
Other agreements	<p>Collaborates with international organisations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Association of Botanic Gardens • International Association of Plant Taxonomists • International Plant Propagators Society • International Union of Biological Sciences Taxonomic Databases Working Group • International Plant Name Index (Kew Botanic Gardens and Harvard University) • Global Biodiversity Information Facility • International Organisation for Plant Information World Vascular Plant Checklist Project

Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research

The Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research is a joint venture by the ANBG and CSIRO Plant Industry. It was formed under a seven-year agreement between the then Director of National Parks and Wildlife and CSIRO in 1993 and renewed for a further 10 years in 2000.

The Australian National Herbarium is part of this facility, housing voucher specimens for plants in the ANBG with data supporting the living, herbarium, and photograph collections. The herbarium is a major contributor to Australia's Virtual Herbarium, a national project involving all states and territories, and the Consensus Census project to produce an accepted list of scientific names for Australian plants.

Major monitoring efforts

The ANBG's scientific planting is documented through voucher specimens in the Australian National Herbarium. A team of botanists, including national and international collaborators, ensure that the correct botanical names are always applied. New collection accessions help document the occurrence and distribution of plants in Australia.

A specialised and sophisticated database system maintains essential links between specimens in the herbarium, contemporary scientific literature, and the plants in the gardens.

A team of ANBG staff continually assesses the ANBG's living plant specimens.

Future challenges

Water resource management continues to be a major challenge for the ANBG. This is due to both the continuing drought and sharp increases in unit water costs to major users in Canberra. Some work has been done to identify non-potable water supplies and recirculation opportunities. This work will continue.

Maintaining the ANBG's growing role as a tourist attraction will remain a key focus. Continuing to offer interesting visitor attractions, like the Friends of the ANBG's summer concerts and guided tours, will be important.

The Friends have established a tax deductible public fund to assist with projects in the ANBG. Expanding this fund continues to be a challenge.

Work on Australia's Virtual Herbarium will continue into 2005–06, including redeveloping the internet application and interface, and increasing data entry rates.

Late in 2004–05 work commenced on the Consensus Census project to produce a list

of flowering plant names for the whole of Australia that is endorsed by the Australian Government and the state and territory herbaria. The project coordinator is located at the ANBG and the project is due for completion in 2007.

The ANBG's database applications are being redeveloped, involving tighter integration of plant name, living collections, herbarium and plant image data. The new applications are due to be implemented late in 2005.

The ANBG is embarking on a new phase of plant records and facilities management using geographic information systems (GIS) to record and visualise the location and condition of plants, amenities and services.

The global transition to digital photography has led the ANBG to move to digital plant imaging resulting in significant changes to database management.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Water management infrastructure

Actions

- Increase water use efficiency

Performance results 2004–05

- Met Australian Capital Territory water use reduction targets for first three-quarters of the year (Stage 2, 25 per cent saving and Stage 3, 40 per cent). Due to the very dry autumn, target (Stage 2, 25 per cent saving) was not met in that quarter but an overall reduction of 25 per cent was achieved for the whole year
- Evaluated the recommendations of an ANBG-funded consultancy on water management, to be followed up in 2005–06

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Major issues

- Interpretation
- Education

Actions

- Provide interpretation and education programmes for all sectors of the community

Performance results 2004–05

- Hosted three major Visitor Centre exhibitions—‘The Plant Underworld: Cryptogams’ produced in-house; ‘Setbacks–Shattered Dreams’ from the Morley Grainger Studio; and ‘Tall Eucalypt Forests’ with photographs by Esther Beaton
- Installed interpretive signs in the Sydney region flora section to explain the ecology and cultural significance of this environment (see case study on page 52)
- Initiated the ANBG’s first ‘Artist in Residence’ project with funding from the Australian Network for Art and Technology. The project is the Synapse Art and Science Residency Programme, and the artist will work with the ANBG’s cryptogam scientist
- Initiated a series of evening spotlighting tours of the ANBG, the ‘Twilight Forest Adventures’ for school and community groups

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Visitor management in emergencies
- Ecotourism Award
- Visitor Centre

Actions

- Implement visitor safety plan
- Compete for national tourism awards
- Upgrade facilities for the Visitor Centre, exhibition space and bookshop

Performance results 2004–05

- Refined the visitor safety plan for the annual summer concert series, covering issues such as parking, visitor access and safety, and fire safety
- Reported safety incidents dropped from 17 in 2003–04 to five in 2004–05 and financial/security incidents dropped from 10 to one
- Won the Ecotourism Award for the Canberra region for the third successive year
- Began a major re-fit of the Visitor Centre in June 2005, to be completed early in 2005–06

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Friends of the ANBG

- Greening Australia
- Birrigai Outdoor School

Actions

- Strengthen the partnership between the ANBG and the Friends of the ANBG
- Host the Greening Australia Community Seedbank on the ANBG site
- Continue the successful partnership with the Australian Capital Territory Government's Birrigai Outdoor School

Performance results 2004–05

- The Friends of the ANBG ran the annual students' photographic competition and the autumn and spring plant sales; published quarterly newsletters; provided volunteer guided walks each day; committed \$20,000 to projects including plantings at the front entrance and a web site on cryptogams; participated in the ANBG's annual summer concerts in January 2005
- Signed an agreement between the Director of National Parks and Greening Australia ACT to share ANBG facilities for native seed processing and storage for community revegetation projects
- Continued the relationship with Birrigai, initiated after the 2003 Canberra fires, with programmes for young children such as 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' and associated trails

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Disaster management

Actions

- Improve planning for disaster response

Performance results 2004–05

- Developed a Disaster Management Plan for the ANBG, particularly for the Australian National Herbarium and its collection of specimens. The plan underpins the ANBG's active participation in DisACT, the loose confederation of national collecting institutions in the Australian Capital Territory assisting each other in the event of a disaster affecting their collections
- Revenues up 2 per cent from budget, expenses up 14 per cent (due to asset write-downs)

KRA7: Biodiversity knowledge management

Major issues

- Australian National Herbarium
- Plant names
- Taxonomic botanical research
- Change from film to digital imaging
- ANBG–Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research web site

Actions

- Make botanical data, information and expertise available to the national and international botanic community
- Develop a Consensus Census to list all the flowering plants in Australia
- Publish and disseminate research findings
- Smooth the transition from the use of film to the use of digital images
- Promote and provide information about Australian native plants via the internet

Performance results 2004–05

- Databased 63,879 specimens and added them to Australia's Virtual Herbarium
- Began the Consensus Census project to produce a single list of scientific names for flowering plants for the whole of Australia. The project is funded through the Natural Heritage Trust and endorsed by Australian Government, state and territory herbaria
- Researchers completed 68 scientific papers or publications resulting from research undertaken at the Australian National Herbarium
- Installed new equipment, technology and storage facilities for the Australian Plant Image Index and photographing herbarium specimens, to accommodate the change from film to digital photography
- Recorded about 27,000 hits on the ANBG–CPBR web site each day

Education and tourism—a winning combination



Parliamentary Secretary the Hon Greg Hunt MP inspects some of the new interpretive signage with Paul Janssens, Curator of Living Collections.

The Sydney region flora section at the ANBG has been decades in development. New signs raise interpretation of the section to a new level, and set a model for the interpretation of other displays at the ANBG.

The new signage orients visitors to the geography, geology and flora of the Sydney region and provides an experience of the types of ecological communities found there and their value to generations of Indigenous Australians. It is eye-catching and informative, and takes a storytelling

approach to the living exhibit, inviting visitors to touch, smell and explore.

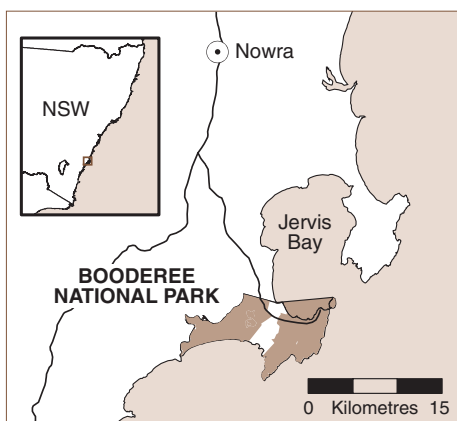
The Sydney region section shows species that grow in the sandstone plateaus and gorges of the area. It includes outlying areas with different geology, such as the Rylstone district and the Cumberland Plain. Plantings include wet rainforest, *Allocasuarina* heath, Budawang Ranges flora and woodlands.

The interpretation introduces visitors to how generations of Indigenous Australians have used plants in the Sydney region. It also shows some of the fossil history of Australian plants. Fossils are common in the sandstone and shale of the region.

Launching the new Sydney region signage on 23 May 2005, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, noted that the ANBG had won the Canberra Region Tourism Award for Ecotourism in 2004. This is the third consecutive year the Gardens has received the award and firmly positions the ANBG as one of the Canberra region's significant tourist attractions.

Booderee National Park

<http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/booderee>



Special features

Booderee National Park protects most of the Bherwerre Peninsula, Bowen Island, and the waters and seabed in the southern part of Jervis Bay. The park includes the Booderee Botanic Gardens, formerly an annex of the ANBG.

The park is of great significance to its traditional owners, the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community. More than 100 prehistoric Aboriginal sites have been recorded on the Bherwerre Peninsula.

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 a significantly large area of species-rich coastal heath, wetlands and salt marshes. It also protects one of the largest seagrass meadows on the New South Wales coast. Vegetation communities found in the park include relic rainforest, littoral rainforest, forest, woodland, wet and dry heath, coastal scrub and grassland communities.

The park is rich in flora, with more than 625 native plant species recorded. The fauna is also diverse and includes threatened species such as the eastern bristlebird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*). Bowen Island is an important breeding site for the little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*).

Location	Latitude 35° 09' South, Longitude 150°39' East
Area	6,392 hectares (including a marine area of 875 hectares)
Proclamation date	4 March 1992
IUCN category	Category II overall (Botanic Gardens Category IV)
Biogeographic context	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia region: Sydney Basin
Management plan	First plan in effect, expires 3 April 2009

Other significant management documents	Management plan implementation schedule; risk assessment and management schedule; fire and pest management strategies; Memorandum of Understanding with NSW Rural Fire Service; draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Defence; and Botanic Gardens' Collections Policy	
Financial	Operating	\$6.757 million
	Capital	\$0.656 million
	Revenue	\$1.793 million
	Paid to traditional owners	\$0.251 million
Visitors	420,000 (est)	
Permits	23 commercial tour operators, 19 research, 4 others (eg wedding celebrants)	

International conventions and agreements

Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	Nomination in preparation
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	23 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	20 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	22 of the 110 listed species

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Listed fauna	Species	1 critically endangered 4 endangered 11 vulnerable 36 migratory 72 marine East coast whale migration refuge area
	Recovery plans	5 being implemented (humpback whale; southern right whale; albatrosses & giant petrels; marine turtles; grey nurse shark) 5 in preparation (grey-headed flying-fox; Gould's petrel; eastern bristlebird; green and golden bell frog; giant burrowing frog)
Listed flora	Species	1 vulnerable
	Recovery plans	1 in preparation (magenta lilly-pilly)
Heritage	Listed as Commonwealth Heritage (part of several listings)	

Numbers of native species recorded*					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Amphibians	Fish	Plants
26(4)	200(9)	17(3)	15(2)	308(1)	625(1)

* Figures in brackets are the number of species that are a management priority.

Board of management

The Booderee National Park Board of Management has 12 members, including seven representatives nominated by the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council (WBACC). The board oversees the management of the park and botanic gardens, and the preparation of management plans.

Major monitoring efforts

Threatened species monitored included the eastern bristlebird, sooty oystercatcher (*Haemotopus fuliginosus*) and amphibians, with a focus on the green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*) and the giant burrowing frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*).

Biodiversity indicators were also monitored, including terrestrial invertebrates (insects, worms, spiders, and others) and hypogeal (underground) fungi, a major source of food for small mammals. These indicator species help managers to determine an ecosystem's health.

Following the Windermere fires which burnt 50 per cent of the park at Christmas 2003, the park instituted intensive fox baiting and wildlife monitoring, particularly of long-nosed bandicoots (*Perameles nasuta*) and eastern bristlebirds. Early results show a surprising resilience in both species, a capacity to utilise a broad range of habitats, and an astounding capacity to recover after intense fire.

The Australian National University and Booderee National Park are continuing a major collaborative study of the impact of fire on vertebrate fauna. The Department of Defence joined the collaborative research project and has contributed \$60,000 over three years from 2004–05. Research staff will be joined by a WBACC member who will receive training in ecological fire research and assist researchers with expert local knowledge and advice on cultural issues.

The park board approved a NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service feasibility study into the reintroduction of the southern brown bandicoot (*Isoodon obesulus*) into Booderee, due in large part to the successful control of foxes and habitat suitability.

The training database was refined to include reporting across the park and WBACC. The updated database provided for reporting on the amount of funds provided by each organisation as well as external funding.

The visitor data system was updated to ensure it remains consistent with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service reporting arrangements for the region.

Future challenges

Major challenges for 2005–06 are to provide better measurable protection of biodiversity values from key threats such as bitou bush, degradation of habitats, foxes and *Caulerpa taxifolia*, an aquatic pest plant found recently in waters adjacent to the park; develop a business case for the cultural centre; develop cultural heritage programmes with the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community; implement the Marine Zoning Plan requirements in consultation with relevant agencies; finalise and implement the training strategy; develop more service level agreements and contracting opportunities with the community; and ensure the water supply for the Jervis Bay Territory is sustainable in the long term.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- 13 known introduced terrestrial vertebrate pest species in the park, of which fox is the greatest threat
- Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) is the most significant weed in Booderee. Need to explore more effective integrated control measures (fire, spraying, rehabilitation)
- Protection of little penguin nesting habitat from kikuyu grass
- Fire-prone vegetation communities require management

Actions

- Manage feral animal control programme with emphasis on regional fox control, control of resilient individuals and introduction of alternative fox control methods
- Control or remove weeds and restore managed areas
- Control the spread of kikuyu using integrated measures
- Implement an ecologically appropriate and safe fire management programme

Performance results 2004–05

- Continued successful fox baiting following extensive fire, allowing rapid recovery of small native mammals and ground birds (indicated by the long-nosed bandicoot and the eastern bristlebird)

- Replaced kikuyu with native species that support penguin nesting in targeted areas (approximately one hectare during the year)
- Improved recording of flora and fauna distributions by using GIS
- Implemented new fire management programme incorporating best practice risk management principles
- Kept Bowen Island rat free (confirmed by monitoring programme) providing vital habitat for sensitive and vulnerable ground-nesting seabirds (especially the sooty oystercatcher)
- Board of management approved a revised pest control strategy

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Major issues

- Maintaining the cultural values of the park
- WBACC and the park to develop and deliver a well-accepted cultural heritage education programme

Actions

- Register cultural sites on GIS and database, and determine protection measures
- Offer summer interpretation programme with increased focus on cultural interpretation
- Plan for new cultural centre by continuing a pre-design project involving environmental impact assessment and feasibility studies
- Develop a cultural heritage strategy for the park

Performance results 2004–05

- Conducted cultural interpretation holiday programme during December 2004–January 2005
- Continued cultural centre negotiations and planning. A feasibility study into potential commercial activities associated with a centre and environmental assessment of potential sites were undertaken and presented to the board of management
- Drafted terms of reference for the development of the cultural heritage strategy

KRA3: Joint management

Major issues

- Lease is successfully negotiated and administered

- Contracting arrangements between the park and Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community are agreed and implemented
- Management plan is fully implemented and cultural centre is progressed

Actions

- Implement new lease
- Negotiate service level agreements for provision of specific park services under the terms of the services contract between the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community and the Director
- Prepare implementation schedule and report progress to the board of management

Performance results 2004–05

- Implemented the new lease (signed October 2003) which provides a framework for improving employment opportunities for traditional owners. These include employment in the park and contracted work on roads maintenance, the entry station, cleaning, cultural heritage assessment, building maintenance, signage and other services (see case study on page 61)
- Negotiated and signed service level agreements for road and fire trail maintenance and entry station services and progressed other service level agreements including for cleaning. Wreck Bay Enterprises Limited contractors completed major repairs and upgrades to park infrastructure damaged during the Windermere fire of Christmas 2003
- Refined the implementation schedule reporting database

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Need to increase public awareness of the conservation and cultural values of the park through education and interpretation programmes
- Provision of infrastructure to facilitate appropriate use of the park while protecting conservation values

Actions

- Include conservation themes in summer interpretation programme
- Maintain campgrounds and facilities
- Implement zoning plan

Performance results 2004–05

- Delivered interpretation programmes focusing on Aboriginal cultural values and conservation themes over the Christmas 2004 school holidays. Schools interpretation programmes were delivered in the park and at schools
- Repaired and reopened campground and visitor infrastructure damaged by the Windermere fire of Christmas 2003. The majority of damaged areas have now been repaired and insurance payments received
- Implemented the new landscape/campsite design plan for Green Patch A (now D) section. Campground occupancy returned to pre-fire levels

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Cooperative arrangements between Booderee, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Jervis Bay Marine Park and the Department of Defence are supported
- Strong cooperative arrangements with universities are extended
- Fire recovery monitoring

Actions

- Commence integrated management programmes in key areas
- Support research in conservation areas identified in the park management plan
- Support cooperative undergraduate and postgraduate programmes
- Refocus monitoring programmes to deal with wildfire

Performance results 2004–05

- Commenced integrated management programmes in key areas with the park taking the lead role in regional fox pest management
- Issued 16 research permits in postgraduate conservation fields in line with the management plan. Cooperative undergraduate and postgraduate programmes operated with Wollongong and Canberra universities and the Australian National University. Research areas include whales, dolphin bioacoustics, rats, fox ecology, bitou ecology and biocontrol, bandicoots, pythons, invertebrates, marine habitats and seagrass ecology. Project to translocate eastern bristlebirds to Beecroft Peninsula remained on hold because of wildfire
- Resumed an Australian National University–Booderee National Park fauna research project that began before the wildfire. Transect sites destroyed by the fire have been replaced and research has continued. The wildfire event has provided an extra opportunity to study vertebrate fauna responses to such fire events

- Board of management approved the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service's commencing a feasibility study into the reintroduction of the southern brown bandicoot
- Drafted a memorandum of understanding between the park and the Department of Defence for discussion by the parties

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- In accordance with Investors in People policy, staff have all the necessary skills to do their jobs
- Align park structure and staffing for future business needs

Actions

- Increase emphasis on training identified in personal development plans
- Finalise operational review and introduce new structure and business practices

Performance results 2004–05

- Drafted an integrated training strategy for the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community and park staff, consistent with park lease obligations
- Offered training in line with personal development plans, with emphasis on project management, fire training, career planning, change management and park management
- Implemented an operational review of the park commissioned in 2003–04. Staff were restructured into three teams: Park Services, Visitor Services and Administration. The restructure has improved performance and management in entry fee compliance monitoring, incident reporting, fire operations, adding GIS data, botanic gardens operations and human resource management
- Revenues up 13 per cent from budget, expenses up 7 per cent (both due to fires recovery and insurance receipts)

Contracting services to the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community



Booderee National Park ranger Jeff Williams (centre) discussing restoration works with Anthony Roberts (left) and Todd Roberts (right) of WBEL.

Contracting, employment and development of commercial activities are key issues for Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community, identified in the Booderee National Park Management Plan and the park lease.

In 2003 the Director and Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council (WBACC) negotiated a contract which establishes the mechanism for WBACC's commercial arm, Wreck Bay Enterprises Limited (WBEL), to provide services to the Director.

The contract gives WBACC first preference for services required in the park. Under the contract, service level agreements are negotiated which take into account value for money and capacity to perform the service. The arrangement provides opportunities for the community to develop organisational, financial and management skills, as well as specific job skills, which will develop the community's ability to manage park operations, community business, or commercial activities outside the park in the future. The contract provides for benchmarking and third party probity assessment to ensure value for money.

In 2004–05, the Director contracted WBEL to maintain roads and fire trails, collect entry fees, and provide cleaning, building maintenance and interpretive services. Two service level agreements for the road and fire trail maintenance and entry station operations were finalised.

WBEL staff played a major role in the fire recovery effort, repairing and installing infrastructure burnt in the Windermere fire of Christmas 2003.

The contracting arrangement builds on the sound working relationship developed between community members and park staff, and delivers good service outcomes to the park and good economic and social outcomes to the community.

Christmas Island National Park

<http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/christmas>



Special features

Christmas Island is home to a unique rainforest ecosystem that supports very high biodiversity with at least 225 species of endemic animals and 25 species of endemic plants and many that do not occur elsewhere in Australia. It includes the last remaining nesting habitat of the endangered Abbott's booby (*Papasula abbotti*); and an extraordinary diversity and abundance of land crabs.

The island is renowned for its annual crab migration, when up to 100 million red crabs (*Gecarcoidea natalis*) march to the sea to spawn, and for the whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) that migrate to its in-shore waters to feed on the spawn.

Location	Latitude 10° 29' South, Longitude 105°38' East	
Area	8,719 hectares	
Proclamation date	21 February 1980, 31 January 1986 and 20 December 1989	
IUCN category	Category II	
Biogeographic context	Christmas Island is the coral-encrusted, emergent summit of a basaltic, submarine mountain in the Indian Ocean. Its plants and animals are most closely linked with those of South-East Asia	
Management plan	Third plan in effect, expires 13 March 2009	
Other significant management documents	Christmas Island Rainforest Rehabilitation Programme (CIRRP); Invasive Ants on Christmas Island Action Plan; biodiversity monitoring programme; management plan implementation schedule; and risk assessment and management schedule	
Financial	Operating	\$2.610 million
	Capital	\$0.161 million
	Revenue	\$1.123 million

Visitors	600 (est)
Permits	2 commercial tour operators; 2 photography, 12 research; 15 others (eg camping, works)

International conventions and agreements	
Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	The Dales and a small landlocked mangrove forest at Hosnie's Spring are listed under the convention
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	28 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	48 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	45 of the 110 listed species

<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>		
Listed fauna	Species	2 extinct 6 endangered 8 vulnerable 57 migratory 96 marine
	Recovery plans	8 being partially implemented (shrew; pipistrelle; Abbott's booby; goshawk; frigatebird; hawk-owl; marine turtles; whale shark) 2 in preparation (gecko; blind snake)
Listed flora	Species	3 critically endangered 1 endangered 1 vulnerable
	Recovery plans	2 being implemented (spleenwort; a fern)
Heritage	Listed as Commonwealth Heritage (as part of a wider listing of the island's natural areas)	

Numbers of native species recorded*					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Invertebrates	Plants
3(3)	95(16)	9(9)	575(35) marine, 3 freshwater	>2,000(198)	213(91)

* Figures in brackets are the number of species that are a management priority.

Advisory committee

The Christmas Island National Park Advisory Committee comprises the Director of National Parks and community representatives. The committee advises the Government Conservator on the implementation of the management plan. It also advises the Shire of Christmas Island and the Director of National Parks on matters relevant to the park.

Major monitoring efforts

In December 2003 a three-year programme, funded by the Department of Finance and Administration, commenced to monitor the impacts of the construction of a Christmas Island Immigration Reception and Processing Centre. The programme has so far determined that several endemic species (two skinks, one gecko and two bats) and a number of invertebrate species have declined to very low levels, implying that significant ecological change has already occurred. This is probably due to the combined effects of forest clearing and the spread of invasive species, exacerbated by climate change. The future management implications may be far-reaching.

Future challenges

Management programmes have dramatically reduced the density of yellow crazy ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) that had been threatening the island's crab population. However, the ants remain widespread and will require a continuing intensive control effort to contain them at a manageable level.

Two other potentially dangerous exotic ant species, fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) and big-headed ants (*Pheidole megacephala*) are present on the island and are being monitored for signs of spread.

The Christmas Island Rainforest Rehabilitation Programme (CIRRP) resumed operation in 2004, but lacks the resources to provide all the rehabilitation required. The question of how best to rehabilitate extensively mined landscapes with limited resources remains under active investigation.

Encroachment on the rainforest by aggressive woody weeds is an escalating problem that will require additional resources over the coming years.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Continuing management of 37 weed species
- Continuing management of yellow crazy ants
- Adoption and funding of all relevant recovery plans
- A proposal that the Department of Transport and Regional Services rehabilitate 2,800 hectares of old mine-sites not covered by the CIRRP, mainly outside the park
- Crab mortality from traffic

Actions

- Implement an integrated island weed control programme
- Control yellow crazy ants to a manageable level
- Obtain funding to implement all species recovery plans
- Adopt mine-site physical rehabilitation programme
- Install better crab crossings

Performance results 2004–05

- Completed 21 hectares of weed control under the CIRRP
- Destroyed 265 hectares of yellow crazy ant super-colonies and completed the island-wide survey
- Achieved the CIRRP target of planting 27,000 trees
- Biodiversity Monitoring Programme met all targets
- Adopted an improved crab crossing design for implementation in the coming migration (see case study on page 68)

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Major issues

- Ongoing protection of heritage sites (temples) within the park

Actions

- Protect all heritage sites

Performance results 2004–05

- Protected all heritage sites

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Developing further ecotourism opportunities

Actions

- Facilitate new ecotourism opportunities with conservation outcomes

Performance results 2004–05

- Supported the Christmas Island Tourist Association application under the Australian Government's Tourism and Conservation Partnership Initiative for an ecotourism feasibility study involving bird-watching

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Continue to negotiate conservation agreements with the Shire of Christmas Island for land adjoining the national park
- Improve performance of the Christmas Island National Park Advisory Committee
- Implement feral cat eradication programme

Actions

- Reach agreement in principle with shire over joint management of land adjoining the national park
- Make Christmas Island National Park Advisory Committee operational
- Implement Memorandum of Understanding on feral cats with mining company and Shire of Christmas Island signed in 2003–04

Performance results 2004–05

- Launched small joint management venture at Smith Point
- Christmas Island National Park Advisory Committee appointed and functioning
- Cat eradication programme awaiting adoption of cat control legislation

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Delivering quality management services within a limited budget

Actions

- Maintain park management services within budget

Performance results 2004–05

- Revenues on budget, expenses up 9 per cent (largely due to asset write-downs)

Declining biodiversity on Christmas Island



The population of the endemic blue-tailed skink is declining for reasons yet unknown.

Research shows that Christmas Island's unique biodiversity is in decline.

The ecology of Christmas Island is unique. It features high biodiversity, a high degree of endemism, and the largest and most diverse land crab community in the world. However, a research and monitoring programme that commenced in December 2003 is revealing an apparent decline in biodiversity.

The programme, funded by the Department of Finance and

Administration, has so far shown that about 30 million red crabs, one quarter of the population, have been killed by the invasive yellow crazy ant. At least 22 of the plant species native to Christmas Island are in decline, and the researchers recommend that 42 native plant species be regarded as nationally threatened.

Endemic reptiles and mammals are also in decline, with at least six species reduced to remnant populations or no longer recorded. Of the 199 endemic invertebrates, 76 have not been recorded since the 1980s. Birds are faring comparatively well, though endemic species such as the Abbott's booby and the Christmas Island frigatebird remain at risk.

The declining biodiversity appears to be due mainly to invasive fauna and flora species, including ant species, feral cats, black rats and the Asian wolf snake, and habitat loss associated with mining which has removed 23 per cent of the original rainforest and extensive amounts of the phosphate-rich soil.

Parks Australia is implementing an intensive crazy ant control programme that has arrested the decline in red crabs and other species and led to some recovery. The ongoing work received supplementary funding through the Natural Heritage Trust to ensure the early success in crazy ant control is maintained. Parks Australia is cooperating with the Christmas Island Shire Council over implementing a planned control programme for feral cats and controls weeds as resources permit. Phosphate mining, however, creates many isolated clearings that are rapidly colonised by weeds, and extensive work is needed to control environmental weeds island-wide.

Better crab crossings for Christmas Island



A crab's eye view of a roadway 'crab crossing'.

Christmas Island's unique rainforest ecosystem is dominated by the largest and most diverse land crab community in the world. Approximately 90 million red crabs (*Gecarcoidea natalis*) are the most numerous and obvious of the 20 or so species of land crabs present.

At the beginning of every wet season (October/November), adult red crabs begin a spectacular migration from the forest where they live. They walk down to

the coast to breed and release eggs into the sea, then return to the forest. After about 30 days in successful breeding years (perhaps only once or twice every 10 years) the baby crabs emerge from the sea and climb up the steep limestone cliffs and terraces to the forest.

During the migration, many thousands of adults and young crabs are crushed by vehicles while crossing roads that are in their path. The red crab population is already depleted from the impact of yellow crazy ants and the deaths during migrations exacerbate this situation.

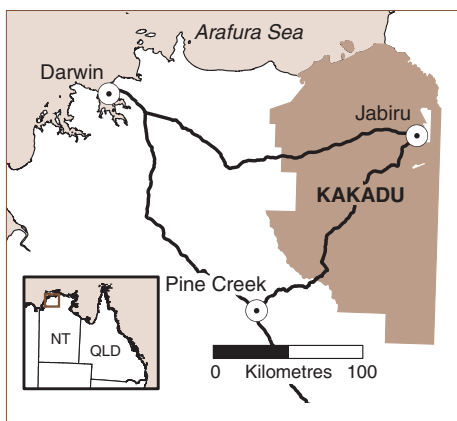
Parks Australia has sought for many years to minimise these deaths. Sections of roads where crabs cross in high numbers have been identified and 'crab crossings' constructed. Crab crossings consist of a concrete tunnel under the road with a grid in the road surface that admits light so the crabs will enter, similar to the construction of a cattle grid. Plastic fencing is erected along the roadside to funnel the crabs through the tunnels under the road and prevent them crossing the roadway.

Parks Australia has also developed removable 'crab bridges' for temporary installation over roads during the migration. Prototypes have been tested to ensure the crabs will use them and the first bridges will be ready for installation this year.

Other conservation measures implemented during the migration period include road closures and traffic detours around major migration paths during peak periods. Crab mortality from vehicles is currently around 300,000 per migration season, down from the million or so that were killed before these management measures were introduced.

Kakadu National Park

<http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/kakadu>



Special features

Kakadu National Park is inscribed on the World Heritage List under natural and cultural criteria. It is one of the most ecologically and biologically diverse places in Australia.

Kakadu's traditional owners maintain strong links to their country, links that are demonstrated through their ongoing cultural practices, spiritual beliefs and traditional management and use of their country. 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 Kakadu region for at least 50,000 years.

The park contains an almost entire major tropical river catchment (the South Alligator River catchment) and large representative examples of the wet-dry tropical ecosystems of northern Australia. The major landforms in the park include the sandstone plateau and escarpment, extensive areas of savanna woodlands, monsoon forest, riverine and riparian environments, billabongs, floodplains, mangroves and mudflats.

Location	Latitude 13° 29' South, Longitude 132°26' East
Area	1,980,400 hectares
Proclamation date	In several stages: 5 April 1979, 28 February 1984, 12 June 1987, 22 November 1989 and 24 June 1991
IUCN category	Category II
Biogeographic context	Located in the wet-dry tropics Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australian regions: Darwin Coastal; Arnhem Plateau; Pine Creek

Management plan	The fourth management plan expired on 8 March 2004. The fifth management plan is being prepared	
Other significant management documents	Shared Vision for Tourism; district fire management plans; district weed control plans; crocodile management strategy	
Financial	Operating	\$16.977 million
	Capital	\$1.525 million
	Revenue	\$2.222 million
	Paid to traditional owners	\$1.040 million
Visitors	165,300 (est)	
Permits	110 film/photography; 126 commercial tour operators; 16 research; 729 camping/bush walking	
Visitor satisfaction	87% of visitors for the 12 months ending March 2005 were 'satisfied to very satisfied' (Northern Territory Tourist Commission). Highest satisfaction level recorded since surveys commenced in 1998.	

International conventions and agreements

World Heritage Convention	Listed under cultural criteria (i) and (vi) and natural criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv), recognising the park's outstanding natural and cultural values
Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	683,000 hectares of wetlands in Kakadu are listed
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	39 of 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	52 of 81 listed Australian species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	49 of 110 listed Australian species
Other agreements	Tri-National Wetlands Memorandum of Understanding (links Kakadu, Wasur National Park in Indonesia, and Tonda Wildlife Management Area in Papua New Guinea)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999		
Listed fauna	Species	2 critically endangered 5 endangered 11 vulnerable 68 migratory 103 marine
	Recovery plans	2 being implemented (golden bandicoot & golden-backed tree rat; marine turtles) 8 in preparation (bare-rumped sheath-tail bat; red goshawk; yellow chat; Gouldian finch; eastern partridge pigeon, crested shrike-tit & northern masked owl; freshwater sawfish; spear-tooth shark; northern rivers shark)
Listed flora	Species	6 vulnerable
	Recovery plans	1 in preparation (multi-species boronia)

Numbers of native species recorded*					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Amphibians	Plants
77(19)	271(35)	132(32)	246(60)	27(2)	1,586(14)

* Figures in brackets are the number of species that are a management priority.

Board of management

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage appoints members to the Kakadu National Park Board of Management. Ten of the board's 15 members are appointed as representatives of the park's traditional owners, representing the geographic spread of Aboriginal people in the region, and the major language groupings. One position on the board is reserved for a nominee of the Northern Territory Government. In April 2005 a new board was appointed following the conclusion of the five-year appointments of members of the previous board.

Major monitoring efforts

Monitoring and control continued in 2004–05 for introduced plants including *Mimosa pigra*, mission grass (*Pennisetum polystachion*) and gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*); introduced ants including big-headed ants (*Pheidole megacephala*) and ginger ants (*Solenopsis geminata*); and introduced terrestrial vertebrate fauna.

Control measures commenced for the introduced weed olive hymenachne

(*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*) as it has begun to emerge as a weed of environmental concern.

Studies were conducted of threatened flora and fauna; the impact of cane toads (*Bufo marinus*) on goannas, native frogs and northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*); feral animals (by aerial survey); crocodile populations; marine turtles, in particular nesting flat back turtles (*Natator depressus*) in coastal areas of the park; and the marine environments off the park's coast as part of a collaborative project with the Northern Territory Government, the Northern Land Council and the National Oceans Office.

Landscape monitoring projects continued, including a study of channel changes within the South Alligator tidal interface region, in collaboration with Charles Darwin University; an assessment of vegetation change within and surrounding a buffalo farm in the park; monitoring of bank erosion at Yellow Waters; and a long-term fire monitoring programme in collaboration with the Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory.

Annual visitor numbers and the numbers attending the seasonal ranger interpretive activities also continued to be monitored.

Future challenges

Major challenges include supporting the traditional owners of the park to gain senior management roles; establish business enterprises to conduct cultural and natural resource management programmes; and have greater input into all aspects of park management.

Other future challenges include facilitating board consideration of ideas that may progress *A Shared Vision for Tourism in Kakadu National Park*; ensuring ongoing safety of tourists and staff; completing the fifth management plan; controlling the spread of introduced pasture grasses; the threat of weeds/non-native plants associated with developed areas; and controlling the impact of introduced non-native animal species such as cane toads.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- An apparent decline of small mammal populations in the park
- Cane toads and their impacts on native species
- The ongoing spread of introduced pasture grasses
- Introduced pest species and their impacts
- Monitoring the status of significant species
- Understanding the impact of fire
- Landscape change

Actions

- Assess species populations as part of park fauna monitoring programmes
- Assess impact of cane toads on goannas (*Varanus* spp.) and northern quolls
- Detect and treat infestations of invasive ant species
- Continue control of serious pest species, focusing on weeds of national significance including mimosa, salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and olive hymenachne, as well as mission grass, gamba grass and other introduced pasture grasses
- Develop appropriate fire regimes for the variety of habitats within the park
- Study landscape change processes

Performance results 2004–05

- Assessed impact of cane toads on northern quolls. While populations translocated to offshore islands in 2003–04 are thriving, populations in the park are a serious concern. As a result the cane toad was declared a key threatening process and the northern quoll an endangered species under the EPBC Act
- Researched cane toad impact on selected goanna species. Research indicates that cane toads are threatening populations of some goanna species
- Began landscape change study, linking processes of landscape change with fire regime, feral animal removal and natural processes
- Tackled weed outbreaks before they became a problem
- Finalised the feral animal strategy
- Continued the monitoring and control programme for big-headed ants and ginger ants
- Established Indigenous fire management programmes

- Completed threatened plants and animals survey
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Director and the Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist on conduct of research in the park
- Continued to collect data on marine turtle nesting
- Completed a marine resource inventory off the coast of Kakadu

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Major issues

- Supporting the continuity of traditional owners' living culture
- Protecting cultural items and sites of significance

Actions

- Continue rock art protection work
- Continue cataloguing and preserving cultural heritage materials
- Continue to collect oral histories
- Seek opportunities for the transfer of knowledge between generations
- Support traditional owner leadership in the park's natural and cultural resource management activities

Performance results 2004–05

- Established the new position of Manager, Natural and Cultural Programmes
- Continued oral history interviews with senior traditional owners
- Continued development of a register of oral history audio and video material
- Sought expert opinion on the long-term storage and protection of audio and video materials currently held in the park
- Produced a video of the marine survey and Field Island turtle research programme for communication with traditional owners
- Continued rock art maintenance at public visitation sites with the involvement of relevant Aboriginal people and held a rock art protection training camp for Jawoyn traditional owners
- Prepared a conservation plan for Munmarlary and began work on a plan for Old Goodparla historic homestead
- Staff participated in a five-day women's Aboriginal land management conference

KRA3: Joint management

Major issues

- Meeting the commitments outlined in the lease and management plan
- Ensuring shared decision-making occurs at all levels within the park
- Development of the fifth management plan

Actions

- Implement actions to encourage increased Aboriginal engagement through recruitment and under contract, including skills development programmes
- Support traditional land management projects
- Consult with traditional owners and the board of management in developing the fifth management plan
- Appoint a new board of management
- Continue day-to-day consultations with traditional owners

Performance results 2004–05

- Relevant Aboriginal staff continued tertiary studies
- Continued to employ relevant Aboriginal people, including through the New Apprenticeship Scheme
- Continued skill development and training for relevant Aboriginal staff
- Consulted with traditional owners and other relevant Aboriginal people through the Northern Land Council
- Continued day-to-day joint decision-making by relevant Aboriginal people and park staff, including field trips to discuss mine-site rehabilitation and sickness country protocols
- Continued financial support of a Northern Land Council Kakadu Officer position
- Held quarterly meetings of Kakadu National Park Board of Management
- Aboriginal board members attended tourism conferences and one board member gained a Certificate II in tourism
- Continued a joint research and management project involving CSIRO, Bushfires Cooperative Research Centre, traditional owners and relevant Aboriginal people at Boggy Plains mapping historical changes, impact of fire, weeds, potential salt-water intrusion areas and significant fauna such as magpie geese
- Continued support of the Uwagi fire project conducted by relevant Aboriginal people from Kakadu (see case study on page 80)
- Completed consultations with traditional owners for the draft fifth management plan and held two extraordinary board meetings to work on preparation of the fifth management plan

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Quality and range of visitors' experiences
- Visitor safety
- Communication with the tourism industry
- Shared vision and strategic direction for increasing tourism

Actions

- Increase Aboriginal engagement in visitor programmes and tourism enterprises
- Review and document crocodile management procedures
- Put in place new access arrangements to Twin Falls
- Regularly inspect and maintain visitor facilities

Performance results 2004–05

- Developed and launched *A Shared Vision for Tourism in Kakadu National Park* (see case study on page 79)
- Finalised a consultancy report providing recommendations for Kakadu's shared vision statement
- Increased level of visitor satisfaction to the highest level ever recorded in surveys (measured by the Northern Territory Tourist Commission)
- Successfully operated new access arrangements to Twin Falls comprising a boat shuttle service with interpretive presentations by local Aboriginal people, and a walk to the plateau above Twin Falls
- Local Aboriginal people delivered seasonal interpretive ranger programmes incorporating natural and cultural content
- Aboriginal people took a major part in tour operator workshops
- Abolished the park use fee to encourage visitation
- Established advanced methods to monitor visitor usage
- Supported Aboriginal enterprise development and involvement in tourism ventures such as the Twin Fall shuttle
- Finalised a crocodile management strategy, providing for ongoing assessment and management of risks posed by crocodiles

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Relationships with the tourism industry, Northern Territory Government and neighbours
- Participation in local, regional, national and international initiatives associated with Kakadu's World Heritage values

Actions

- Build a cooperative relationship with tourism stakeholders and Northern Territory Government
- Develop an operational relationship with park neighbours
- Take an active role in community programmes
- Implement work programme under the tri-national wetland agreement between Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Australia

Performance results 2004–05

- Kakadu Tourism Consultative Committee advised the board of management on tourism related matters
- Developed the ongoing high-level relationship between the Australian and Northern Territory governments on tourism, native title, the future of Jabiru, employment and education
- Drafted an operational plan to support the tri-national wetland agreement between Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and Australia (plan agreed in August 2005)
- Participated in Kakadu community development meetings
- Continued liaison with the Bushfires Council of the Northern Territory and other NT Government agencies, Jabiru Town Council and the Northern Land Council
- Supported community events, including festivals and community-based programmes

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Park is currently without a management plan, the fourth plan having expired in 2004, though substantial progress has been made in consultations and drafting of the fifth plan
- Production of final draft of management plan delayed by work on the Shared Vision for Tourism
- Recognition of high levels of staff expertise and performance
- Compliance with obligations under the EPBC Act and Regulations relating to the management of Commonwealth reserves

Actions

- Implement a performance development scheme in accordance with the policy of the Department of the Environment and Heritage
- Participate in the Jabiru Region Sustainability Project, in which Parks Australia, the Northern Territory Government, Energy Resources of Australia and relevant Indigenous groups are considering options for the future of the Jabiru township
- Fulfil the Department's financial management and reporting obligations

Performance results 2004–05

- Introduced the ParkSafe initiative, continued occupational health and safety training and continued incident reporting and assessment
- Commenced operational review
- A staff member received an Australia Day Achievement Award recognising his contribution to weed control and crocodile management
- Implemented a performance development scheme for all staff
- Continued operational training for staff
- Revenues and expenses on budget

The tourism vision for Kakadu National Park



In February 2005, the Kakadu National Park Board of Management, supported by the Australian and Northern Territory governments, launched *A Shared Vision for Tourism in Kakadu National Park*. The project was facilitated by John Morse AM, former head of the Australian Tourism Commission. The resulting shared vision provides a framework for re-invigorating Kakadu as an international tourism icon, with emphasis on Aboriginal culture and

the park's World Heritage values as a core part of the visitor experience.

The vision aims to protect and build on the values of Kakadu National Park while creating new and enriching experiences for visitors. The vision includes helping visitors understand and appreciate the beauty of the traditional lands, the landscapes and wildlife, some of the oldest artwork in the world, and especially the living culture and deep spiritual affiliation the traditional Aboriginal owners have with the land.

The vision also acknowledges the important role tourism can play in assisting economic development of Indigenous communities, including creating new opportunities for employment and skills development, especially for young people looking for meaningful work on their own country. At the same time, the vision recognises that tourism must develop at a pace that traditional Aboriginal owners are comfortable with.

The vision also provides a framework for new business opportunities and investment security for the tourism industry. The board of management will consider an enhanced tourism focus for park management; the potential for new experiences such as night wildlife tours, bush tucker tours, eco-camps and walking tracks; new low impact accommodation, at both the luxury and budget ends of the market; exploration of Kakadu's six seasons; and the potential for Aboriginal story-telling to give visitors a new perspective of country.

A report *Walking to the Future...Together*, by John Morse, John King and Jennifer Bartlett, provides invaluable background data and information to underpin the vision. It includes 71 recommendations to the Board and the Australian and Northern Territory Governments. A formal response from the Australian Government is to be released early in 2005–06.

Uwagi—Aboriginal burning and research on country



Limilngan traditional owners and park staff burning a firebreak along Kakadu's north-western boundary.

The Uwagi ('fire') project is helping to manage country inside the north-western boundary of Kakadu National Park adjacent to the Carmor Plains pastoral station. The Limilngan traditional owners from Kakadu proposed the project to Parks Australia in 2002, with the objectives of maintaining customary Aboriginal burning practices, engaging young people in 'caring for country', sharing and linking traditional and scientific knowledge of country and establishing a firebreak on the north-western boundary of the park.

Parks Australia and the Minitja Aboriginal Corporation contribute resources to the project. The project manager is a park employee and an Aboriginal member of the park Board. Employment opportunities have been created for other local Aboriginal people. Project participants work closely with the Arafura and West Arnhem Region Bushfires Council and staff of the South Alligator District of the park.

Protecting the adjoining pastoral property is a key issue, and a memorandum of understanding with the owner of the neighbouring Carmor Plains station regarding fire management and responsibilities has been agreed.

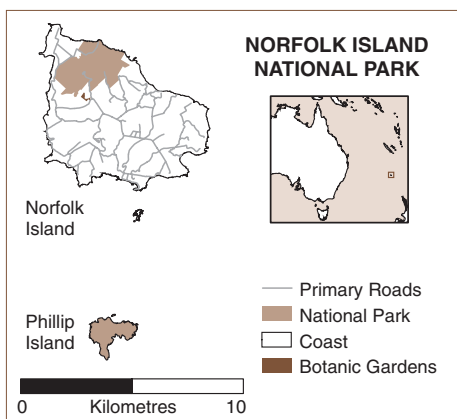
Once the boundary is protected with a firebreak, 'cultural' burning follows the seasons. Early dry season burning is usually carried out in the late afternoon (when the temperature drops) and fires die down at night from the dew, resulting in low intensity fires and a 'patchy' landscape of burnt and unburnt country most favoured for biodiversity. The burning protects much of the floodplain margins, savannah woodlands and monsoon forests from hot, late dry season fires.

The grass is burnt when it starts to cure, the burning beginning on higher, well-drained areas and working, as the dry season progresses, towards the gradually drying floodplain and watercourse margins. Burning promotes green regrowth on which game animals can graze, and facilitates hunting. Test burns are being conducted during the wet season to research any positive or negative effects on fruiting trees, including the bush currant (*Antidesma parvifolium*).

Other research under way on Limilngan country includes surveys of fish and aquatic plants at the freshwater springs; vegetation and mammal surveys in woodland areas; and monitoring the effects on fish and goannas of cane toads.

Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden

<http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/norfolk>



Special features

Norfolk Island National Park protects most of the remaining natural vegetation of the island. The park and botanic garden are refuge for some 40 species found only on the island, including the entire populations of 13 of the 15 flora species considered to be critically endangered.

Of the 15 species and subspecies of birds once found only on Norfolk Island, only seven definitely remain (of the remaining species, two have not been

sighted for some time and may be extinct). The park provides important habitat for native bird fauna and assisted wild breeding programmes are in place for two species, the green parrot (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae cookii*) and the morepork or boobook owl (*Ninox novaeseelandiae undulata*).

Phillip Island, which is free of introduced predators, is an important seabird breeding area. The only terrestrial reptile species found in the Norfolk group—*Christinus guentheri* and *Pseudemoia lichenigera*—are considered extinct on Norfolk Island but still occur on Phillip Island.

Location	Latitude 29° 01' South, Longitude 167°56' East
Area	National park 652 hectares (Mount Pitt section 462 hectares; Phillip Island 190 hectares) Botanic garden 5.5 hectares
Proclamation date	National park 31 January 1986 (Mount Pitt section); 24 January 1996 (Phillip Island) Botanic garden 31 January 1986
IUCN category	National park Category II overall (Phillip Island Category IV) Botanic garden Category IV

Biogeographic context	Isolated small islands of volcanic origin (2 to 3 million years old) in the South Pacific Ocean. Prior to European settlement, Norfolk Island was almost entirely covered by sub-tropical rainforest	
Management plan	First plan in effect, expires 28 June 2007	
Other significant management documents	<i>Norfolk Island Public Reserves Act 1997</i> (NI); Norfolk Island Plan; Phillip Island rehabilitation strategy; native forest rehabilitation strategy; management plan implementation schedule; and risk assessment and management schedule	
Financial	Operating	\$1.017 million
	Capital	\$0.125 million
	Revenue	\$0.060 million
Visitors	20,000 (est)	
Permits	9 commercial tour operators (8 for Mount Pitt, 1 for Phillip Island)	

International conventions and agreements

Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	18 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	25 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	32 of the 110 listed species

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Listed fauna	Species	5 extinct 2 endangered 6 vulnerable 37 migratory 57 marine
	Recovery plans	1 being implemented (green parrot) 2 in preparation (golden whistler & scarlet robin; multispecies plan) 1 exempted (morepork)
Listed flora	Species	15 critically endangered 16 endangered 15 vulnerable
	Recovery plans	Multispecies plan in preparation
Heritage	Phillip Island listed as Commonwealth Heritage	

Numbers of native species recorded*			
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Plants
0	47(26)	2(2)	92(74)

* Figures in brackets are the numbers of species that are a management priority.

Advisory committee

The Norfolk Island community provides guidance to the Director on national park and botanic garden management through the Norfolk Island National Park Advisory Committee, which meets formally twice a year, and informally each month.

Major monitoring efforts

Monitoring is undertaken to determine the success of a major baiting programme to control rats.

A cyclic invasive flora management programme is being trialled to trigger rehabilitation of forest ecosystems.

Captive green parrots are monitored daily for health, behaviour, pairing, sexual activity and social activity. Chicks found in the park are banded, weighed, measured and their sex is confirmed when breeding starts. Sightings and incidents are recorded.

Wild owl chicks are banded, weighed, measured, blood tested and their sex is recorded when breeding starts. Sightings and incidents are also recorded.

Park staff facilitate a voluntary migratory seabird banding programme.

Monthly monitoring of Phillip Island and Norfolk Island aims to detect outbreaks of pioneer weed species, including African olive (*Olea europaea africana*), cherry guava (*Psidium cattleianum* var. *cattleianum*), ipomea (*Ipomea cairica*), lantana (*Lantana camara*), kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*), Hawaiian holly (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*) and running bean (*Desmodium incanum*).

Future challenges

Major challenges include upgrading invasive species management programmes; continuing rehabilitation of Phillip Island; expanding endangered species programmes; strengthening Phillip Island quarantine measures; completing the multispecies recovery plan; and balancing threatened species management and an expanding focus on local tourism in a small island environment.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Fauna and flora pest species management
- Inadequate knowledge on which to base management decisions

Actions

- Remove weed species and control or eliminate feral fauna
- Rehabilitate habitat and facilitate forest health recovery
- Database and extend existing knowledge

Performance results 2004–05

- Continued monthly rodent and feral cat control programmes with expanded monitoring activity
- Cleared and maintained approximately 37 hectares of weed-infested areas
- Added existing records to spatial information systems
- Progressed development of the multispecies recovery plan, which will produce valuable knowledge on these little-known species
- Built temporary nursery on Phillip Island

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Duncombe Bay road to Cook's monument is closed after heavy rain
- Some access tracks are not suitable for current visitor use
- Lack of high quality interpretive signs and pamphlets

Actions

- Fund and manage drainage and surface renewal of Duncombe Bay road
- Review current access tracks, focusing on high visitation areas
- Establish requirements and allocate resources within existing priorities

Performance results 2004–05

- Completed Duncombe Bay road drainage plan

- Completed the botanic garden boardwalk upgrade stage 4
- Installed additional stairs and handrails on steep sections of botanic garden paths
- Installed handrails on sections of Bird Rock Track
- Commenced Interpretations Plan review

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Need to work with tourism operators, environmentalists, concerned citizens and professional and amateur researchers

Actions

- Hold regular meetings with tourism industry representatives
- Create avenues for information sharing and access to resources, such as S266A Register and the web site, for citizens, stakeholders, and government and non-government organisations

Performance results 2004–05

- Strengthened relationships with the Norfolk Island Administration, other Australian Government agencies and Norfolk Island tourism operators. This was achieved by Norfolk Island National Park Advisory Committee tourism representatives through direct meetings and information sharing
- Successfully managed permit system for a wide range of citizens, stakeholders, and formal and informal partners
- Cooperated with Norfolk Island media to produce weekly newspaper and radio coverage of the park, providing a flow of quality information
- Provided community contact point for listings, voluntary conservation agreement information, Kingston Arthurs Vale Historic Area referrals, and marine investigation stakeholder enquiries
- Facilitated information and resource sharing (for example, Coastwatch, satellite imagery, and training courses)

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Delivering quality management services within a limited budget

Actions

- Maintain park management services within budget

Performance results 2004–05

- Revenues up 2 per cent from budget, expenses down 1 per cent

Mount Pitt road reconstruction



An example of a gabion wall and steep cutaway along Mount Pitt road, minimising plant loss and watershed interruption.

In August 1998 severe storms damaged the roads in Norfolk Island National Park to the extent that roads had to be closed and significant repairs scheduled.

Duncombe Bay road and Selwyn Pine road were eventually reopened with standard maintenance procedures but Mount Pitt road required significant structural repairs. The Director of National Parks received an equity injection of \$3.5 million in 2000 for the repair of the three roads.

In July 2001 the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (SMEC) was engaged as the project supervisor for the Norfolk Island National Park Road Repair Project.

The project was delayed for two years due to the lack of appropriate aggregate and issues around the operation of the local quarry—a critical constraint for road maintenance on Norfolk. The project faced many challenges, not the least being the need to work in close proximity to, and with minimum impact on, sensitive habitats in the national park.

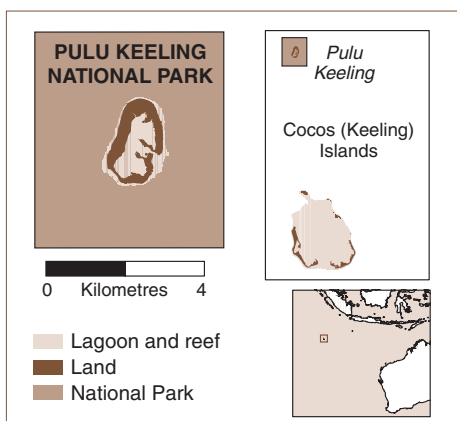
Roadstone Constructions Ltd, a major New Zealand construction company, was the successful tenderer for the project. Before the project was completed the company went into liquidation and the final tasks were completed under SMEC guidance. A 22-week delay in completing the contract resulted in the Director invoking the liquidated damages provisions of the contract, leading to a \$44,000 penalty to Roadstone. This money was recovered through a combination of monies held and a call on the construction (performance) bond held as a requirement of the contract. This construction bond was put in place prior to work commencing. The bond was unconditional, enabling the Director to call on it without any third party approval.

The construction works were formally completed on 8 October 2003 and a 12-month defects liability period expired on 7 October 2004. Mount Pitt road had been effectively closed to vehicular traffic for five years.

Despite the delays in completing the road, the Norfolk Island National Park Advisory Committee has indicated it is very satisfied with the outcome of the road project as a key component of the island's visitor facilities.

Pulu Keeling National Park

<http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/cocos>



Special features

Pulu Keeling National Park's most outstanding feature is its intact coral atoll ecosystem. With the widespread global decline of similar coral island habitats and their reefs due to human interactions, the conservation and protection of the park and its wildlife is of international importance.

The park, which makes up the whole of North Keeling Island, is an internationally significant seabird rookery. The breeding colony of the

dominant bird species—the red-footed booby (*Sula sula*)—is one of the largest in the world. The island is also the main habitat of the endangered Cocos buff-banded rail (*Gallirallus philippensis andrewsi*), found only on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The critically endangered Round Island petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) has been recorded on the island but has not been sighted in recent years, despite intensive searching. Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) nest on the island and hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) reside in the waters of the park; both species are listed as vulnerable.

Location	Latitude 11°50' South, Longitude 96°49' East
Area	2,602 hectares including marine area extending 1.5 kilometres around North Keeling Island
Proclamation date	12 December 1995
IUCN category	Category II overall comprising: Terrestrial Zone Category Ia (122 hectares) Marine Zone Category II (2,480 hectares)
Biogeographic context	Isolated atoll in the Indian Ocean formed atop an old volcanic seamount
Management plan	Second plan in effect, expires 27 April 2011

Other significant management documents	Visitor access, boating, diving and fishing strategies; management implementation schedule; and risk assessment and management schedule	
Financial	Operating	\$0.733 million
	Capital	\$0.028 million
	Revenue	\$0.024 million
Visitors	115	
Permits	3 commercial tour operators (one each for diving, surfing and terrestrial tours)	

International conventions and agreements

Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	Entire park listed
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	8 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	15 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	15 of the 110 listed species

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Listed fauna	Species	1 critically endangered 4 endangered 5 vulnerable 24 migratory 36 marine
	Recovery plans	4 being implemented (blue whale; sei whale; Round Island petrel; marine turtles)
Listed flora	Species	None
Heritage	Listed as Commonwealth Heritage	

Numbers of native species recorded*

Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Plants
5(2)	24(8)	6(5)	31

* Figures in brackets are the numbers of species that are a management priority.

Advisory committee

The Pulu Keeling National Park Community Management Committee comprises the Director of National Parks (or his nominee), three other persons nominated by the Director and six community representatives nominated by the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Shire Council.

Major monitoring efforts

The red-footed booby population on North Keeling Island has been monitored since 1985. Analysis of the data in 2004 put the number at around 30,000 breeding pairs.

Surveys of the Cocos buff-banded rail resumed in 2004 as the forest had recovered sufficiently from the effects of Cyclone Walter in April 2001 to enable the birds to be counted. The population is now estimated to be 1,000 which is an increase from the estimate of 850 birds in 1999.

The sixth year of the sea turtle monitoring programme was completed, with an additional 166 turtles tagged (68 green turtles and 98 hawksbill turtles). In 2005, strip transects were conducted by boat to provide another means of assessing turtle abundance (other than population estimates calculated from capture/recapture data). The knowledge gained from the monitoring programme has enabled Parks Australia North to provide informed comments on proposed developments, resulting in a 'win-win' situation for proponents and the environment.

Parks Australia has been monitoring the status of Cocos (Keeling) Island coral reefs since 1997. The monitoring programme, called Reefcheck, provides data for an international database from which State of the Reef reports are produced. Developed under the International Coral Reef Initiative, Reefcheck is designed to detect and monitor the impacts of human activities on coral reef ecosystems.

Future challenges

Major challenges are to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases to the park, and to maintain compliance and enforcement efforts to stop seabird poaching. Island fauna is especially vulnerable to the introduction of exotic species. Outbreaks of scale insects and die-back (*Phytophthora* spp.) on nearby Christmas Island and in Western Australia may pose a threat to Pulu Keeling National Park.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Illegal entry to park
- Illegal harvesting of wildlife
- Monitoring of red-footed boobies
- Reefcheck

Actions

- Maintain surveillance, boat patrols and education
- Survey bird numbers regularly

Performance results 2004–05

- Installed remote surveillance equipment in the park to provide more effective detection of illegal park entry and poaching
- Spent 209 staff days on patrols during the year. Patrols are believed to be effective at deterring poaching
- Progressed prosecution of poachers caught in park on 25 December 2003 with 240 birds
- Conducted surveys, found population estimate 30,000 red-footed booby breeding pairs

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Major issues

- The *SMS Emden* shipwreck is becoming a popular diving site
- Visitors to Malay gravesites

Actions

- Ensure access to sites is managed appropriately

Performance results 2004–05

- Effectively managed cultural heritage sites
- Replaced grave markers and cleaned up grave sites after extensive consultation with the community

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Potential for introduction of exotic species by park visitors

Actions

- Implement quarantine procedures
- Prevent introduction of alien species

Performance results 2004–05

- Inspected and treated visitors' equipment and clothing before they went ashore in the park. No evidence was found that new species had been introduced

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Dissatisfaction with park management due to perceived lack of obvious benefits to the community

Actions

- Promote benefits of the park (including employment, tourism, local expenditure)

Performance results 2004–05

- Documentary on the park and 10-week exhibition at the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle (commencing 17 June 2004) have proved beneficial to the local community

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Isolation restricts training opportunities

Actions

- Train staff more effectively

Performance results 2004–05

- Improved record keeping. Records management staff visited the island to install a filing system more compliant with requirements. However, the system is not yet complete. Staff were given basic finance training
- Revenues up 3 per cent from budget, expenses up 5 per cent

Catalina JX 435 commemorative ceremony



The wing of Catalina JX435 sits in a bed of seagrass and has been colonised by corals, sponges and fish.

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands, in the eastern Indian Ocean, are in a militarily strategic position and there has been a long association between the islands and Australia's defence forces. During World War I the *HMAS Sydney* destroyed the German raider *SMS Emden* off North Keeling Island after the captain of the *Emden* sent a landing party ashore at Direction Island on the southern atoll to destroy the cable station situated there. During World War II 7,000 troops were stationed on Direction Island and the

islands were bombed by Japanese aircraft.

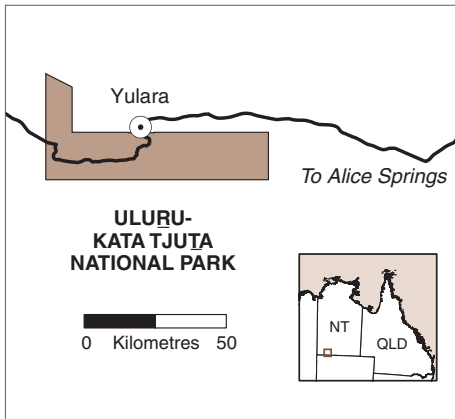
The crash of Catalina JX435 was a significant war-time tragedy and is considered an important part of the islands' heritage. At 1045hrs on 27 June 1945, a Catalina from No. 240 RAF Squadron, based at Red Hills Lake, Madras, India, with a crew of 14 Canadian and British RAF personnel, crashed into the lagoon of the southern atoll of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Rescuers arrived at the crash site three minutes later and pulled seven men from the wreckage, but another seven could not be rescued. Two of the rescued men later died from injuries caused by the crash. The wreck was not salvaged and the remaining seven bodies have never been recovered.

In 2004 Parks Australia staff located most of the wreckage of Catalina JX435 among spectacular corals, sponges, seagrasses and schools of colourful tropical fish. The engines, wing and tail plane sections of the Catalina will become part of an underwater historic trail, linking the wreck of the *Phaeton* (sister ship to the famous *Cutty Sark*), a WWII barge, cannons, an 18th century barque and a 19th century American whaler in the lagoon. The wreck of Catalina JX435 has been nominated for the Commonwealth Heritage List and the heritage values of the site are protected under the EPBC Act.

A ceremony to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Catalina's crash took place on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands on 27 June 2005. Industry groups and Australian Government departments provided assistance and funding for the ceremony. The sole remaining survivor and the first rescuer on the scene (both ex-RAF) flew to Cocos to take part in the ceremony, which was filmed as the final part of a documentary being produced about Catalina JX435.

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park

<http://www.deh.gov.au/parks/uluru>



Special features

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park is inscribed on the World Heritage List for both the cultural and natural values of its landscape. The park protects the cultural values of its *Anangu* (western desert Aboriginal) owners, the iconic rock outcrops of Uluru and Kata Tjuta, outstanding examples of arid zone flora and fauna, and outstanding scenic beauty.

Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park is a place of great spiritual and cultural

importance to *Anangu* men and women. For countless generations this ancient landscape has developed as a result of the activities of *Anangu* and their ancestors. The land management techniques that are a feature of these activities are an intrinsic part of *tjukurpa* (traditional law and culture) and a feature of the joint management of the park by *Anangu* and Parks Australia.

Location	Latitude 25°15' South, Longitude 130°43' East
Area	132,566 hectares
Proclamation date	24 May 1977, 28 October 1985
IUCN category	Category II
Biogeographic context	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia region: Great Sandy Desert
Management plan	Fourth plan in effect, expires 28 June 2007
Other significant management documents	Visitor infrastructure masterplan; staff development plan; species reintroduction plan; weed control plan; feral species control plan; fire management plan; cultural heritage management plan; the lease; interpretation plan; management plan implementation schedule; and risk assessment and management schedule

Financial	Operating	\$10.956 million
	Capital	\$2.267 million
	Revenue	\$8.374 million
	Paid to traditional owners	\$1.997 million
Visitors	348,472 adult paying visitors	
Permits	270 film/photography; 103 tour operators; 3 research	
Visitor satisfaction	89% of visitors for the 12 months ending March 2005 were 'satisfied to very satisfied' (Northern Territory Tourist Commission). Rated second best park in the Northern Territory.	

International conventions and agreements

World Heritage Convention	Listed under cultural criteria (v) and (vi) and natural criteria (ii) and (iii), recognising the park's outstanding natural and cultural values and its significance as a cultural landscape
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	11 of 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	14 of 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	15 of 110 listed species
Other agreements	Listed as a biosphere reserve under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Listed fauna	Species	6 extinct 5 endangered 9 vulnerable 17 migratory 36 marine (primarily birds not exclusively marine)
	Recovery plans	4 being implemented (mala or rufus hare wallaby; golden bandicoot; Alice Springs mouse; tjakura or great desert skink) 9 in preparation (mulgara; bilby; southern marsupial mole; red-tailed phascogale; sandhill dunnart; numbat; black-flanked rock-wallaby; chuditch; central rock-rat)
Listed flora	None	
Heritage	Listed as Commonwealth Heritage	

Numbers of native species recorded*					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Amphibians	Plants
21(14)	170(2)	73(3)	None	1(1)	>400

* Figures in brackets are the numbers of species that are a management priority.

Board of management

The structure of the Uluru–Kata Tjuta Board of Management ensures an *Anangu* majority of 8:4. The current board was appointed by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage in October 2003 for five years. The board oversees the management of the park and the preparation of management plans. Through joint management of the park, *Anangu* and *Pirrapa* (non-Aboriginal people) work together to manage the park's cultural and natural heritage.

Major monitoring efforts

Monitoring programmes included ongoing assessment of the condition of rock art; monitoring of rock movement above the Mutitjulu art site; monitoring of threatened species; and monitoring of weed infestations.

Surveys for threatened species such as tjakura (*Egernia kintorei*) and mulgara (*Dasyercus cristicauda*) continued. The 2005 tjakura survey indicated an increase in population (after several years of decline) with many juveniles and new burrows being documented. The increase may be due to a range of environmental factors, including the effects of a major wildfire event in 2002 and changes in rainfall and vertebrate pest numbers. The mulgara survey also indicated an increase in numbers, as well as colonisation of new habitat areas in recently burnt country.

Mapping of weed infestations and recording of weed removal by volunteer teams continued through the year.

Future challenges

Major challenges for 2005–06 include balancing the needs of an increasing number of visitors with those of *Anangu* and the impacts on the fragile environment; addressing visitor overcrowding issues at the Sunrise Viewing Area; addressing erosion problems caused by run-off around Uluru; providing adequate resources to eradicate buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) and other weeds; providing opportunities for greater *Anangu* involvement in park management and decision-making; and improving the governance and wellbeing of the Mutitjulu community.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Protecting natural heritage from degradation caused by increased visitation
- 42 common weeds and growing infestations of buffel grass (see case study on page 101)
- Seven fauna pest species
- Fire plan and vegetation mapping strategy
- Plant nursery re-establishment
- Construction of mala (*Lagorchestes hirsutus*) enclosure and successful reintroduction of the species

Actions

- Develop weed manual and handbook for conservation volunteer agency and park staff
- Complete vertebrate pest strategy
- Form fire plan and vegetation mapping strategy team
- Complete stage 1 data gathering for nursery re-establishment
- Implement operational plan for the park, with prioritised land management actions

Performance results 2004–05

- Completed two-yearly flora and fauna survey
- Drafted weed identification handbook as part of weed strategy
- Trained *Anangu* women and Conservation Volunteers Australia volunteers in nursery techniques
- Implemented feral pest (cat and camel) monitoring and eradication programmes
- Drafted feral dog policy
- Drafted dingo policy
- Developed operations plan and implemented projects
- Undertook wildfire suppression with traditional owners
- Conducted planned burn with traditional owners
- Surveyed for tjakura and mulgara—numbers of both species appear to be increasing
- Completed environmental impact assessments for all proposed infrastructure projects
- Completed mala enclosure for re-introduction of mala in second half of 2005

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Major issues

- Reconciling living, dynamic culture with natural and cultural heritage management
- Documenting cultural sites and associated knowledge, and integrating them into park management practices
- Maintaining and developing information management systems that are culturally appropriate and accessible to traditional owners
- Identifying and protecting women's heritage

Actions

- Transcribe part of the oral history tapes collected over the last 10 years
- Resolve cultural site management system technical issues
- Publish seasonal bush food calendar painted by *Anangu*
- Hold women's heritage workshop
- Establish rock art monitoring programme
- Host visit by New Zealand member of World Heritage Committee, accompanied by staff of the NZ Department of Conservation

Performance results 2004–05

- Solved problems with cultural site management system which is now in use (see case study on page 102)
- Continued rock art conservation and held training in conservation techniques
- Women attended several conferences on culture, land management and educational opportunities
- Two traditional owners visited New Zealand at the invitation of Maori and NZ Department of Conservation

KRA3: Joint management

Major issues

- Supporting and developing the new joint management partnership team
- Effectively supporting the new board of management
- Ensuring traditional owners are appropriately involved in project design and implementation, and in the delivery of core functions
- Supporting the training and development of Indigenous staff
- Developing key indicators for joint management

Actions

- Work with joint management partnership members in developing productive working relationships and roles
- Put in place effective board secretariat
- Hold training programmes to facilitate community involvement
- Set key directions for the fire and vegetation strategy and the women's heritage workshop for land management works

Performance results 2004–05

- Joint management arrangements supported the board and the operation of the park
- Supported board members and provided them with information about park operations and proposals
- Continued to support traditional owners' involvement in managing threatened species, fire and cultural heritage project work
- Used traditional owner input to environmental impact assessments

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Pressures on ageing infrastructure to effectively manage increasing visitor numbers
- Some infrastructure in need of repairs and/or replacement

Actions

- Complete upgrade of first section of the Valley of the Winds track
- Complete toilets for the Uluru base walk
- Continue effective and strategic infrastructure planning and maintenance
- Train tour operators

Performance results 2004–05

- Progressed track reconstruction to the first lookout at the Valley of the Winds with field crew of *Anangu* and *Pirrapa*
- Started signage replacement and upgrade
- Undertook ongoing maintenance of other park infrastructure under a scheduled works programme
- Held two tour operator workshops
- Started work on extending parking space at the Sunset Viewing Area

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Developing and maintaining effective relationships with key stakeholders and partners

Actions

- Hold regular meetings of committees, including the Uluru–Kata Tjuta Tourism Consultative Committee, the cultural heritage committee and the film and photography consultative committee
- Communicate clearly with all parties
- Meet regularly with Mutitjulu Council and Ayers Rock Resort

Performance results 2004–05

- Revised the commercial film and photography guidelines and streamlined the application process (finalised for start date of 1 August 2005)
- Continued ongoing contact between the park management team, the joint management partnership and traditional owners during the design and implementation of core programmes, such as fire and pest species management
- Responded quickly to requests for information

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Providing essential services to the Mutitjulu community is consuming an ever-increasing proportion of the park budget
- Shortage of staff housing
- Charging for power at the Mutitjulu community and for both private residences and business enterprises at the cultural centre

Actions

- Introduce new arrangements to improve local cost centre managers' budget management

Performance results 2004–05

- 'User pays' system for electricity provided to park staff, Mutitjulu community houses and businesses in the park's cultural centre introduced on 1 July 2005
- Prioritised recruitment actions to take account of staff housing constraints
- Increased park revenue (per person) and traditional owner payments generated by fee increase were off-set by declining visitor numbers
- Revenues down 3 per cent from budget, expenses up 1 per cent

The Mutitjulu community *Tjungu Waakaripai* project



Mutitjulu community members discussing the working together project.

In recent years the health and well-being of the Mutitjulu community in Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park have been affected by social and administrative dysfunction.

In mid-2004 the community established a 'working together' project, called *Tjungu Waakaripai*, with the aim of ensuring the future of Mutitjulu as a socially healthy community built on principles of sound governance and environmental and economic sustainability.

The project involves the Australian Government (represented by Parks Australia, the Office for Indigenous Policy Coordination and the Department of Family and Community Services), the Northern Territory Government, Mutitjulu Community Council, NPY Women's Council and the Central Land Council. Other important stakeholders include the board of management, other Aboriginal people living in the region, and the Ayers Rock Resort.

Community members and other stakeholders have identified immediate priorities for change as well as some longer-term needs. Stronger law and order has been recognised as a critical prerequisite for improvements in education, health and employment. Other important areas include youth, governance, more effective resource use and addiction in the community. The project recognises that good governance and a safe and healthy community are critical to the Mutitjulu community being able to realise its full potential to participate in the day-to-day management of the park, and for residents to benefit from tourism and other regional activities.

Some early outcomes include:

- strategies for youth development and diversion from substance abuse and anti-social behaviour
- establishment of 94.5 Mutitjulu FM to teach young people about broadcasting
- re-opening of the community child care centre with employment of local people
- agreement to pay for electricity reducing dependence on 'sit-down' money
- greater teaching resources and formation of school council
- improved community governance
- commitment to establish a new police post in the community and recruit two Aboriginal Community Police Officers.

Volunteers move on buffel grass



Volunteers removing buffel grass.

For the fourth consecutive year a Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) group was involved in the buffel grass eradication programme around Uluru. This programme is a result of the enthusiasm and passion of Thomas Konieczny, Chief Ranger Operations at the park, and aims to eradicate all buffel grass from the area.

During the 2004 and 2005 seasons Thomas organised 12 CVA groups with an average of seven to 10 volunteers per group. Each

group goes through an induction and training programme that places great emphasis on the cultural significance of the area to *Anangu*. Eradicating buffel grass restores important cultural, as well as natural, values to the area.

Each CVA group commits to a two-week block of work, which equates to approximately 500 work hours. During the 2004 and 2005 seasons 10 hectares were cleared and 20 hectares previously cleared were followed up for removal of regrowth. Over the four years a total of 35 hectares has been cleared and maintained.

Thomas also organises Friends of the Park volunteers from the Ayers Rock Resort and Mutitjulu community, who contribute their time generally on Saturday mornings. This equates to about 10 CVA groups during the year, and interest is growing.

With the Mutitjulu Green Corps programme, launched in April 2005, park staff and community members work on eradicating buffel grass within the Mutitjulu community, propagating native plants to rehabilitate the cleared area and building fences. As well as improving the environment in the community, Green Corps is helping *Anangu* men and women to develop skills in land management.

Developing a cultural database including oral histories



Rock art maintenance inspection.

From a small beginning, Uluru's cultural site management system is now a world-class Indigenous knowledge database.

The database had its beginnings in a workshop to discuss cultural data storage and is now a premier store of cultural information that Indigenous people can easily access and intuitively navigate.

The database houses information on cultural sites in and around the park. It is a powerful tool that uses multi-media

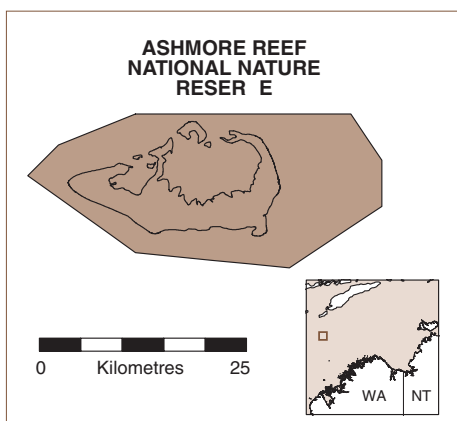
formats, such as digital images, video and sound recordings, operating in a hardware package that is easily transported and protected from the rigours of the central Australian environment.

The cultural data include recorded oral histories and cultural site management information, such as site work data, results of patrols and monitoring, maps, and photographs of rock art, people and ceremonies. The database is specifically designed to partition, where necessary, men's and women's cultural information. A security system restricts access to sensitive materials, such as secret/sacred materials, through the use of passwords.

The cultural site management system is now in its third stage of development, with a final stage to be completed in late 2005, by which time it will be fully operational.

Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/ashmore>



Special features

Ashmore Reef National Nature Reserve is renowned for its high biological diversity. The reserve contains a variety of marine habitats, including extensive seagrass meadows, sandflats, reef flats and lagoons.

Ashmore Reef is home to many species of fish, corals, molluscs and other invertebrates, and has the highest known diversity and density of sea snakes in the world, with 14 species recorded. It is also an important

breeding and feeding habitat for threatened species including dugong (*Dugong dugon*) and several sea turtle species.

The reserve contains three small sand islands with a combined area of 112 hectares. The islands support some of the most important seabird rookeries on the North-West Shelf and the reserve is an important staging point for migratory wetland birds, especially waders. At Ashmore Reef more than 78 species have been recorded, 43 of which are listed in international agreements for the conservation of birds and their habitats. Colonies of sooty tern (*Sterna fuscata*) and common noddy (*Anous stolidus*) number up to 50,000 breeding pairs.

Location	Latitude 12°15' South, Longitude 123°4' East
Area	58,337 hectares
Proclamation date	16 August 1983
IUCN category	Category Ia overall comprising: Category Ia (54,991 hectares) Category II (3,346 hectares)
Biogeographic context	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia region: Oceanic Shoals
Management plan	Second plan in effect, expires 25 June 2009

Other significant management documents	Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia; management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment; service level agreement with the National Marine Unit of the Australian Customs Service	
Financial	Operating	\$496,801*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	Not known	
Permits	1 commercial filming; 1 commercial tour (bird watching trip)	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements	
Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	The entire reserve is listed
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	21 of the 98 Australian listed species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	38 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	38 of the 110 listed species
Other international agreements	Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia, under which traditional Indonesian fishers are allowed access to an area that includes the reserve

<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>		
Listed fauna	Species	1 endangered 2 vulnerable 43 migratory 60 marine
	Recovery plans	1 being implemented (marine turtles)
Listed flora	None	
Heritage	Listed as Commonwealth Heritage	

Numbers of native species recorded					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Invertebrates	Plants
1	78	17	720	1,265	40

Management arrangements

The Australian Customs Service carried out on-site management of the reserve and Coastwatch provided regular flights over Ashmore.

Departmental staff visited the reserve in August 2004 and May 2005 to implement and assess reserve management. They also provided training to Australian Customs Service officers and assistance with visitor management.

Major monitoring efforts

The Australian Institute of Marine Science conducted a shark and fish survey of the reserve in October 2004.

Sea snake monitoring carried out by Charles Darwin University indicates a decline in sea snake populations at Ashmore Reef. A research programme to investigate this more closely is being developed for next year.

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service surveyed the reserve for the introduced ginger ant (*Solenopsis geminata*) in September 2004. This was followed up by a risk assessment of the impact of the ginger ant on resident sea bird colonies in November 2004 (see case study on page 109).

In May 2005, the Northern Territory Herbarium conducted a survey of terrestrial plant pests to guide the weed eradication programme.

Future challenges

Major challenges are to continually improve compliance and enforcement of fishing and access restrictions; and to implement a comprehensive research and monitoring strategy for the natural values of the reserve.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Illegal fishing
- Introduction of pest species

Actions

- Enforce access and fishing restrictions
- Cooperate with Indonesian officials to improve management of MoU Box fishery, 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
- Encourage and facilitate reef research and monitoring
- Commence work on dealing with the threats identified in the Marine and Terrestrial Introduced Species Prevention and Management Strategy (2004)
- Remove weeds from reserve
- Implement new quarantine, bilge and ballast water protocols

Performance results 2004–05

- The Australian Customs Service provided on-site management at Ashmore Reef throughout the year
- Customs officers actively enforced access and fishing restrictions. Fishing vessels in the area were boarded and advised of restrictions. Suspected illegal activities were investigated and warnings issued
- Customs officers implemented new protocols for vessels with significant hull fouling and/or discharging bilge and ballast water arriving in the reserve. Brochures were revised to include information for visitors about the new protocols
- Undertook research on migratory shorebirds and seabirds, sea snakes, turtles and dugong
- Surveyed the introduced pest ginger ant, including risk assessment of impact of ginger ants on seabirds (see case study on page 109)
- Progressed work on removal of two potentially vigorous colonising weeds
- Continued to collect and analyse marine debris

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Major issues

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Anchor damage

Actions

- Maintain moorings
- Monitor visitation

Performance results 2004–05

- Inspected and maintained 13 reserve moorings
- Visitors to Ashmore included traditional Indonesian fishers, recreational yachts and research groups
- Australian Customs Service officers monitored visitors' use of moorings
- Included information about use of the moorings in new Ashmore brochure

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Illegal Indonesian fishing

Actions

- Revise and implement an integrated management approach for Indonesian fishing

Performance results 2004–05

- Completed an alternative livelihood project (using AusAID funds) in Roti, Indonesia. The project provides alternative sources of income for traditional fishers who currently target Australian waters. The next phase of the project will be expanded to five new villages and will investigate the development of additional alternative income sources
- Consulted with Indonesian officials and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to address overfishing issues in the MoU Box on a regional and cooperative basis

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Effective management of contract with management service provider

Actions

- Manage the service level agreement with the Australian Customs Service

Performance results 2004–05

- Held regular meetings and consultation with the Australian Customs Service
- Provided warden training for Customs officers

Ginger ant research at Ashmore Reef



Bird habitat survey on Middle Island, Ashmore Reef.

The ginger ant, also called the tropical fire ant, was introduced to Australia and Indonesia from North America. It is a small, aggressive species and feeds on insects and other animals. It was first recorded at Ashmore in 1992.

In 2004, as part of the development of an introduced species management strategy for Ashmore, the ginger ant was identified as a potentially dangerous threat to ground nesting seabirds. Sick or vulnerable animals are more susceptible to attack

from the ant, so it is possible that nesting birds and hatchlings could be affected.

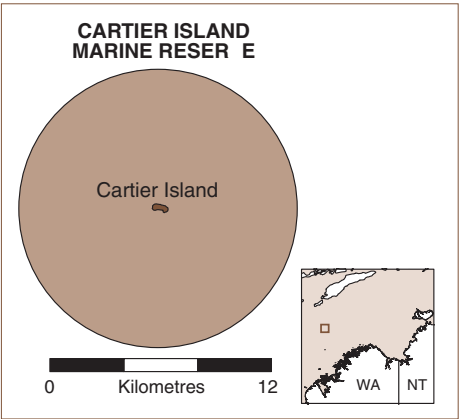
The Ashmore management team developed a research project to investigate the situation further. Two experts were brought in, an ornithologist from the Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist in Darwin and an entomologist from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service in Broome.

The project was carried out in two parts in September and November 2004. First the distribution and density of ginger ants on the islands were mapped. Second, an ecological risk assessment of ginger ants' potential impact on the seabirds was conducted, mapping the seabird colonies, paying specific attention to nests and hatchlings and the extent to which they were being affected by the ants.

The research suggests that there may be a relationship between the presence of nesting seabirds and ginger ants. However, the ants were not particularly aggressive. The next step will be to investigate the feasibility of eradication options, including cost-benefit analysis. This will be done in conjunction with an improved monitoring programme to track any changes in bird and ant populations or nesting behaviour.

Cartier Island Marine Reserve

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/cartier>



Special features

Cartier Island Marine Reserve is notable for its high biodiversity values, with many fish species, corals, sponges, echinoderms, molluscs and other invertebrates. The reserve provides significant habitat for an unusually high diversity and density of sea snakes, some of which are endemic to the region. It also supports populations of feeding, breeding and nesting sea turtles, and may support dugong (*Dugong dugon*).

Location	Latitude 12°32' South, Longitude 123°33' East	
Area	17,237 hectares	
Proclamation date	21 June 2000	
IUCN category	Category Ia	
Biogeographic context	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia region: Oceanic Shoals	
Management plan	First plan in effect, expires 25 June 2009	
Other significant management documents	Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia; and management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment	
Financial	Operating	\$30,500*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	Not known	
Permits	None	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements	
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	21 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	38 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	38 of the 110 listed species
Other international agreements	Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia, under which traditional Indonesian fishers are allowed access to an area that includes the reserve

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999		
Listed fauna	Species	1 endangered 2 vulnerable 43 migratory 60 marine
	Recovery plans	1 being implemented (marine turtles)
Listed flora	None	

Numbers of native species recorded					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Invertebrates	Plants
1	78	17	720	1,265	40

Major monitoring efforts

The Australian Institute of Marine Science conducted a shark and fish survey of the reserve in October 2004.

Management arrangements

The Australian Customs Service stationed at Ashmore Reef carried out on-site patrols of Cartier Reserve.

Future challenges

Major challenges are to continually improve compliance and enforcement of fishing and access restrictions; and to implement a comprehensive research and monitoring strategy for the natural values of the reserve.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Illegal access
- Overfishing

Actions

- Enforce fishing restrictions

Performance results 2004–05

- Coastwatch and the Australian Customs Service undertook regular patrols. Officers boarded Indonesian vessels in the area and advised of closure restrictions. They investigated suspected illegal activities and issued warnings

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Safety arising from the area's past use as a Department of Defence practice area

Actions

- Enforce the closure of the reserve

Performance results 2004–05

- Coastwatch and the Australian Customs Service undertook regular patrols. Officers boarded Indonesian vessels in the area and advised of closure restrictions

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Illegal Indonesian fishing

Actions

- Revise and implement an integrated management approach for Indonesian fishing

Performance results 2004–05

- Completed an alternative livelihood project (using AusAID funds) in Roti, Indonesia.

The project provides alternative sources of income for traditional fishers who currently target Australian waters. The next phase of the project will be expanded to five new villages and will investigate the development of additional alternative income sources

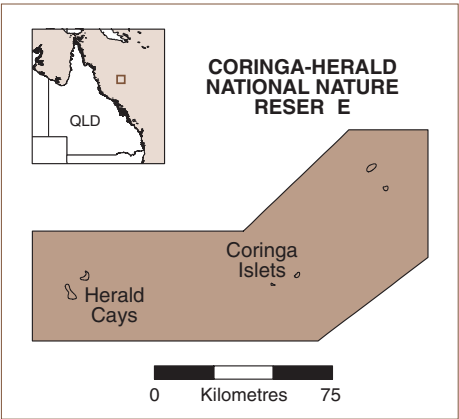
- Consulted with Indonesian officials and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to address overfishing issues in the MoU Box on a regional and cooperative basis

KRA6: Business management

- No major issues of concern

Coringa–Herald National Nature Reserve

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/coringa>



Special features

The islets and cays of Coringa–Herald National Nature Reserve include the only forested cays in the Coral Sea Islands Territory. Five islets in the reserve are vegetated, mainly by widespread tropical shoreline plants of the Indo-Pacific region.

The *Pisonia grandis* forest ecosystem, which occurs on two islets in the reserve, has intrinsic conservation significance and is important habitat for nesting seabirds. The forested islets are critical

for the survival of seabirds, which gather there from an extensive oceanic area. Many of the bird species are migratory and breed mainly on small isolated islands.

The reef habitats support marine benthic (bottom-dwelling) flora and fauna that are distinct from those of the Great Barrier Reef. The green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) breeds in the reserve and dolphins and whales occur in the area.

An historic shipwreck—the *Coringa Packet*—is located off Chilcott Islet. The Coringa Islets were named after the *Coringa Packet*, which sank in 1845.

Location	Latitude 16°59' South, Longitude 149°45' East
Area	885,250 hectares
Proclamation date	16 August 1982
IUCN category	Category Ia
Biogeographic context	Tropical waters of the Coral Sea Islands Territory
Management plan	Second plan in effect, expires 4 September 2008
Other significant management documents	Management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment

Financial	Operating	\$26,000*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	49 visitor days recorded from 2 commercial tours	
Permits	3 commercial tour operators	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements	
Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	Entire reserve is listed
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	8 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	14 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	15 of the 110 listed species

<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>		
Listed fauna	Species	2 endangered 8 vulnerable 16 migratory 51 marine
	Recovery plans	2 being implemented (marine turtles; great white shark)
Listed flora	None	

Numbers of native species recorded					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Invertebrates	Plants
30	27	5	>342	>1,000	16

Major monitoring efforts

Seabird monitoring continued with the assistance of staff and an active volunteer programme that has run continuously since 1991. The long-term, and now regionally significant, dataset provides valuable information about these species. Regular monitoring also identified a scale insect species that was damaging the *Pisonia* trees and successful control measures were introduced.

Sea turtle monitoring was not undertaken during 2004–05 due to a formal risk analysis process (Activity Safety Analysis) identifying a number of high risk factors,

mainly the strong likelihood of cyclonic activity in the Coral Seas region during the period of the turtle monitoring patrol (scheduled for November–December) and the lack of quick access to emergency medical help.

Management arrangements

The Australian Customs Service provided surface transport and logistical assistance for Departmental staff patrolling the reserve. Coastwatch provided regular aerial surveillance.

Future challenges

Major conservation challenges are to control scale insects, and to continue monitoring illegal activities and reserve health especially seabirds and turtles. Occupational health and safety is also a challenge because of the reserve's isolation.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Possible illegal fishing
- Impact of pest insects on Pisonia forest (loss of habitat)

Actions

- Enforce fishing restrictions
- Monitor condition of Pisonia forest and release control insects as required

Performance results 2004–05

- Coastwatch undertook one flight and Departmental staff one patrol. No offences detected
- Deforestation arrested (see case study on page 118)

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- High risk to patrol staff from hazards and risks associated with the isolation of the reserve

Actions

- Implement formal Activity Safety Analysis

Performance results 2004–05

- Conducted Activity Safety Analysis before all scheduled patrols and one scheduled patrol was cancelled

KRA 5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Lack of awareness among stakeholders of reserve management prescriptions

Actions

- Consult key stakeholders on relevant issues
- Prepare and distribute reserve advisory brochure

Performance results 2004–05

- Liaised with Coastwatch, Australian Customs Service, Department of Defence, relevant researchers and tour operators
- Informed visitors of restrictions and minimal impact practices

KRA6: Business management

- No major issues of concern

Biological control of insect pests in the Coringa–Herald *Pisonia* forests



*An insect pest expert monitors impacts on *Pisonia* forest, Coringa–Herald.*

Coringa–Herald National Nature Reserve is located in the Coral Sea, some 400 kilometres out beyond the Great Barrier Reef. Three of the six coral cays and islets of the reserve are forested with the softwood tree *Pisonia grandis*. These tropical island forests are of high conservation value due to their limited distribution and important role as nesting habitat for a variety of seabirds.

Pulvinaria (an introduced scale insect) was detected on *Pisonia* trees at Coringa Islets

in the early 1990s. By 2000, the *Pisonia* forest had completely disappeared as a result of insect attack. Stands of *Pisonia* elsewhere in the reserve have also been affected by the scale insect and the larvae of a species of hawkmoth.

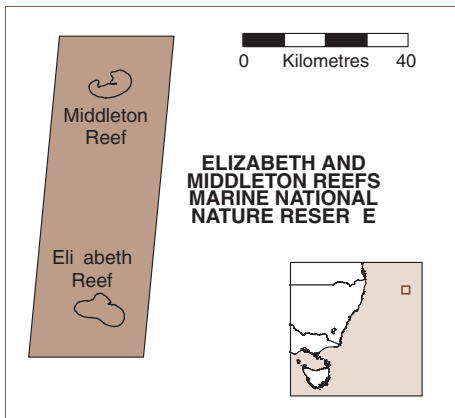
The isolation of Coringa–Herald has meant that, once introduced, these insect populations grew unchecked by natural predators. The appropriate mainland insect predators were identified and in 2001 biological control agents were introduced in the form of several ladybird species and a species of small wasp.

Four years on and the programme has been highly successful with no further deforestation occurring. This was the first successful attempt to control this pest in *Pisonia* forests and has established protocols and methods which are now being evaluated for managing similar outbreaks across northern Australia.

Regular Coastwatch surveillance flights now monitor vegetation cover at Coringa–Herald and act as an early warning system for possible deforestation events. This can trigger more detailed monitoring and, if necessary, application of appropriate additional control measures to restore the reserve's natural balance and protect the *Pisonia* forests.

Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/elizabeth>



Special features

Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs Marine National Nature Reserve is located in a transition area between tropical and temperate climates. The reefs are therefore home to a unique range of marine organisms, many of which are near the northern or southern limit of their distribution. A number of species are also considered endemic to the reefs or to the south-western Pacific region.

The available information on marine plants indicates a rich and diverse algal flora. The coral communities contain unique tropical species at, or near, the southern limits of their distribution, and subtropical species that are rare or absent from tropical reefs.

The diversity of fish species is relatively low, but at least seven previously undescribed species may be endemic to the reserve. The reserve also supports two of the few known populations of the black cod (*Epinephelus daemeli*) which was once common along the New South Wales coast but is now considered rare.

The reserve is a feeding ground for the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and several species of cetaceans.

Location	Latitude 29°42' South, Longitude 159°04' East
Area	187,726 hectares
Proclamation date	23 December 1987
IUCN category	Category Ia
Biogeographic context	Offshore warm temperate waters in the south of the Coral Sea Islands Territory
Management plan	First plan expired 23 March 2004 (new plan in preparation)

Other significant management documents	Management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment	
Financial	Operating	\$75,850*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	Not recorded, numbers low	
Permits	None	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements	
Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	Entire reserve is listed
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	12 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	3 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	6 of the 110 listed species

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999		
Listed fauna	Species	13 vulnerable 16 migratory 15 marine
	Recovery plans	2 being implemented (marine turtles; great white shark)
Listed flora	None	

Numbers of native species recorded					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Invertebrates	Plants
6	31	2	311	558	1

Major monitoring efforts

The Australian Institute of Marine Science monitored reserve health at Elizabeth Reef in December 2003. The reserve was found to be generally in good health with no bleaching and very little evidence of crown of thorns starfish activity.

The number of black cod, a species of concern in the reserve, has remained stable since the last survey in 1987. High numbers of Galapagos shark (*Carcharhinus galapagensis*) were observed in 2003, which suggests that the area is an important

nursery for this species. Another major reserve health survey will be undertaken at Middleton Reef in late 2005.

Management arrangements

Coastwatch undertook surveillance flights and Royal Australian Navy and Australian Customs Service vessels visited the reserve.

A new management plan was drafted and released for public comment.

Future challenges

Major challenges are implementing biological monitoring, finalising the second management plan and monitoring for possible illegal activities in the area.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Possible illegal fishing
- Monitoring reef health

Actions

- Enforce fishing restrictions
- Plan strategic reef biological monitoring programme

Performance results 2004–05

- Coastwatch flights detected no illegal fishing
- Finalised service level agreement with Coastwatch that clarifies roles for strategic monitoring during 2005–06
- Signed contract with James Cook University for reef health monitoring at Middleton Reef in late 2005
- Signed contract with the CSIRO to undertake genetic analysis of the black cod population in the reserve

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Major issues

- Possible interference with shipwrecks

Actions

- Enforce protection of shipwrecks

Performance results 2004–05

- Distributed advisory brochure
- Coastwatch flights and occasional patrols detected no interference with shipwrecks

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

- No major issues of concern

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Continue good relationships with Coastwatch and researchers

Actions

- Ensure relationships with partners are productive

Performance results 2004–05

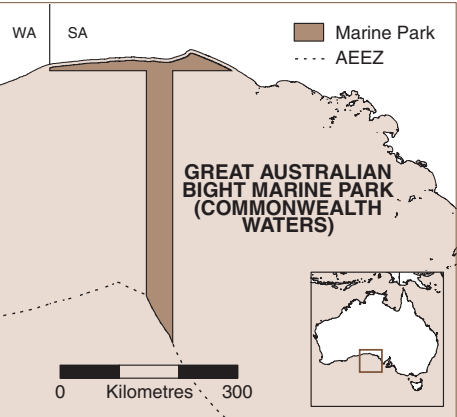
- Liaised effectively with Coastwatch, relevant scientists and tour operators
- Australian Institute of Marine Science presented study data to Departmental staff

KRA6: Business management

- No major issues of concern

Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/gab>



Special features

The Great Australian Bight Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters) extends South Australia's protection of habitat for marine mammals to Commonwealth waters adjacent to the state park. Notable species protected are the EPBC Act-listed (endangered) southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*) and (vulnerable) Australian sea-lion (*Neophoca cinerea*).

The marine park is next to the Head of Bight, the most important breeding

place for southern right whales in Australia and one of the most important, discrete breeding locations for the species in the world. The area also offers a unique opportunity to observe the species in a pristine environment.

The marine park protects a transect of the wide continental shelf of the Great Australian Bight, which is remarkable for its high levels of invertebrate endemism and diversity. The park is also the largest representative sample of the southern continental margin of Australia in a reserve.

The marine park provides for the sustainable use of its natural resources including commercial fishing and mineral exploration while ensuring these activities do not impact on the park's special features.

Location	Latitude 3°43'South, Longitude 130°23' East
Area	1,937,162 hectares
Proclamation date	22 April 1998
IUCN category	Category VI comprising: Marine Mammal Protection Zone Category VI (387,500 hectares) Benthic Protection Zone Category VI (1,608,500 hectares) (Area of overlap of these two zones = 56,000 hectares)

Biogeographic context	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation (IMCRA) for regions: Eucla Bioregion (IMCRA 3.3 mesoscale regionalisation) Great Australian Bight biotone and associated continental slope (IMCRA 3.3 demersal provinces and biotones) Southern Pelagic Province (IMCRA 3.3 pelagic provinces and biotones)	
Management plan	Second plan in effect, expires 16 May 2012	
Other significant management documents	Service level agreement and subsidiary annual business agreements between Australian and SA governments; and management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment	
Financial	Operating	\$173,481*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	None recorded	
Permits	21 commercial fishing (current until 16 May 2012); 1 scientific research	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements

Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	17 of 98 listed Australian species
Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels	11 of 18 listed species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	2 of 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	4 of 110 listed species

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Listed fauna	Species	6 endangered 15 vulnerable 21 migratory 48 marine
	Recovery plans	3 being implemented (great white shark; marine turtles; albatrosses & giant petrels)
Listed flora	None	

Numbers of native species recorded*			
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish
37	24	2	29

* Only EPBC Act listed fauna recorded.

Management arrangements

The Australian Government and the South Australian Government manage the Great Australian Bight Marine Park through a joint steering committee. A consultative committee with community representatives advises the steering committee on management issues.

A park manager is employed by the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage.

The first management plan for the park ceased to have effect on 16 May 2005. The second plan came into effect on 17 May 2005 and will last for seven years until 2012.

Major monitoring efforts

Southern right whale numbers are monitored annually. Current figures put the population using southern Australian waters at about 1,500 increasing at an average of 8 per cent per annum. Data collected over 13 years have provided a catalogue of identified whales numbering around 550 individuals. Ongoing studies of the ecology and behaviour of southern right whales are being conducted at the Head of Bight. A recovery plan for the southern right whale was released on 20 May 2005.

Bight coastline surveys have counted 10 breeding sites and 14 haul-out sites for the Australian sea-lion. Due to the inaccessibility of the coastline the total population is not known. Further sea-lion studies funded in 2004–05 were on foraging range and behaviour to understand where and when these animals feed; and interaction with fishing vessels to assess the impact of vessel activity on behaviour and population.

Further monitoring of the Benthic Protection Zone is planned.

Future challenges

Major challenges are developing a research programme to assess the marine park's performance; increasing the effectiveness of compliance strategies, including improving the fishing industry's compliance reporting; and implementing the new management plan.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Lack of baseline information

Actions

- Establish initial baselines
- Develop research plan to monitor the impact of known pressures on park values; assess park values' vulnerability to use; and assess park values' vulnerability to debris and other identified risks
- Assess performance of marine park

Performance results 2004–05 (in cooperation with SA Government)

- Initiated second round of baseline studies of benthos (the bottom level of the ocean)
- Southern right whale numbers increasing at 8 per cent annually and Australian sea-lion haul-out and breeding sites identified
- Initiated research into Australian sea-lion foraging behaviour and interactions with fishing vessels

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Illegal fishing
- Community understanding and appreciation of marine park's values

Actions

- Review surveillance plans
- Continue aerial surveillance by Coastwatch, on-ground surveillance by Yalata Land Management
- Pursue litigation and development of enforcement policies
- Implement communications plan

Performance results 2004–05 (in cooperation with SA Government)

- Advertised annual closures
- Completed land surveillance and aerial patrols
- Contributed to review of compliance and enforcement procedures
- Issued permits for commercial fishers

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Maintain productive relationships with partners

Actions

- Negotiate and implement annual business agreement with SA
- Consult stakeholders on new management plan
- Develop compliance monitoring arrangements with Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Performance results 2004–05 (in cooperation with SA Government)

- Renewed annual business agreement
- Undertook statutory consultation on new management plan, including meeting with consultative committee and other stakeholders
- Continued to make approaches to Australian Fisheries Management Authority and industry sectors about monitoring compliance
- Addressed collaborative risk management with Australian Fisheries Management Authority

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Performance assessment of first management plan
- Communicating new management plan to stakeholders
- Complex administrative structures

Actions

- Review first management plan and write new plan
- Reach clear understanding of the new management plan and rules governing activities in the park
- Establish clear understanding regarding roles of individuals and committees

Performance results 2004–05 (in cooperation with SA Government)

- New management plan came into effect 17 May 2005
- Produced and distributed plain English summary brochure with new management plan
- Improved communication among stakeholders

Advanced warden training for marine protected areas



Warden training aboard an Australian Customs Service vessel.

The management of Australian Government marine reserves from the sub-Antarctic to the tropics is a major challenge. One important aspect is promoting compliance with and enforcing the EPBC Act beyond the three nautical mile limit of state and territory waters.

To enforce the EPBC Act beyond state waters, the Department of the Environment and Heritage works closely with and relies on the assistance of officers from other Australian Government

departments and from state fisheries and conservation agencies. Under cooperative arrangements between state and Australian Government ministers, trained officers are appointed as law enforcement officers (known as wardens) under the EPBC Act. Any individual officer may work anywhere around Australia, from Heard Island to the Gulf of Carpentaria, on a variety of matters regulated under the Act.

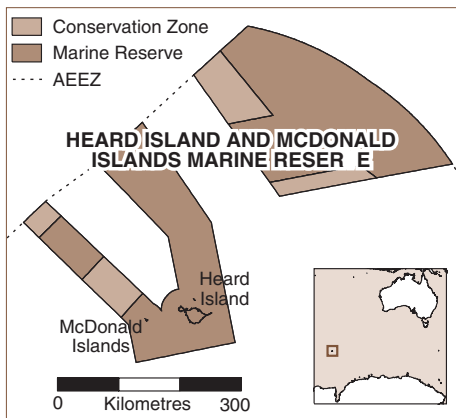
The EPBC Act came into effect in July 2000, and is still relatively new legislation. Recent investigations of incidents involving possible breaches of the Act have highlighted the breadth of enforcement provisions available under the Act.

In collaboration with the Department's Environment Investigations Unit, advanced training is now being provided to the established network of state-based law enforcement officers with Commonwealth law enforcement responsibilities to make use of the full range of enforcement options available. The provision of this training is one example of the ongoing support provided to law enforcement officers 'on the water'.

The advanced training has already been delivered in South Australia and during 2005–06 will be provided to officers from other states. The training gives law enforcement officers the understanding they need to make use of the full range of investigative possibilities available to them under the EPBC Act, increasing their capacity to tackle illegal activities in marine protected areas and in Commonwealth waters generally.

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Marine Reserve and Conservation Zone

<http://www.heardisland.aq>



Special features

The Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Marine Reserve includes the World Heritage-listed islands and 12 nautical mile territorial sea, plus an additional marine area which extends in parts to the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone boundary. The HIMI Conservation Zone covers areas of the Exclusive Economic Zone adjoining the reserve that are being assessed for their conservation significance and fisheries resource potential before being considered for addition to the reserve.

Heard Island and McDonald Islands is the only major sub-Antarctic island group believed to contain no species directly introduced by humans. Its terrestrial and marine ecology and oceanographic conditions are quite distinct from other Southern Ocean islands, including Australia's other sub-Antarctic island, Macquarie Island.

The islands and surrounding waters provide crucial breeding habitat for birds and marine mammals, including several species listed as threatened and/or migratory under international conservation agreements and the EPBC Act. Two birds, the Heard Island sheathbill (*Chionis minor nasicornis*) and the vulnerable Heard Island cormorant (*Phalacrocorax nivalis*) are endemic to the reserve.

The terrestrial environment displays distinctive geographical features such as permanent glaciers, Australia's only active volcanoes, and Australia's highest mountain (Mawson Peak, 2,750 metres) outside the Australian Antarctic Territory. Heard Island also contains significant cultural relics and heritage sites from 19th and early 20th century sealing activities and from the first Australian Antarctic research expeditions.

The marine environment surrounding the islands features diverse and distinctive benthic habitats that support slow-growing and vulnerable species including corals, sponges, barnacles and echinoderms. The waters of the reserve also include prime foraging areas for terrestrial species that prey on marine species, and provide nursery

areas for fishes, including commercially harvested species. Areas of highly productive nutrient rich waters in the reserve, created by the confluence of key oceanographic fronts such as the Antarctic Polar Front, are believed to provide feeding grounds for a range of cetaceans.

Location	Latitude 51°01' South, Longitude 76°55' East	
Area	6,457,815 hectares (Note: conservation zone is a further 1,170,000 hectares)	
Proclamation date	16 October 2002	
IUCN category	Category Ia	
Biogeographic context	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia region: Kerguelen Province	
Management plan	Public comment period on first draft plan closed 4 May 2005 (the plan has been finalised and is expected to take effect later in 2005)	
Other significant management documents	Australia's Antarctic Science Programme: Science Strategy 2004–05 to 2008–09; draft cultural heritage management plan for the Atlas Cove area ^{abc} .	
Financial	Operating	\$60,000 ^a
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	None ^b	
Permits	3 scientific research ^c	

(a) No science or management expedition was conducted in 2004–05, which was an 'off year' for triennial visits to HIMI. This figure does not include costs associated with analysis of data collected during the 2003–04 expedition, much of which is expected to contribute directly or indirectly to the future management of the reserve and the HIMI region.

(b) No government research expeditions or tourist visits to Heard Island were undertaken during 2004–05. Fishing vessels and surveillance vessels may have passed through the marine areas of the reserve.

(c) These permits relate to scientific research in the HIMI territorial sea required as a condition of licences to commercially fish in the Australian commercial fishery adjacent to the reserve.

International conventions and agreements	
World Heritage Convention	Listed under natural criteria (i) and (ii), recognising its outstanding natural values
Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	Nomination of HIMI Territory being considered (draft Ramsar Information Sheet circulated for public comment as part of draft plan for the reserve)
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	12 of 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	1 of 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	4 of 110 listed species
Other agreements	Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources; Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels; Treaty between the Government of Australia and the Government of the French Republic on Cooperation in the Maritime Areas Adjacent to the French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Heard Island and the McDonald Islands

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999		
Listed fauna	Species ^a	1 endangered 10 vulnerable 12 migratory 51 marine
	Recovery plans	1 being implemented (albatrosses & giant petrels)
Listed flora	None	

(a) Figures include both breeding and non-breeding species, but do not include cetaceans. Only sparse records of cetaceans are currently available for the HIMI region.

Numbers of native species recorded					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Invertebrates	Plants
7 ^a	47 ^b	0	34 ^c	168 ^d	262 ^e

(a) 3 breeding, 4 non-breeding seals

(b) 19 breeding, 28 non-breeding birds

(c) Refers to fish recorded from nearshore waters (<12nm)

(d) Refers only to terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates

(e) 12 vascular plants, 62 bryophytes, 71 lichens, 100 terrestrial algae, 17 marine macro-algae

Management arrangements

The reserve is managed by the Australian Antarctic Division of the Department of the Environment and Heritage, under delegation from the Director of National Parks.

Major monitoring efforts

The Australian Antarctic Division mounts Australian Antarctic Programme expeditions to the HIMI region approximately every three years. The triennial cycle is partly due to the significant costs involved and also the time required for research results to be analysed and duly considered in planning for subsequent visits. During 2004–05 there was no expedition, but there was substantial continuing analysis of the vast amount of data collected during the 2003–04 expedition, primarily in relation to glaciology, predator-prey interactions and terrestrial ecology.

Work to produce a baseline vegetation map of Heard Island continued, and much of the spatial data collected during 2003–04 was mapped and added to a GIS. Preliminary studies were also undertaken as to the origins of the new plant species recorded in 2003–04 (*Leptinella plumosa*) and another plant species (*Poa annua*) first recorded in 1987.

Future challenges

The management situation for the reserve has not varied substantially since 2003–04. Future challenges include:

- finalising and implementing the management plan for the reserve
- maintaining thorough quarantine processes for all visits
- capitalising on Australian Antarctic Programme visits and partnerships with other operators in the region to undertake management actions and conduct research and monitoring
- using information gathered during such visits to inform management actions
- completing the HIMI conservation zone assessment
- developing a research and monitoring strategy to facilitate performance assessment for the reserve.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Preventing human introduction of alien species
- Performance assessment and reporting

Actions

- Evaluate possible alien species
- Perform quarantine risk assessment and inspection of vessels
- Undertake research and monitoring that facilitate performance assessment and reporting

Performance results 2004–05

- Continued analysis of data collected during 2003–04 expedition
- Continued baseline vegetation mapping
- Mapped 2003–04 expedition spatial data and added the data to GIS
- Undertook quarantine inspection of surveillance vessel

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Major issues

- Loss/degradation of cultural heritage
- Recording and monitoring condition of heritage sites and items at the sites

Actions

- Manage decay of heritage sites and items

Performance results 2004–05

- Catalogued images taken of heritage items during 2003–04 expedition

KRA4: Visitor management and reserve use

Major issues

- Safe and environmentally appropriate visitor access
- Off-site presentation of the remote and isolated reserve

Actions

- Provide briefings and relevant materials to all visit organisers/visitors
- Issue permits that include conditions to provide for appropriate access and use
- Develop off-site measures for communicating the values of the reserve

Performance results 2004–05

- Briefed surveillance vessel officers on management requirements
- Included relevant conditions in all permits issued for commercial fishing, scientific research operations and surveillance
- Launched new Heard Island web site
- Launched DVD of 2003–04 expedition

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Effective management of the isolated and infrequently visited reserve requires excellent working relationships with other operators in the region
- Transparency of reserve management

Actions

- Establish and maintain effective partnerships with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders
- Inform the public of reserve management activities

Performance results 2004–05

- Consulted key stakeholders and public during comment period on draft plan
- Continued Australian Antarctic Division involvement in government initiatives to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Ensuring compliance and enforcement with reserve management requirements
- Management planning

Actions

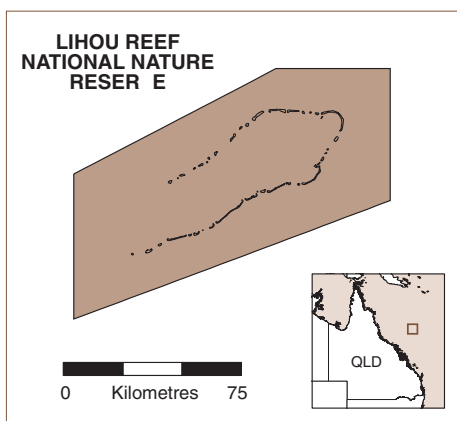
- Educate all visitors about reserve management requirements
- Release draft management plan for public comment

Performance results 2004–05

- Held public comment period on draft plan 14 March to 4 May 2005 (plan subsequently finalised)
- Launched new Heard Island web site
- Released Heard Island 2003–04 expedition DVD

Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/lihou>



Special features

Lihou Reef National Nature Reserve and its associated sandy coral cays and islets include the largest reef structure in the Coral Sea. The reef habitats support marine benthic flora and fauna that are distinct from those of the Great Barrier Reef.

A diverse range of marine organisms has been recorded in the reserve. The green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) breeds in the reserve and a number of cetacean species inhabit the area.

Five islets in the reserve are vegetated, mainly by widespread tropical shoreline plants of the Indo-Pacific region.

The reserve also contains extensive and regionally significant seabird colonies. The buff-banded rail (*Gallirallus philippensis*) is the only landbird species that breeds in the reserve.

Several well-documented shipwrecks, and a number of wrecks whose origins are not yet known, are located on Lihou Reef.

Location	Latitude 17°21' South, Longitude 151°44' East
Area	843,670 hectares
Proclamation date	16 August 1982
IUCN category	Category Ia
Biogeographic context	Coral Sea Islands Territory
Management plan	Second plan in effect, expires 4 September 2008
Other significant management documents	Management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment

Financial	Operating	\$13,523*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	128 visitor days recorded from 2 commercial tours	
Commercial permits	3 permits were issued for commercial tours	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements	
Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	Entire reserve is listed
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	6 of the 98 Australian listed species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	12 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	15 of the 110 listed species

<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>		
Listed fauna	Species	2 endangered 8 vulnerable 17 migratory 51 marine
	Recovery plans	2 being implemented (marine turtles; great white shark)
Listed flora	None	

Numbers of native species recorded					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Invertebrates	Plants
30	24	5	>342	>1,000	7

Major monitoring efforts

The Australian Institute of Marine Science undertook reef health monitoring during March and October 2004. The March survey identified severe coral bleaching within the reserve with an estimated 65 per cent of the live hard coral bleached. The October survey found that the overall impact on the reserve from the severe coral bleaching event has been small. Few corals remained bleached in October and on average there was no substantial decline in coral cover from March to October 2004 with no indication of species loss at the reserve level.

Management arrangements

The Australian Customs Service provided surface transport and logistical assistance for Departmental staff patrolling the reserves. Coastwatch provided regular aerial surveillance of the reserve.

Future challenges

Future challenges are monitoring the impact of and recovery from coral bleaching, and surveillance of the area for possible illegal activities.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Possible illegal fishing
- Measuring health of reef

Actions

- Enforce fishing restrictions
- Continue strategic reef monitoring programme

Performance results 2004–05

- Coastwatch flights detected no illegal fishing
- Australian Institute of Marine Science strategic monitoring of coral reef condition found that the coral bleaching event identified in 2003–04 has overall had only a small impact on the reserve

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

- No major issues of concern

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Awareness of reserve management prescriptions among stakeholders

Actions

- Consult with key stakeholders

Performance results 2004–05

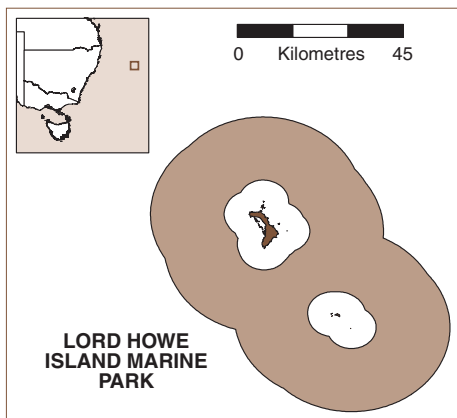
- Liaised with Coastwatch, relevant scientists and tour operators
- Prepared and distributed advisory brochure

KRA6: Business management

- No major issues of concern

Lord Howe Island Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/lordhowe>



Special features

Lord Howe Island Marine Park protects and conserves the complex, vulnerable and regionally unique set of deep-sea structures, benthic habitats and flora and fauna associated with the Lord Howe Island seamount system.

The marine park also ensures that the natural resources important for food, income and recreation are protected and used in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Location	Latitude 31°47' South, Longitude 159°09' East	
Area	300,063 hectares	
Proclamation date	21 June 2000	
IUCN category	Category IV overall comprising: Category Ia (96,208 hectares) Category IV (203,855 hectares)	
Biogeographic context	Waters surrounding oceanic islands on seamounts; biota combine tropical and temperate taxa; east of Central Eastern Province Pelagic Biotone	
Management plan	First plan in effect, expires 24 September 2009	
Other significant management documents	Management plan implementation schedule; risk assessment and management schedule; and Memorandum of Understanding with NSW Marine Parks Authority for on-ground management	
Financial	Operating	\$12,400*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	Not known	
Permits	9	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements	
World Heritage Convention	Listed for its outstanding natural universal values; criteria (iii) and (iv)
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	11 of the 98 Australian listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	4 of the 110 listed species

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999		
Listed fauna	Species	3 endangered 10 vulnerable 15 migratory 20 marine
	Recovery plans	2 being implemented (albatrosses & giant petrels; marine turtles)
Listed flora	None	

Numbers of native species recorded			
Mammals	Birds	Fish	Invertebrates
7	17	447	536

Management arrangements

The Lord Howe Island Marine Park Advisory Committee and the Lord Howe Island Steering Committee provide forums for cooperative planning and management of the adjacent state and Commonwealth reserves.

The NSW Marine Parks Authority conducts on-ground management of the Commonwealth marine park on behalf of the Department of the Environment and Heritage under a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Australian Customs Service continues to conduct Coastwatch flights over the Lord Howe Island area and to report on vessel activity. NSW Water Police has also conducted surface patrols from the mainland.

Major monitoring efforts

The Australian Institute of Marine Science undertook the first survey of seabed biodiversity in the park and produced a habitat map using data from this survey and from further surveys of the adjoining state park. The survey found significant numbers of the rare Ballina angelfish (*Chaetodontoplus ballinae*) in the Commonwealth reserve.

The fish catch taken by charter fishing vessels operating under permit in the reserve was monitored.

Future challenges

Future challenges are the implementation of a strategic monitoring programme building on baseline data, and monitoring the area for possible illegal activities.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Illegal longline fishing within the park

Actions

- Enforce fishing restrictions
- Train and authorise enforcement staff

Performance results 2004–05

- Coastwatch regularly conducted aerial surveillance
- NSW Marine Park Authority conducted surface patrols
- Lord Howe Island NSW Marine Park Authority manager operated as EPBC Act warden

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

- No major issues of concern

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Cooperation with community and NSW Marine Parks Authority
- Community support for management plan

Actions

- Take an active role on advisory committee and steering committee
- Ensure community knowledge of management plan

Performance results 2004–05

- Held meetings of Lord Howe Island Advisory Committee and consulted with Lord Howe Island Steering Committee

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Continued assistance from NSW Marine Parks Authority

Actions

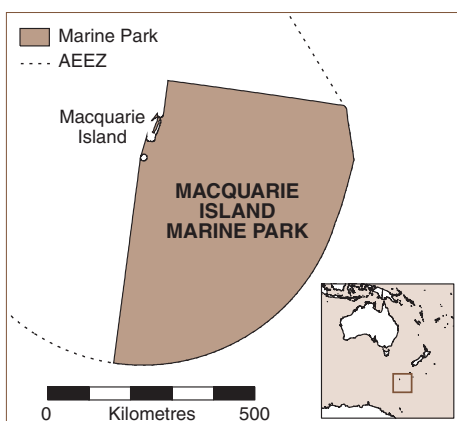
- Negotiate and implement annual business agreement with NSW Marine Parks Authority

Performance results 2004–05

- Negotiated and implemented annual business agreement for 2004–05

Macquarie Island Marine Park

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/macquarie>



Special features

Macquarie Island Marine Park protects the unique and vulnerable marine ecosystems of the south-eastern portion of the Commonwealth waters around Macquarie Island. The marine park includes significant feeding and migratory areas for a number of threatened marine mammals and seabirds. The marine park contains a variety of large-scale benthic habitats, each exposed to different depths, currents, nutrient levels, wave activity

and temperatures.

The Macquarie Island region has unique geological characteristics. It is the only known location where oceanic crust from a normal mid-ocean ridge has been lifted above sea level in a major oceanic basin.

In 1997, Macquarie Island and waters within a 12 nautical mile radius were inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Several species found in the region are under threat, including five albatross, four penguin and two seal species. Macquarie Island is also listed as a critical habitat under the EPBC Act for the grey-headed albatross (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*) and the wandering albatross (*Diomedea exulans*).

Location	Latitude 55°54' South, Longitude 161°38' East
Area	16,205,928 hectares
Proclamation date	27 October 1999
IUCN category	Category IV overall comprising: Category IV (10,492,287 hectares) Category Ia (5,713,641 hectares)
Biogeographic context	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia region: Macquarie Province

Management plan	First plan in effect, expires 25 September 2008	
Other significant management documents	Management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment	
Financial	Operating	\$137,499*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	5 tourist ships with a total of 303 passengers passed through the reserve	
Permits	None	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements	
World Heritage Convention	Macquarie Island and waters within a 12 nautical mile radius were listed as a World Heritage area in 1997
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	6 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	1 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	3 of the 110 listed species
Other agreements	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels; International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999		
Listed fauna	Species	2 endangered 9 vulnerable 7 migratory 46 marine
	Recovery plans	4 being implemented (southern right whale; sub-Antarctic fur seal & southern elephant seal; albatrosses & giant petrels; 10 seabird species)
Listed flora	None	

Numbers of native species recorded					
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Invertebrates	Plants
18	40	0	>158	>102 benthic sp	103 marine algae

Major monitoring efforts

An agreement is in place with the Australian Antarctic Division to develop a research and monitoring strategy for Commonwealth sub-Antarctic marine reserves. The strategy is expected to be completed in 2005.

Monitoring on Macquarie Island has revealed significant increases in rodent and rabbit populations, requiring the development and implementation of a feral pest eradication programme. These feral pest species have a major impact on marine wildlife species (eg nesting seabirds) that forage in the park.

Management arrangements

The Tasmanian Government manages Macquarie Island and its surrounding waters out to three nautical miles. The Commonwealth marine park is managed by the Marine Division of the Department of the Environment and Heritage under delegation from the Director.

The Australian Antarctic Division manages the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions' Macquarie Island base and its operational, logistical and scientific activities.

The Department of the Environment and Heritage and the Tasmanian Government have developed a service level agreement in relation to the cooperative management of marine protected areas including Macquarie Island Marine Park.

Future challenges

A major challenge is to develop and implement a sub-Antarctic research and monitoring strategy for marine protected areas, including Macquarie Island Marine Park. Further challenges are to continue to secure Coastwatch support and investigate other surveillance and observer platforms (eg fishing and tourism industry and government agencies) for monitoring of possible illegal activities.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Possible illegal fishing
- Degradation of island feeding and breeding areas within state jurisdiction

Actions

- Conduct regular surveillance and enforce fishing restrictions
- Develop implementation plan for the feral pests eradication programme at Macquarie Island
- Improve understanding and protection of species and habitats
- Develop a strategic monitoring approach for the sub-Antarctic reserves

Performance results 2004–05

- Coastwatch did not conduct any surveillance flights over the reserve
- Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment met its contractual arrangements for Stage 2 of the programme to eradicate rabbits and rodents from Macquarie Island
- Natural Heritage Trust Financial Agreement in place with the Tasmanian Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts covering management of the marine park. The Department surveyed and collected marine debris; determined the foraging patterns of southern and northern giant petrels and their ecological relationships with fisheries; and monitored and collected seabird population baseline data
- Progressed the agreement with Australian Antarctic Division to develop a research and monitoring strategy for sub-Antarctic reserves managed by the Director

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

- No major issues of concern

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Establish effective working relationships with partners
- Lack of regular surveillance

Actions

- Conclude service level agreement with Tasmanian Government, focusing on Macquarie Island marine protected area
- Conduct regular surveillance

Performance results 2004–05

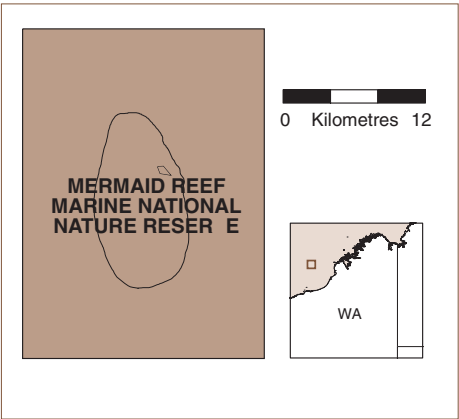
- Service level agreement put in place with the Tasmanian Government in relation to the cooperative management of marine protected areas including Macquarie Island Marine Park
- Coastwatch did not conduct any surveillance due to higher tasking priorities

KRA6: Business management

- No major issues of concern

Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/mermaid>



Special features

Mermaid Reef is the most northerly of the three reefs in the Rowley Shoals. The reef is totally submerged at high tide and therefore falls under Australian Government jurisdiction.

Clerke Reef and Imperieuse Reef, the two southerly reefs, have permanent sand cays above the high water mark. Together they were incorporated into the Rowley Shoals Marine Park, declared under Western Australian legislation on 25 May 1990.

The three reefs of the Rowley Shoals have been described as the most perfect examples of shelf atolls occurring in Australian waters. Each reef includes spectacular and unusual underwater topography and life forms that have attracted international recreational divers.

Approximately 230 species of coral and some 390 species of fish inhabit the shoals, including many species not found on nearshore coral reefs. The coral and fish communities of the Rowley Shoals are unique in their relative abundance of species.

Location	Latitude 17°06' South, Longitude 119°38' East
Area	53,987 hectares
Proclamation date	10 April 1991
IUCN category	Category Ia
Biogeographic context	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia region: Oceanic Shoals
Management plan	First plan in effect, expires 16 May 2007
Other significant management documents	1999 Memorandum of Understanding with WA Department of Fisheries and WA Department of Conservation and Land Management; management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment

Financial	Operating	\$5,987*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	Approximately 144	
Permits	7 commercial tour operators	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements	
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	10 of the 98 Australian listed species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	13 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	8 of the 110 listed species

<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>		
Listed fauna	Species	2 endangered 7 vulnerable 15 migratory 48 marine
	Recovery plans	3 being implemented (great white shark, marine turtles; humpback whale)
Listed flora	None	
Heritage	Listed as Commonwealth Heritage (part of reserve only)	

Numbers of native species recorded				
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Invertebrates
13	19	3	>390	>558

Major monitoring efforts

The Australian Institute of Marine Science's June 2003 survey concluded that overall the coral community was in excellent health with relatively high densities of beche-de-mer species. Some coral disturbance was observed, probably caused by anchor damage.

Shark numbers at Mermaid Reef were estimated to be up to 17 times greater than at Scott Reef, which is located north of Mermaid Reef in an area fished by Indonesians.

Management arrangements

The Mermaid Reef Marine National Nature Reserve is managed under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Director of National Parks, the Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management and the WA Department of Fisheries. These agencies cooperate in issuing permits for commercial tours of the Rowley Shoals.

Coastwatch provided regular aerial surveillance of the reserve.

Future challenges

Major challenges are installing moorings at Mermaid Reef; monitoring and curbing illegal activities, particularly foreign commercial fishing; and ensuring the reserve's conservation values and management arrangements are understood by visitors.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Anchor damage
- Monitoring reserve health

Actions

- Investigate and install moorings
- Conduct strategic reef monitoring

Performance results 2004–05

- Continued to investigate mooring design
- Progressed development of an ecological monitoring programme for the Rowley Shoals in collaboration with WA Department of Conservation and Land Management and Australian Institute of Marine Science

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Visitors need to understand reserve values and uses

Actions

- Ensure that the general public and reserve visitors appreciate the reserve's values and use it appropriately

Performance results 2004–05

- Provided anchoring information sheet (also on internet) to people asking about Mermaid Reef
- Published Mermaid Reef Reserve brochure and distributed to key stakeholders

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Effective management of the reserve by the management service provider

Actions

- Establish effective Rowley Shoals Steering Committee and service level agreement

Performance results 2004–05

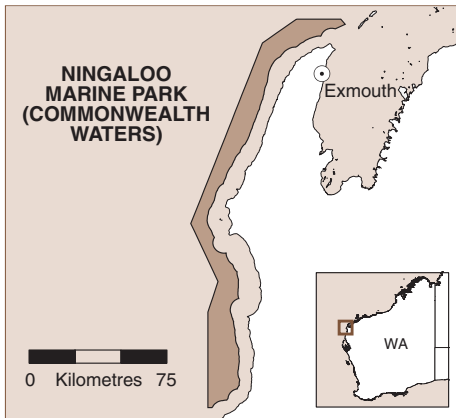
- Operated under service level agreement in place with the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management
- Worked with the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management on a commercial tour operator permit assessment process and the installation of moorings

KRA6: Business management

- No major issues of concern

Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth Waters)

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/ningaloo>



Special features

The Ningaloo Reef is unique because, unlike the Great Barrier Reef and other reefs off the northern coast of Australia, it is not separated from the coast by a wide expanse of water. In places it is as little as 20 metres from the coastline. The park is also unique because it is a tropical reef system projecting out from an arid part of the continental land mass.

Ningaloo Marine Park is made up of state waters, extending from the

Western Australian coastline out to three nautical miles, and Commonwealth waters from the limit of the state jurisdiction out to the seaward boundary of the marine park. The marine park protects the whole of the deep-water environment fringing the reef, including the open waters and the seabeds of the continental slope and shelf.

The reef is extremely variable, with the range of coral cover and species changing within short distances. The coral communities contain many of the species typical of the tropical Indo-Western Pacific region that do not occur further south. They also contain temperate species that are at the northern limit of their distribution in Western Australia.

The reef includes a wide range of habitats and highly diverse marine fauna. The fish fauna of the reef ecosystem is very rich, but little is known about the fish of the deeper Commonwealth waters.

The reef is also an important area for marine mammals, particularly whales. Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) are very common all along the coast, with several breeding rookeries. Of particular interest is the presence of the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), the world's biggest species of fish.

Location	Latitude 22°30' South, Longitude 113°40' East	
Area	243,559 hectares	
Proclamation date	20 May 1987, 5 August 1992, 6 April 2004	
IUCN category	Category II	
Biogeographic context	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia region: Ningaloo	
Management plan	Second plan in effect, expires 2 July 2009	
Other significant management documents	Memorandum of Understanding with WA Department of Fisheries and WA Department of Conservation and Land Management; annual business agreement; and management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment	
Financial	Operating	\$200,450*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	Not available	
Permits	16 commercial charter fishing tours	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements

Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	12 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	9 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	9 of the 110 listed species

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Listed fauna	Species	4 endangered 12 vulnerable 24 migratory 59 marine
	Recovery plans	1 being implemented (great white shark)
Listed flora	None	
Heritage	Listed as Commonwealth Heritage	

Numbers of native species recorded			
Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Plants
20	>34	>18	0

Major monitoring efforts

The Australian Institute of Marine Science has undertaken the first survey of seabed biodiversity in the park and is producing a habitat map using data from this survey and from surveys of the adjoining state park. Of particular interest was the discovery of patchy, widespread and occasionally rich beds of filter feeding organisms, including sponges. These sponge beds may be especially important because of their high diversity and likely high endemism in the region.

Management arrangements

The WA Department of Conservation and Land Management and WA Department of Fisheries conduct on-ground management of the reserve under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Director.

The Department of the Environment and Heritage works with these agencies on issues affecting both the WA park and the Commonwealth reserve.

Future challenges

Future challenges are to ensure compliance with park management prescriptions; adequately map the habitat; monitor the health of the reserve; and maintain consistency between state and Australian Government planning processes.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Management of charter fishing tour operators with minimal impact on the park

Actions

- Ensure commercial charter tour operators comply with permits and conditions

Performance results 2004–05

- Distributed a brochure informing commercial fishers and charter fishing tour operators of management arrangements

- WA Department of Fisheries and Department of Conservation and Land Management officers patrolled the reserve regularly as part of their normal surveillance operations
- Coastwatch conducted aerial surveillance
- Began a research project to be completed in 2006 on the migration and behaviour of whale sharks in the Commonwealth waters of the park

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Longlines from commercial fishing operations drift into the park

Actions

- Negotiate a best practice protocol with industry to deal with accidental longline loss

Performance results 2004–05

- Progressed liaison and negotiation with industry to develop the best protocol to deal with accidental loss of longlines and their retrieval

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Ensure that complementary management regimes are negotiated between the Department and the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management to best manage the adjoining Commonwealth and state reserves

Actions

- Contribute to a joint planning process with WA for managing both reserves

Performance results 2004–05

- Negotiated planning process with the WA Department of Conservation and Land Management
- Met with WA Department of Conservation and Land Management and Ningaloo Management Committee representatives

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Need to effectively manage contracts with service providers

Actions

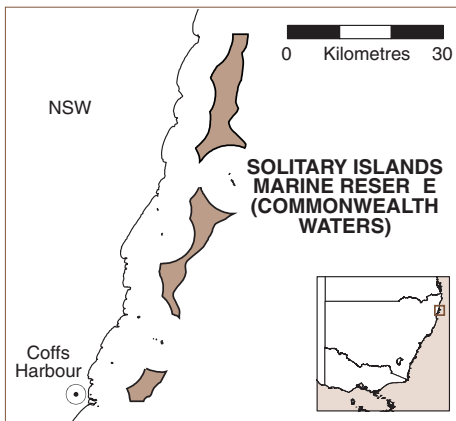
- Negotiate and implement annual business agreements with WA Department of Conservation and Land Management and WA Department of Fisheries

Performance results 2004–05

- Negotiated and implemented annual business agreements covering research, visitor management, education, and compliance and enforcement with WA Department of Conservation and Land Management and WA Department of Fisheries

Solitary Islands Marine Reserve (Commonwealth Waters)

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/solitary>



Special features

The Solitary Islands Marine Reserve is located in a mixing zone between tropical and temperate environments. Many species in the reserve are at, or close to, their southern and northern geographical limits.

Pimpernel Rock is the most significant feature in the reserve. It is a submerged pinnacle that rises from the seabed to within a few metres of the surface, providing habitat for benthic communities, pelagic fish, the

endangered grey nurse shark (*Carcharias taurus*), black cod (*Epinephelus daemeli*) and marine turtles.

The reserve is home to a number of species that are protected under Commonwealth legislation or international agreements. These include the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and other cetaceans, the grey nurse shark and a variety of seabirds.

The reserve and the adjacent state marine park were listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1995. Values noted on the register include outstanding marine biodiversity; mixture of communities; diversity of coral, algal and fish species; abundance of giant anemone and clownfish associations; penguin and muttonbird nesting areas; and overall diversity and beauty.

Location	Latitude 29°48' South, Longitude 153°22' East
Area	15,746 hectares
Proclamation date	3 March 1993

IUCN category	Category VI overall comprising: Category Ia (79 hectares) Category IV (3,744 hectares) Category VI (11,924 hectares)	
Biogeographic context	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia region: Manning Shelf	
Management plan	First plan in effect, expires 3 April 2008	
Other significant management documents	Service level agreement with NSW; annual business agreements, management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment	
Financial	Operating	\$133,176*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	Not known	
Permits	6 commercial fishing; 9 commercial tour operators; 3 recreational diving	

* In addition, \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements

Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	4 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	9 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	11 of the 110 listed species

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Listed fauna	Species	4 endangered 4 vulnerable 15 migratory 33 marine
	Recovery plans	2 being implemented (marine turtles; grey nurse shark)
Listed flora	None	

Numbers of native species recorded

Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Plants
25	42	7	0

Management arrangements

The NSW Marine Parks Authority conducts on-ground management of the reserve under a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Solitary Islands Marine Park Steering Committee comprises government agency representatives, and oversees management and planning arrangements.

The Solitary Islands Marine Park Advisory Committee provides a forum for stakeholders to contribute to planning for the adjacent state park and the reserve.

The Department of the Environment and Heritage is represented on both committees.

Major monitoring efforts

The NSW Marine Parks Authority and the CSIRO continued to monitor movements of grey nurse sharks between aggregation sites, including at Pimperl Rock in the reserve.

The NSW Marine Parks Authority continued to remove and monitor debris at Pimperl Rock and continued a reef habitat mapping programme that includes the reserve.

A contract was signed to undertake a survey of the reserve and to assess anchor damage at Pimperl Rock in the second half of 2005.

Future challenges

Future challenges are to implement biological monitoring and to monitor possible illegal activities in the area.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Illegal fishing within the sanctuary zone

Actions

- Enforce fishing restrictions
- Undertake surveillance

Performance results 2004–05

- Coastwatch conducted regular aerial surveillance
- NSW Marine Parks Authority provided surface support to Coastwatch surveillance and conducted surface patrols as required

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Managing impacts of diving in sanctuary zone

Actions

- Issue permits with appropriate conditions for dive operations

Performance results 2004–05

- Issued 18 diving permits. No infringements of conditions detected

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Ongoing engagement with community and government representatives

Actions

- Participate on Solitary Islands Marine Park Advisory Committee and Solitary Islands Marine Park Steering Committee

Performance results 2004–05

- Participated on advisory and steering committees

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Continued assistance from NSW Marine Parks Authority

Actions

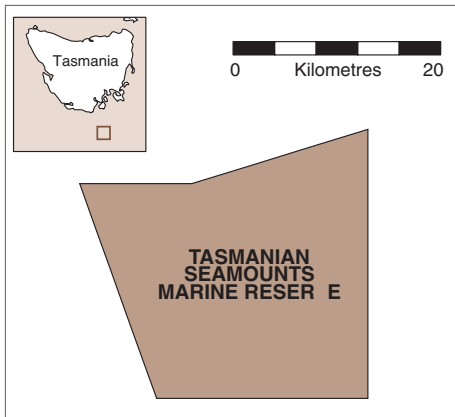
- Endorse and manage annual business agreement with NSW Marine Parks Authority

Performance results 2004–05

- Implemented annual business agreement

Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve

<http://www.deh.gov.au/coasts/mpa/seamounts>



Special features

The Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve covers 15 of the approximately 70 seamounts that arise from water depths of between 1,000 and 2,000 metres on the continental slope off southern Tasmania. Remnants of extinct volcanoes, these seamounts are typically cone-shaped, between 200 and 500 metres high, and several kilometres across at their base.

This field of seamounts is a distinctive geological feature not known elsewhere in Australia. It supports a distinct benthic (bottom-dwelling) community of animals, many of which are native to the Tasmanian seamounts and do not occur anywhere else on earth. The primary purpose of the reserve is to protect a sample of this unique benthic community.

Research has found that 24 to 43 per cent of species in the reserve are new to science. At least eight new genera have been discovered.

Location	Latitude 44°24' South, Longitude 147°18' East
Area	38,897 hectares
Proclamation date	19 May 1999
IUCN category	Category Ia overall (below a depth of 500 metres is Ia while upper 500 metres is VI)
Biogeographic context	Cold temperate waters offshore from the Tasmanian (demersal) province and the Southern Pelagic Province
Management plan	First plan in effect, expires 25 June 2009
Other significant management documents	Management plan implementation and performance report, incorporating risk assessment

Financial	Operating	\$130*
	Capital	Not applicable
	Revenue	Not applicable
Visitors	None	
Permits	None	

* In addition \$250,452 was spent across the 12 marine reserves managed by the Marine Division on professional services, development of permits and performance assessment systems, training wardens, communications, workshops and conference attendance.

International conventions and agreements

Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	20 of the 98 listed Australian species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	1 of the 110 listed species

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Listed fauna	Species	4 endangered 15 vulnerable 20 migratory 14 marine
	Recovery plans	3 being implemented (southern right whale; albatrosses & giant petrels; marine turtles)
Listed flora	None	

Numbers of native species recorded

Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Fish	Invertebrates
>25	>21	>1	37	242

Major monitoring efforts

A strategic plan for research and monitoring across the Commonwealth's existing and proposed temperate marine protected areas, including Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve, is being developed and will be completed in 2005. The plan is being prepared by the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (CRC Reef Research Centre).

The Department signed a contract with CSIRO Marine Research for a project on research and monitoring for benthic ecosystems in Australia's south-east region marine protected areas which will cover the Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve.

Future challenges

Major challenges are to implement a strategic plan for research and to continue monitoring across the Commonwealth's existing and proposed temperate marine reserves, including Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve; and to complete and implement a compliance and enforcement plan for the reserve, including monitoring possible illegal activities, particularly illegal fishing.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Possible illegal commercial fishing
- Need to improve understanding of reserve's ecological processes

Actions

- Enforce fishing restrictions
- Develop research and monitoring programme

Performance results 2004–05

- Requested regular Coastwatch aerial surveillance. Surveillance provided occasionally, consistent with Coastwatch tasking priorities
- Detected no illegal fishing
- Progressed work on the consultancy with the CRC Reef Research Centre to develop a strategic research and monitoring plan for temperate marine protected areas including the Tasmanian Seamounts Marine Reserve

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

- No major issues of concern

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Monitoring possible illegal activities, particularly fishing

Actions

- Minimise risk of accidental or deliberate encroachment on the reserve by trawling vessels

Performance results 2004–05

- Conducted periodic surveillance

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

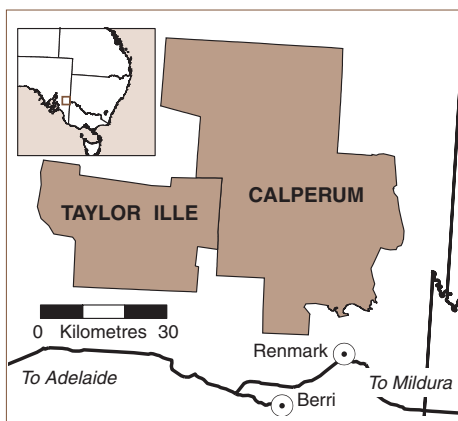
- No major issues of concern

KRA6: Business management

- No major issues of concern

Calperum and Taylorville Stations

<http://deh.gov.au/parks/biosphere/riverland>



Special features

Calperum and Taylorville Stations are adjacent pastoral leases in the Riverland area of South Australia. Both properties are key components of the Riverland (formerly Bookmark) Biosphere Reserve, which has a total area of 900,000 hectares. The Riverland Biosphere Reserve forms part of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, which comprises areas chosen as representative of the world's biodiversity.

Calperum and Taylorville are important locally, nationally and internationally because of their wetlands and related species, their mallee vegetation, and the presence of several threatened bird species. The properties form key habitat for the endangered black-eared miner (*Manorina melanotis*) and are also important for the vulnerable malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*).

While biodiversity conservation guides the management of both properties, each has different management objectives. The development of Calperum as a model for environmentally sustainable development, including tourism, is an explicit environmental objective. In contrast, Taylorville is managed primarily for conservation of long-unburnt mallee and its dependent species.

Location	Latitude 34° South, Longitude 140°30' East
Area	338,400 hectares (combined area)
Status	Pastoral leases in South Australia, owned by the Australian Government through the Director of National Parks (Calperum acquired in 1993, Taylorville acquired in 2000)
IUCN category	Calperum not applicable Taylorville Category IV
Biogeographic context	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia region: Murray–Darling Depression

Management plan	Non-statutory management plan covering both properties finalised in February 2005 (tied to length of management contract)	
Other significant management documents	Biosphere Reserves Seville Strategy and statutory framework	
Financial	Operating*	\$0.616 million
	Capital	\$0.019 million
	Revenue	\$0.616 million
Visitors	152 day visitors, 319 campers	

*Represents the funding provided by the Director of National Parks. Austland Services provides at least matching resources.

International conventions and agreements

Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	Part of Calperum included in Riverland Ramsar site
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	8 of the 98 listed Australian species
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	10 of the 81 listed species
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement	10 of the 110 listed species
Other international agreements	Major component of the Riverland Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Listed fauna	Species	1 endangered 6 vulnerable 12 migratory 47 marine (primarily birds not exclusively marine)
	Recovery plans	2 being implemented (malleefowl; black-eared miner)
Listed flora	None	
Heritage	Listed as Commonwealth Heritage	
Other	Taylorville and majority of Calperum listed as critical habitat for the black-eared miner	

Numbers of native species recorded

Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Amphibians	Fish	Plants
25	188	68	10	12	>300

Management arrangements

Calperum and Taylorville Stations are managed by Austland Services Pty Ltd (a company established by the Australian Landscape Trust) under contract to the Director of National Parks. The current management contract runs from 1 May 2003 to 30 June 2008. The contract is funded through the Natural Heritage Trust. Austland Services provides an equivalent level of support for management.

Major monitoring efforts

A tree monitoring programme at Lake Merreti in 2003 identified a pattern of declining tree health that is consistent with an intrusion of saline groundwater. A monitoring and research programme to investigate the phenomenon and to develop appropriate management responses has commenced.

Other monitoring includes vertebrate surveys; vegetation photopoint surveys; threatened species, especially malleefowl mound activity; fish; frogs; and feral animals, especially foxes.

Future challenges

Identifying and implementing environmentally sustainable industries on Calperum Station remains an ongoing challenge. Devising appropriate management of Calperum Station's wetlands on a floodplain that is undergoing hydrological change is a major challenge. Protecting mature mallee on Taylorville Station from fire and other potentially threatening impacts is a major priority.

Report on performance by key result areas

KRA1: Natural heritage management

Major issues

- Need to reverse land degradation
- Feral animal and weed control
- Fauna management

Actions

- Conduct wetlands restoration and revegetation
- Implement feral animal control programmes concentrating on pigs, foxes and rabbits
- Monitor native animal populations
- Contribute to recovery programmes for threatened birds

Performance results 2004–05

- Reviewed management regimes for Lake Merreti and Lake Woolpolool
- Completed Lake Merreti inlet structures
- Trialled innovative approaches to revegetation
- Established several drip irrigated grazing exclosures allowing emergence of plant species latent in the seed bank but not recently observed in the broader environment
- Continued existing fox control programme. Monitoring suggests fox numbers remain low
- Participated in black-eared miner recovery programme
- Expanded malleefowl monitoring and recovery programme
- Secured several colonies of the Murray River snail (*Notopala sublineata hanleyi*) (regarded as extinct in its natural habitat) in secure artificial habitats
- Green Corps carried out boxthorn control and distribution mapping
- Continued other ongoing monitoring programmes

KRA2: Cultural heritage management

Major issues

- Need to identify and protect Aboriginal heritage

Actions

- Protect known Aboriginal cultural sites

Performance results 2004–05

- Continued to protect and revegetate identified Aboriginal heritage sites

KRA4: Visitor management and park use

Major issues

- Management of tourism impacts

Actions

- Manage day-to-day recreational use

Performance results 2004–05

- Managed visitors to area satisfactorily

KRA5: Stakeholders and partnerships

Major issues

- Use of volunteers
- Inconsistent records of volunteer time
- Governance arrangements

Actions

- Promote, support and oversee extensive volunteer involvement
- Develop system for consistent recording of volunteer hours
- Participate in Riverland Biosphere Community Committee

Performance results 2004–05

- Community Land Management Inc, a volunteer organisation based at Calperum Station, has grown in membership and now has programmes on public and private land, including programmes interstate
- 175 volunteers donated over 4,000 hours to formal feral animal control and monitoring programmes, plus approximately 10,000 more hours to a broad range of Community Land Management activities
- Green Corps team graduated in February
- Parks Australia representatives attended four biosphere committee meetings

KRA6: Business management

Major issues

- Property maintenance
- Management planning
- Sustainable industry development

Actions

- Maintain infrastructure
- Compile first formal management plan for Calperum and Taylorville Stations
- Undertake native plant and seed production

Performance results 2004–05

- Maintained buildings, management trails and boundary fencing
- Completed management plan and began implementation
- Produced policy statements on operations and workplace practices
- Achieved encouraging results with experiments in producing commercial quantities of seed for revegetation
- Increased productive capacity of floriculture plantings but international market conditions remained unfavorable



Management and accountability

Corporate governance

Ministerial directions

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Planning documents

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Boards of management and advisory committees

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Consultancy services

Advertising and market research

Purchasing and assets management

Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

Freedom of information

Corporate governance

The EPBC Act makes the Director responsible for the management of Commonwealth reserves established over Commonwealth-owned land, Commonwealth marine areas, and certain areas of Aboriginal land leased to the Director. The Director of National Parks is a Commonwealth authority and is subject to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act).

The Director is responsible to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage. As noted in the Corporate Overview, ministerial responsibilities in relation to the Director were allocated to the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister, from November 2004.

Ministerial directions

The EPBC Act requires the Director to perform functions and exercise powers in accordance with any directions given by the Minister, unless the EPBC Act provides otherwise.

The Minister may also notify the Director under the CAC Act of general policies of the Government that are to apply to the Director.

During 2004–05, no Ministerial directions or notifications were issued and there were no directions continuing from previous years. The Minister for Finance and Administration issued new Finance Orders under the CAC Act relating to procurement procedures which applied across the Australian Government, including the Director.

Funding

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

The Department also has a cross-agency arrangement with the Director whereby the Department provides corporate services to the Director. The Department's Parks Australia Division supports the Director's work.

During 2004–05, the Department provided \$40.085 million to the Director of National Parks under the purchaser-provider arrangement (refer to the audited financial statements in this annual report). This arrangement was effective, providing the

resources that enabled the Director to meet the targets set in the *Portfolio Budget Statements 2004–05 Environment and Heritage Portfolio*.

Planning documents

For information about the strategic planning and performance assessment framework, see the Planning, Reporting and Performance section in this report.

Executive management

The holder of the office of the Director of National Parks and three senior executives provide leadership in Parks Australia. During 2004–05 a first assistant secretary joined the Director and two executive branch heads as members of the Parks Australia Executive. Weekly meetings of the Executive provide the primary management forum for developing and reviewing parks policy, and strategic and corporate goals.

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

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

Boards of management and advisory committees

Kakadu, Uluru–Kata Tjuṯa and Booderee National Parks are managed jointly by the Director and the traditional owners in accordance with the EPBC Act. Each park has a board of management established under the Act, with a majority of members being Indigenous people nominated by the traditional Aboriginal owners of land in the park. Membership of the boards also includes the Director and members representing special interest groups or with particular skills relevant to managing the park (see Tables 7, 8 and 9 in the Organisational Structure section of this report for a list of board members for each park).

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

Norfolk Island, Christmas Island and Pulu Keeling National Parks have non-statutory

advisory or consultative bodies, which include community representatives and representatives of the Director.

Other consultative mechanisms

Public participation in the management of Commonwealth reserves under the EPBC Act is facilitated through consultative mechanisms to involve the community and user groups in the development of planning and management instruments.

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

For Commonwealth reserves that include Aboriginal-owned land, the EPBC Act provides for both consultation with, and involvement of, representatives of the Aboriginal landowners in relation to management of the reserve. The Director must consult and have regard to the views of the chairperson 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 chairperson 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 through the establishment of special consultative committees.

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

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

Control arrangements

Director of National Parks Chief Executive Instructions

The Chief Executive Instructions provide concise and comprehensive guidance to Parks Australia staff in carrying out their responsibilities and roles in assisting the Director to meet his statutory functions. A set of policies and procedures that sit under the Chief Executive Instructions have been prepared and progressively implemented.

Audit

An Audit Committee is established for the Director of National Parks in accordance with the CAC Act. During the year the Audit Committee met four times and focused on corporate governance issues, including risk management and financial management.

As part of an overall strategy to build and improve financial management practices within Parks Australia, the committee considered a timetable of policies and procedures to be implemented. The committee noted the progress made in implementing the policies that form part of the Director of National Parks Chief Executive Instructions.

The committee was satisfied with improvements made to the financial system framework during the year by implementing recommendations of internal and external audits. The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) interim letter on the 2004–05 financial statements was also noted.

The committee endorsed the process for preparation of the 2004–05 financial statements and a 2005–06 strategic audit plan. Committee members were involved in developing a plan for a scoping audit of management planning practices for national parks. This is expected to be a continuing theme and the focus of increased attention in future audit programmes.

Consistent with ANAO recommended policy, the Audit Committee undertook an evaluation of its performance using the ANAO Audit Committee Questionnaire. The evaluation indicated that members were broadly satisfied with the committee's performance but identified areas where improvements could be made. These will be addressed in the coming year.

Members of the committee during 2004–05 were:

- Mr Len Early, independent member and Chair (until December 2004)
- Mr Gary Potts, independent member and Chair (from March 2005)
- Ms Glenys Roper, independent member
- Mr Brian Gilligan, independent member
- Mr Con Boekel, Assistant Secretary, Parks Australia South
- Mr Peter Wellings, Assistant Secretary, Parks Australia North.

The Director of National Parks and the Director of the Parks Business Management Section, were also invited to attend committee meetings. Staff from the Australian National Audit Office, the Department of the Environment and Heritage Finance Branch and Walter Turnbull—the internal audit service provider—also attended meetings as observers.

Risk management

Risk watch lists are regularly reviewed in accordance with the Director's Risk Management Policy. Incidents in all workplaces, categorised under the key result areas, are reported monthly to the Executive.

Indemnities and insurance

In 2004–05, the Director maintained a professional indemnity and directors' and officers' insurance policy provided through the Comcover scheme. The policy covered the legal liability of the Director and officers for losses caused by the execution or breach of a duty arising from the Director's operations or business, and for a wrongful act by the Director or an officer.

External review

Judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals

Newcrest Mining (Western Australia) Limited and BHP Minerals Limited v Commonwealth of Australia and the Director of National Parks

In August 1997, the High Court of Australia found that the declarations of Stage 3 Kakadu National Park in 1987, 1989 and 1991 were technically invalid with respect to 23 small areas in the south-east of the park covered by existing mineral leases held by one of the Newcrest group of companies. The reason for this decision was that the declaration over these areas had, with the absolute prohibition on mining activities in Kakadu National Park under the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975*, effected an acquisition of property without payment of just terms compensation, as required by the Australian constitution.

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage indicated that the lease areas should be incorporated within the park and that the Australian Government would address the issue of appropriate compensation. During the year negotiations advanced significantly, with the terms of a settlement agreed between the parties.

Reports by the Auditor-General

The Auditor-General issued an unqualified audit report for the 2004–05 financial statements of the Director of National Parks.

Human resource management

Human resources and related corporate services were provided to the Director through a purchaser-provider arrangement with the Department of the Environment and Heritage. Detailed information on the management of human resources, employment conditions and remuneration is contained in the Department of the Environment and Heritage annual report for 2004–05.

Staffing profile



Booderee National Park ranger Evonne (Bonnie) Brown was awarded the Bachelor of Arts in Applied Science (Parks Recreation and Heritage) in April 2005. Bonnie undertook this distance education course through the Charles Sturt University (Albury campus) on a part-time basis while working at the park and was supported in the workplace through the Department's Study Support Scheme. She is pictured here with her father Tom Brown at her graduation ceremony.

The Director of National Parks employed 263.8 staff as at 30 June 2005. The majority of staff work in Booderee, Kakadu and Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Parks, and the ANBG. There are also small offices in remote locations, including Norfolk Island in the South Pacific Ocean and Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Indian Ocean.

Staffing numbers are reduced compared to 2003–04 due to the transfer in May 2004 of marine protected area management staff from Parks Australia to the Marine Division of the Department of the Environment and Heritage.

Table 12: Staffing profile as at 30 June 2005

Title	Parks North	Parks South	Head Office	Total
Executive	1	1	2	4
Park managers/section heads	3	3	2	8
Operational, policy and planning management	25	30.6	13.8	69.4
Technical staff	23	24.2	4	51.2
Rangers	85	39.2	0	124.4
Trainees and cadetships	7	0	0	7
Total staff	144	98	21.8	263.8

The Director of National Parks encourages skills development and training. Five graduate employees were engaged for three-month placements during the year as part of the Department of the Environment and Heritage graduate recruitment programme. Projects undertaken by the graduates including monitoring biodiversity on Christmas Island and investigating disaster preparedness and recovery for the ANBG's living and non-living collections.

A total of seven Indigenous trainees and cadets were employed across the parks. The trainee programmes aim to improve the skills of local people, particularly in the area of conservation and land management. Trainees are required to complete nationally accredited certificates and are provided with on-the-job experience such as assisting with ranger duties, natural resource management and botanical work.

Occupational health and safety

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

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

Parks Australia, by the nature of its work, faces a more diverse range of hazards than other divisions of the Department. The main hazards include fieldwork in remote and arduous locations, plant and machinery, chemicals and hazardous substances, handling unpredictable wildlife, manual handling, driving vehicles and static posture injuries from using personal computers.

To improve occupational health and safety culture and behaviour in Parks Australia, 'ParkSafe' was introduced in 2004. ParkSafe is Parks Australia's integrated occupational health and safety management system and is designed to provide a safe and healthy workplace for all employees and contractors working for Parks Australia. A key feature is an integrated health and safety framework containing a comprehensive range of policy and procedures accessible by all staff electronically.

Comprehensive training is also undertaken as part of the programme. By 30 June 2005 all three mainland parks and the ANBG had access to local ParkSafe training, involving 56 per cent of park staff.

During 2004–05, Parks Australia reported 142 accidents or incidents under section 68 of the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991*.

Comcare conducted no investigations into incidents. There were no matters to report under sections 45, 46 or 47 of the Act.

Table 13: Safety incident records for terrestrial reserves

	2003–04	2004–05
Staff, volunteers and contractors		
Minor injury or near miss ^a	60	76
Moderate injury ^b	15	18
Major injury ^c	6	2
Total	81	96
Visitors, permit holders and residents		
Minor injury or near miss ^a	79	87
Moderate injury ^b	32	40
Major injury ^c	17	14
Deaths	1	1
Total	129	142

(a) Minor injury includes near misses, no injury or first aid treatment only

(b) Moderate injury includes treatment by paramedics or at a medical centre

(c) Major injury includes hospitalisation

Compliance and enforcement under the EPBC Act

Rangers and wardens are appointed under the EPBC Act to exercise statutory powers in relation to compliance and enforcement activities. All appointed officers are required by the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines to hold Statements of Attainment in relevant modules of the Diploma in Government (Fraud Control-Investigations).

Whole-of-government approaches have been adopted for compliance and enforcement within Commonwealth marine reserves. Officers of the Australian Federal Police are *ex-officio* wardens. Arrangements have also been made for officers from other agencies, including the Australian Customs Service, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, various state and territory police, and fisheries and conservation agencies to be appointed, after the required training, as wardens under the EPBC Act. These arrangements greatly improve the Director's ability to enforce the provisions of the EPBC legislation in remote and infrequently visited Commonwealth reserves and conservation zones.

The following enforcement matters were heard in the courts during 2004–05:

- Two Darwin men pleaded guilty on 27 August 2004 to using a vessel on 28 February 2004 in an area of the South Alligator River that was closed to quarantine *Salvinia* infestations (Regulation 12.56[1]). They were each fined \$300.
- A Jabiru man being prosecuted for handling and taking saltwater crocodiles, a listed migratory species, from East Alligator River in Kakadu and using a cast net on 11–12 April 2004 had his case adjourned on 28 February 2005 due to his non-appearance at court (Section 211C, Regulation 12.18[1][h]).
- A Jabiru man pleaded guilty in the Magistrates court on 28 February 2005 to two charges of using a device that can be used or is designed for taking an animal, namely a cast net and a crab pot on 11–12 April 2004 (Regulation 12.18[1][h]). He was fined \$300 for each offence, a total of \$600.
- Five Cocos-Malay men being prosecuted for killing 230 listed migratory birds in the waters of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands on 25 December 2003 pleaded not guilty in court on 15 March 2005 (Sections 211–211E, Regulations 12.18[1][b] and 2.23[1]). Matter adjourned until 6 September 2005.
- Four Darwin brothers being prosecuted for killing 27 magpie geese in Kakadu on 24 October 2004 had their cases adjourned on 29 March 2005 till 8–9 August 2005 (Sections 254A, 254C, Regulations 12.18[1][a] and 12.41[2]).

Table 14: Compliance and enforcement activities in terrestrial reserves during 2004–05

Number	Members of the public	Tourism operators	Other commercial operators
EPBC Act incidents detected	305	63	3
Offenders unknown	45	0	0
Verbal cautions issued	172	54	1
Warning letters issued	17	8	0
Infringement notices issued	3	0	1
Continuing investigations	6	1	1
Permit suspensions	0	0	0
Court cases pending	10	0	0
Cases taken to court	13	0	0
Convictions	3	0	0

Consultancy services

The total number of consultants engaged by the Director was 58. The total expenditure on consultancy services during the year was \$783,092.

The most common reasons to engage consultants were for specialised, technical and professional skills or knowledge, and the need for work to be conducted independently. The design of facilities and infrastructure, feasibility studies, production of technical reports, and data collection and analysis were among the tasks for which consultants were engaged during the year.

Advertising and market research

A total of \$78,391 was paid to a range of organisations for media advertising. The principal reasons for media advertising were opportunities to comment on key planning documents, notification of special events or restrictions at particular reserves and advertising of vacant positions.

Purchasing and assets management

Director of National Parks purchasing is carried out in accordance with the Director of National Parks Chief Executive Instructions and the Director's policy on spending money. These requirements have been consistent with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines although the Director has not previously been subject to the guidelines. From 1 January 2005 the Director has been required to comply with mandatory procurement procedures of the guidelines with respect to certain procurements. The Director's policy on spending money reflects these requirements.

Assets comprised the most significant part of the Director of National Parks' balance sheet. Replacement and maintenance of these assets continued to prove challenging. The asset base is complex and diverse. A capital infrastructure plan drafted for the first time in 2003–04 indicates some significant maintenance and replacement issues in relation to the ageing infrastructure. Significant reprioritising of funding will also be needed to adequately maintain the assets in a suitable condition.

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 environmental performance of the organisation and the organisation's contribution to ecologically sustainable development.

Section 516A aims to promote the development of a framework within which Australian Government organisations properly integrate environmental, economic and social considerations. Identifying, monitoring and reporting environmental issues within such a framework will help Australian Government organisations improve their environmental and ecologically sustainable development performance.

Section 516A also aims to encourage Australian Government agencies to adopt best practice in the public reporting of information relevant to their environmental performance and the promotion of ecologically sustainable development.

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

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

The effects of park management activities on the environment are discussed throughout the report, in particular in the Planning, Reporting and Performance section and the State of the Parks section. In addition, Parks Australia contributed to the Department of the Environment and Heritage annual Triple Bottom Line report for the first time in 2004–05. Triple bottom line reporting aims to publicly report environmental, social and economic outcomes of the way in which the Department conducts its business.

Commonwealth Disability Strategy

The Department of the Environment and Heritage has developed a draft Disability Action Plan to meet the needs of people with disabilities in accordance with the roles identified by the Commonwealth Disability Strategy.

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

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

Information about access to reserves is available on the Department of the Environment and Heritage's web site at www.deh.gov.au/parks/index.html.

Freedom of information

No applications were received relating to the Director's statutory functions under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. The Director's statement under section 8 of the Act is at Appendix 1.



Financial statements





INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Matters relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report

This audit report relates to the financial statements published in both the annual report and the website of the Director of National Parks for the year ended 30 June 2005. The members are responsible for the integrity of both the annual report and the web site.

The audit report refers only to the statements named below. It does not provide an opinion on any other information, which may have been hyperlinked to/from the audited financial statements.

If the users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements in the Director of National Park's annual report.

Scope

The financial statements and member's responsibility

The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by the Director;
- Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows;
- Schedules of Commitments and Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

of the Director of National Parks for the year ended 30 June 2005.

The Director of National Parks (DNP) is responsible for preparing the financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the DNP and that comply with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, accounting standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

Audit Approach

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you. My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive, rather than conclusive, evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

While the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting was considered when determining the nature and extent of audit procedures, the audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

I have performed procedures to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, accounting standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Director of National Park's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the statements of financial performance and cash flows.

The audit opinion is formed on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Director.

Independence

In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit 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*; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the Director of National Park's financial position as at 30 June 2005 and of its performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with:
 - (i) the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders; and
 - (ii) applicable accounting standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia.

Australian National Audit Office

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Jones', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Jones
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra
12 September 2005

Director of National Parks

Statement by the Director

In my opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2005 have been prepared based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

In my 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 fall due.

Signed



Peter Cochrane
Director

12th September 2005

Director of National Parks Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Revenues from ordinary activities			
Revenue from Government	5A	40,085	35,552
Sales of Goods and Services	5B	10,950	9,560
Interest	5C	284	467
Revenue from sale of assets	5D	635	680
Other Revenues	5E	6,804	6,768
Revenues from ordinary activities		58,758	53,027
 Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)			
Employees	6A	21,334	22,572
Suppliers	6B	22,394	22,286
Depreciation and amortisation	6C	9,548	8,832
Write-down and impairment of assets	6D	5	61
Value of assets sold	5D	2,784	707
Other expenses	6E	2,900	3,087
Expenses from ordinary activities (excluding borrowing costs expense)		58,965	57,545
 Borrowing costs expense	7A	-	5
 Operating Surplus or (Deficit) from Ordinary Activities		(207)	(4,523)
 Net credit to asset revaluation reserve	13A	37,887	-
 Total Revenues, Expenses and Valuation Adjustments Attributable to Members of the Parent Entity and Recognised Directly in Equity		37,887	-
 Total Changes in Equity other than those resulting from transactions with Owners as Owners		37,680	(4,523)

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

Director of National Parks Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash	8A	9,905	2,814
Receivables	8B	601	944
Other	8C	1,126	-
Total financial assets		11,632	3,758
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	9A, C	68,229	59,253
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	9B, C	68,965	47,053
Intangibles	9D	4	7
Other non-financial assets	9E	338	306
Total non-financial assets		137,536	106,619
Total assets		149,168	110,377
LIABILITIES			
Interest bearing liabilities			
Leases	10A	-	32
Total interest bearing liabilities		-	32
Provisions			
Employees	11A	5,321	5,811
Other provisions	11C	1,539	300
Total provisions		6,860	6,111
Payables			
Suppliers	12A	5,373	5,028
Other payables	12B	348	299
Total payables		5,721	5,327
Total liabilities		12,581	11,470
NET ASSETS		136,587	98,907
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	13A	9,755	9,755
Reserves	13A	64,585	26,698
Retained Surpluses/(Accumulated Deficits)	13A	62,247	62,454
Total parent entity interest		136,587	98,907
TOTAL EQUITY		136,587	98,907
Current Assets		11,632	4,064
Non-Current Assets		137,536	106,313
Current Liabilities		8,880	8,442
Non-Current Liabilities		3,701	3,028

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

Director of National Parks Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2005

	Notes	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Goods and Services		11,342	9,520
Appropriations		40,085	35,552
Interest		260	543
GST received from ATO		1,239	2,312
Other		3,885	3,125
Total cash received		56,811	51,052
Cash used			
Employees		21,816	21,850
Suppliers		23,309	25,527
Borrowing Costs		-	6
Other		100	-
Total cash used		45,225	47,383
Net Cash From or (Used By) Operating Activities	14	11,586	3,669
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		635	862
Total cash received		635	862
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		5,098	13,195
Total cash used		5,098	13,195
Net Cash From or (Used By) Investing Activities		(4,463)	(12,333)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash used			
Repayment of lease liabilities		32	171
Capital use charge paid		-	12,545
Total cash used		32	12,716
Net Cash From or (Used By) Financing Activities		(32)	(12,716)
Net Increase or (Decrease) in Cash Held		7,091	(21,379)
Cash at beginning of the reporting period		2,814	24,193
Cash at the End of the Reporting Period	8A	9,905	2,814

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

Director of National Parks Schedule of Commitments

For the year ended 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
By Type		
Capital Commitments		
Buildings & Works ¹	3,584	2,921
Total Capital Commitments	3,584	2,921
Other Commitments		
Operating leases ²	65,384	59,316
Other commitments ³	2,392	1,950
Total Other Commitments	67,776	61,266
Commitments Receivable	(6,451)	(5,810)
Net Commitments by Type	64,909	58,377
By Maturity		
Capital Commitments		
One year or less	1,675	964
From one to five years	1,909	1,790
Over five years	-	167
Total Capital Commitments	3,584	2,921
Operating Lease Commitments		
One year or less	898	749
From one to five years	3,329	2,994
Over five years	61,157	55,573
Total Operating Lease Commitments	65,384	59,316
Other Commitments		
One year or less	1,392	1,837
From one to five years	1,000	111
Over five years	-	2
Total Other Commitments	2,392	1,950
Commitments Receivable	(6,451)	(5,810)
Net Commitments by Maturity	64,909	58,377

NB: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant

¹ Outstanding contractual payments for buildings and infrastructure under construction

² Operating leases included are effectively non-cancellable

³ Other commitments comprise general consultancy services and utilities

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

Director of National Parks Schedule of Commitments

For the year ended 30 June 2005

<i>Nature of Leases</i>	<i>General description of leasing arrangements</i>
Leases for Office accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the initial periods of office accommodation leases are still current • there are no options to renew • leases are increased with CPI
Agreements for the provision of motor vehicles – senior executive officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no contingent rentals exist • there are no renewal or purchase options available to the Office
Leases for office equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no contingent rentals exist • there is an option to renew for 90 days
Leases for rent of National Parks from Traditional Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepayment of annual rent • 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 Schedule of Contingencies

For the year ended 30 June 2005

	Guarantees		Claims for damages/costs		Total	
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Contingent Liabilities						
Balance from previous period	-	-	11,010	11,010	11,010	11,010
New	-	-	-	-	-	-
Re-measurement	-	-	(176)	-	(176)	-
Less Liabilities crystallised ¹	-	-	10,835	-	10,835	-
Obligations expired	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Contingent Liabilities	-	-	(1)	11,010	(1)	11,010
Contingent Assets						
Balance from previous period	-	-	-	-	-	-
New	-	-	-	-	-	-
Re-measurement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assets crystallised	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expired	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Contingent Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Contingencies	-	-	(1)	11,010	(1)	11,010

Note 1:

During the 2004-2005 Portfolio Additional Estimates, Administered funding of \$9.850m (GST exclusive) was provided for the settlement and legal costs associated with the acquisitions of leases, to the Department of Environment and Heritage. The Director of National Parks disclosed this settlement (GST Inclusive) in the 2003-2004 financial statements. Subsequent to the balance date, the Department of the Environment and Heritage paid this amount.

Details of each class of contingent liabilities and assets, including those not included above because they cannot be quantified or are considered remote, are shown in **Note: 15 Contingent Liabilities and Assets**.

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

Director of National Parks Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2005

Note	Description
1	Summary of Significant Accounting Policies
2	Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards from 2005-2006
3	Economic Dependency
4	Events Occuring After Reporting Date
5	Operating Revenues
6	Operating Expenses
7	Borrowing Costs Expense
8	Financial Assets
9	Non-Financial Assets
10	Interest Bearing Liabilities
11	Provisions
12	Payables
13	Equity
14	Cash Flow Reconciliation
15	Contingent Liabilities and Assets
16	Directors Remuneration
17	Related Party Disclosures
18	Remuneration of Officers
19	Remuneration of Auditors
20	Average Staffing Levels
21	Financial Instruments
22	Reporting Of Outcomes

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Accounting

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

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Finance Minister's Orders (or FMO's, being the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Orders (Financial Statements for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2005)*);
- Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- Urgent Issues Group Abstracts.

The Director of National Parks Statements of Financial Performance and Financial Position have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets, which, as noted, are at valuation. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

Assets and liabilities are recognised in the Director of National Parks Statements of Financial Position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under agreements equally proportionately unperformed are not recognised unless required by an Accounting Standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the Schedule of Commitments and the Schedule of Contingencies (other than unquantifiable or remote contingencies, which are reported at Note 15).

Revenues and expenses are recognised in the Director of National Parks Statements of Financial Performance when and only when the flow or consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.2 Changes in Accounting Policy

The accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are consistent with those used in 2003-04.

Property, plant and equipment assets are being revalued progressively as explained in Note 1.12. Revaluations up to 30 June 2002 were done on a 'deprival' basis; since that date, revaluations have been done on a fair value basis. Revaluation increments and decrements in each year of transition to fair value that would otherwise be accounted for as revenue or expense are taken directly to accumulated results in accordance with transitional provisions of AASB 1041 *Revaluation of Non-Current Assets*.

In 2003-04, the impairment test provisions of the FMO's have been extended to cover non-current assets carried at deprival value. There are no indications of impairment for these assets in 2004-05.

Director of National Parks Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

1.3 Revenue

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 upon the delivery of goods to the customers.

Refunds for ticket sales are accounted for when they occur. An estimate for these refunds is not provided for.

Interest revenue is recognised on a time proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

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

Receivables for goods and services are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any provision for bad or doubtful debts. Collectability of debts is reviewed at balance date. Provisions are made when collectability of debt is judged to be less rather than more likely.

Revenues from Government

Amounts appropriated for Departmental outputs appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned.

Resources Received Free of Charge

Services 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.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as revenue at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition.

The Department of the Environment and Heritage provides Corporate services under a Service Level Agreement to the Director of National Parks.

1.4 Transactions by the Government as Owner

The Capital Use Charge imposed by the government in previous financial years did not operate after 30 June 2003. The CUC was recognised as a liability in the 2002-03 financial statements, the final payment was made in the 2003-04 financial year.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

1.5 Employee Benefits

Benefits

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at the reporting date to the extent that they have not been settled.

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits), annual leave and sick leave are measured at their nominal amounts. Other employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are also to be 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 annual leave and long service leave has been determined using the short-hand method per Finance Brief 13 (DOFA).

Separation and Redundancy

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

Superannuation

Employees of the Director of National Parks are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme and the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme. The liability for their superannuation benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course.

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 National Parks employees.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June 2005 represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

1.6 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 benefits incidental to ownership of leased non-current assets. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

Where a non-current asset is acquired by means of a finance lease, the asset is capitalised at the present value of minimum lease payments at the beginning of the lease term and a liability 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 basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets. The net present value of future net outlays in respect of surplus space under non-cancellable lease agreements is expensed in the period in which the space becomes surplus. The majority of operating lease payments relate to arrangements with traditional owners over Kakadu, Uluru Kata-Tjuta and Booderee National Parks.

1.7 Borrowing Costs

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred except to the extent that they are directly attributable to qualifying assets, in which case they are capitalised. The amount capitalised in a reporting period does not exceed the amounts of costs incurred in that period.

1.8 Cash

Cash means notes and coins held and any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution. Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Interest is credited to revenue as it accrues.

1.9 Other Financial Assets

Debentures, term deposits and shares in listed companies are recognised at cost, where applicable.

1.10 Other Financial Liabilities

Trade Creditors

Trade creditors and accruals are recognised at their nominal amounts, being the amount at which the liabilities will be settled. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespectively of having been invoiced).

Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent Liabilities (Assets) are not recognised in the Statement of Financial position but are discussed in the relevant schedules and notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability (asset), or represent an existing liability (asset) in respect of which

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

settlement is not probable or the amount cannot be reliably measured. Remote contingencies are part of this disclosure. Where settlement becomes probable, a liability (asset) is recognised. A liability (asset) is recognised when its existence is confirmed by a future event, settlement becomes probable or reliable measurement becomes possible.

1.11 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.

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.

1.12 Property (Land, Buildings and Infrastructure), Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, 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).

Revaluations

Basis

Land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment are carried at valuation, being revalued annually with sufficient frequency such that the carrying amount of each asset class is not materially different, at reporting date, from its fair value. Valuations undertaken in each year are as at 30 June.

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

Assets Class	Fair Value Measured at:
Land	Market selling price
Building	Market selling price
Leasehold Improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Plant and Equipment	Market selling price

Assets which are surplus to requirements are measured at their net realisable value. At 30 June 2005, Director of National Parks held no surplus assets (30 June 2004 = \$0).

Director of National Parks Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Frequency

Land, buildings, plant and equipment are revalued progressively in 3 year cycles. The last revaluation was conducted in 2005. Formal valuations are carried out by an independent qualified valuer.

The Finance Minister's Orders requires that all property, plant and equipment assets be measured at up to date fair values from 30 June 2005.

Depreciation

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

Depreciation rates (useful lives) and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate. Residual values are re-estimated for a change in prices only when assets are revalued.

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

	2005	2004
Buildings on freehold land	25 years	25 years
Leasehold improvements	10-25 years	10-25 years
Plant and equipment	3 to 10 years	3 to 10 years

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 6C.

1.13 Impairment of Non-Current Assets

Non-current assets carried at up-to-date fair value at the reporting date are not subject to impairment testing.

Non-current assets carried at cost and held to generate net cash inflows have been tested for their recoverable amounts at the reporting date. The test compared the carrying amounts against the net present value of future net cash inflows. No write-down to recoverable amount was required (2004: nil).

The non-current assets carried at cost, which are not held to generate net cash inflows, have been assessed for indications of impairment. Where indications of impairment exist, the carrying amount of the asset is compared to its net selling price and depreciated replacement cost and is written down to its higher of the two amounts, if necessary.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

1.14 Intangibles

The Director of National Parks intangibles comprise internally developed software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the Director of National Parks software is 5 years (2003-04: 5 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2005. None were found to be impaired.

1.15 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 and assets are recognised net of GST:

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

1.16 Foreign Currency

Transactions denominated in a foreign currency are converted at the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Foreign currency receivables and payables are translated at the exchange rates current as at balance date. Associated currency gains or losses are not material.

1.17 Insurance

The Director of National Parks has insured for risks through the Government's insurable risk managed fund, called 'Comcover'. Worker's compensation is insured through Comcare Australia.

Director of National Parks Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 2: Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards from 2005-2006

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has issued replacement Australian Accounting Standards to apply from 2005-06. The new standards are the Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS) which are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board. The new standards cannot be adopted early. The standards being replaced are to be withdrawn with effect from 2005-06, but continue to apply in the meantime.

The purpose of issuing AEIFRS is to enable Australian entities reporting under the *Corporations Act 2001* to be able to more readily access overseas capital markets by preparing their financial reports according to accounting standards more widely used overseas.

For-profit entities complying fully with AEIFRS will be able to make an explicit and unreserved statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards as well as the with the Australian Equivalents.

It is expected that the Finance Minister will continue to require compliance with the Accounting Standards issued by the AASB, including the AEIFRS, in his Orders for the Preparation of the Director of National Parks financial statements for 2005-06 and beyond.

The AEIFRS contain certain additional provisions which will apply to not-for-profit entities, including the Director of National Parks. Some of these provisions are in conflict with the AEIFRS and therefore the Director of National Parks will only be able to assert compliance with the AEIFRS.

Existing AASB standards that have no IFRS equivalent will continue to apply.

Accounting Standard AASB 1047 *Disclosing the Impact of Adopting Australian Equivalents to IFRSs* requires that the financial statements for 2004-05 disclose:

- an explanation of how the transition to AEIFRS is being managed;
- narrative explanations of the key policy differences arising from the adoption of AEIFRS;
- any known or reliably estimable information about the impacts of the financial report had it been prepared using the AEIFRS; and
- if the impacts of the above are not known or reliably estimable, a statement to that effect.

Management of the transition to AASB Equivalents to IFRSs

The Director of National Parks has taken the following steps in preparation towards the implementation of AEIFRS.

- The Director of National Parks Audit Committee is tasked with oversight of the transition to and implementation of the AEIFRSs. The Business Manager is formally responsible for the project and reports regularly to the Audit Committee on progress against the formal plan approved by the Committee.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

- The plan requires the following key steps to be undertaken and sets deadlines for their achievement:
 - All major accounting policy differences between current AASB standards and AEIFRS were identified by 30 June 2004.
 - System changes necessary to be able to report under the AEIFRS, including those necessary to capture data under both sets of rules for 2004-05 were completed on 18 August 2004. This included the testing and implementation of those changes.
 - An AEIFRS compliant balance sheet as at 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005 was also prepared during the preparation of the 2004-05 statutory financial reports.
 - The 2004-05 Balance Sheet under AEIFRS will be reported to the Department of Finance and Administration in line with their reporting deadlines.
- The plan also addresses the risks to successful achievement of the above objectives and includes strategies to keep implementation on track to meet deadlines.
- Consultants have been engaged where necessary to assist with each of the above steps

Major changes in accounting policy

Changes in accounting policies under AEIFRS are applied retrospectively i.e. as if the new policy had always applied. This rule means that a balance sheet prepared under the Australian Equivalents must be made as at 1 July 2004, except as permitted in particular circumstances by AASB1 *First-time Adoption of Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards*. This will enable the 2005-06 financial statements to report comparatives under AEIFRS also.

Changes to major accounting policies are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Property plant and equipment

All assets were revalued at fair value as at 30 June 2005.

It is expected that the 2005-06 *Finance Minister's Orders* will continue to require property plant and equipment assets to be valued at fair value in 2005-06.

Borrowing costs related to qualifying assets are currently capitalised. It is expected that the FMOs for 2005-06 will elect to expense all borrowing costs under AEIFRS. Accordingly, borrowing costs capitalised as at 1 July 2004 will be written-off to accumulated results.

Intangible Assets

The Director National Parks currently recognises internally-developed software assets on the cost basis.

The Australian Equivalent on Intangibles does not permit intangibles to be measured at valuation unless there is an active market for the intangible. The Director of National Parks' internally-developed software is specific to the needs to the Director of National Parks and is not traded.

Director of National Parks Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Impairment of Non-Current Assets

The Director of National Park's policy on impairment of non-current assets is at Note 1.13.

Under AEIFRS, these assets will be subject to assessment for impairment and, if there are indications of impairment, measurement of any impairment (impairment measurement must also be done, irrespective of any indications of impairment, for intangible assets not yet available for use). The impairment test is that the carrying amount of an asset must not exceed the greater of (a) its fair value less costs to sell and (b) its value in use. 'Value in use' is the net present value of net cash inflows for for-profit assets of the Director of National Parks and depreciated replacement cost for other assets which would be replaced if the Director National Parks were deprived of them.

The most significant changes are that, for the Director of National Parks for-profit assets, the recoverable amount is only generally to be measured where there is an indication of impairment and that assets carried at up-to-date fair value, whether for-profit or not, may nevertheless be required to be written down if costs to sell are significant.

Employee Benefits

The provision for long service leave is measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows using market yields as at the reporting date on national government bonds.

Under the new Australian Equivalent standard, the same discount rate will be used unless there is a deep market in high quality bonds, in which case the market yield on such bonds must be used.

AEIFRS require that annual leave that is not expected to be taken within 12 months of balance date is to be discounted. After assessing the staff leave profile, the Director of National Parks does not expect that any material amounts of the annual leave balance will not be taken in the next 12 months. Consequently, there are no adjustments for non-current annual leave.

Financial Instruments

Cash and receivables are expected to continue to be measured at cost information.

Financial assets, except those classified as 'held at fair value through the profit and loss', will be subject to impairment testing.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

NOTE 2 Impact of adoption of AEIFRS

The impacts of adopting AEIFRS on the total equity and profit as recorded under previous Australian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (AGAAP) are illustrated below.

A. Reconciliation of total equity as presented under previous AGAAP to AEIFRS

Description	\$000's
Total equity under previous AGAAP at 1 July 2004	98,907
Adjustment to retained surpluses	
Employee Provisions - discounted recreation leave ^(a)	60
Total equity under AEIFRS at 1 July 2004	98,967

^(a) AEIFRS adjustment to discount non-current recreation leave in accordance with AASB 119

Description	\$000's
Total equity under previous AGAAP at 30 June 2005	98,700
Adjustment to retained surpluses	
Employee Provisions - discounted recreation leave ^(a)	57
Adjustments to Reserves	
Land and Buildings ^(b)	9,753
Plant and Equipment ^(b)	28,134
Total equity under AEIFRS at 30 June 2005	136,644

^(a) AEIFRS adjustment to discount non-current recreation leave in accordance with AASB 119

^(b) AEIFRS adjustment to value assets at fair value. Assets revalued at 30 June 2005

B. Reconciliation of profit under previous AGAAP to AEIFRS

Description	\$000's
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year ended 30 June 2005 under AGAAP	(207)
Revenues	-
Expenses	
Employee Provisions - discounted recreation leave ^(a)	57
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year ended 30 June 2005 under AEIFRS	(150)

^(a) AEIFRS adjustment to discount non-current recreation leave provision.

C. Explanations of material adjustments to the cash flow statement

There are no material differences between the cash flow statement presented under AEIFRS and the cash flow statement presented under previous AGAAP.

Director of National Parks Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

NOTE 3 Economic Dependency

The Director of National Parks was established by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and is controlled by the Director of National Parks.

The Director of National Parks is dependent on appropriations from the Parliament of the Commonwealth received via the Department of the Environment and Heritage for its continued existence and ability to carry out its normal activities.

NOTE 4 Events Occurring After Reporting Date

There were no material events that occurred after the reporting date.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000

NOTE 5 Operating Revenues

Note 5A - Revenues from Government Agencies

Appropriations for outputs*	(i) 40,085	35,552
Total revenues from government	40,085	35,552

* The Director of National Parks received no direct appropriation from the Government. Funds are appropriated directly to the Department of the Environment and Heritage and transferred to the Director of National Parks.

Note 5B - Sales of Goods and Services

Goods	174	73
Services	10,776	9,487
Total sales of goods and services	10,950	9,560

Provision of goods to:

External entities	174	73
Total sales of goods	174	73

Rendering of services to:

Related entities	2,189	2,764
External entities	8,587	6,723
Total rendering of services	10,776	9,487
Costs of Sales of Goods	174	73

Note 5C - Interest Revenue

Interest on deposits	284	467
Total interest revenue	284	467

Note 5D - Net Gain from Sales of Assets

Land & Buildings		
Write-offs	(1,178)	(148)
Net gain / (loss) from disposal of land & buildings	(1,178)	(148)

Infrastructure, plant & equipment

Proceeds from disposal	635	680
Other Adjustments		170
Net book value of assets disposed	(262)	(530)
Write-offs	(1,344)	(177)
Net gain / (loss) from disposal of infrastructure, plant & equipment	(971)	143

Total proceeds from disposals

Other Adjustments	-	170
Total value of assets disposed	(2,784)	(707)

Total net gain / (loss) from disposal of assets	(2,149)	143
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Note 5E - Other Revenues

Resources received free of charge	2,800	3,627
Other Revenues	4,004	3,141
Total other revenues	6,804	6,768

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
NOTE 6 Operating Expenses		
Note 6A - Employee Expenses		
Wages & Salaries	13,182	13,760
Superannuation	2,466	2,727
Leave & other entitlements	2,256	2,204
Separation and redundancies	228	516
Employee Allowances	2,167	2,289
Other employee expenses	1,027	1,071
Total employee benefits expense	21,326	22,567
Worker compensation premiums	8	5
Total employee expenses	21,334	22,572
Note 6B - Supplier Expenses		
Goods from external entities	16,973	16,659
Services from external parties	1,083	1,591
Operating lease rentals	4,338	4,036
Total supplier expenses	22,394	22,286
Note 6C - Depreciation and Amortisation		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	9,376	8,493
Amortisation of leased assets	169	336
Amortisation of Intangibles	3	3
Total depreciation and amortisation	9,548	8,832
The aggregate amounts of depreciation or amortisation expensed during the reporting year for each class of depreciable asset are as follows:		
Buildings on freehold land	2,369	2,018
Plant and equipment	7,176	6,811
Intangibles	3	3
Total depreciation and amortisation	9,548	8,832
Note 6D - Write Down of Assets		
Financial assets		
Bad and doubtful debts expense	5	-
Non-financial assets		
Buildings	-	61
Total write-down of assets	5	61
Note 6E - Other Expenses		
Grants-Local Government-NT	100	-
Other Expenses	2,800	3,087
	2,900	3,087
NOTE 7 Borrowing Costs Expense		
Note 7A - Borrowing Costs Expense		
Leases	-	5
Total borrowing costs expense	-	5

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
NOTE 8 Financial Assets		
Note 8A - Cash		
Departmental	9,905	2,814
Total cash	9,905	2,814
Note 8B - Receivables		
Goods and services	128	525
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(11)	(13)
	117	512
Net GST receivable from ATO	304	369
Other receivables	180	63
Total receivables (net)	601	944
All receivable are current assets		
Receivables (gross) are aged as follows:		
Not overdue	484	699
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	72	185
30 to 60 days	9	13
60 to 90 days	-	4
More than 90 days	47	56
	128	258
Total receivables (gross)	612	957
The provision for doubtful debts is aged as follows:		
Not overdue	-	-
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	-	-
30 to 60 days	-	-
60 to 90 days	-	-
More than 90 days	11	13
Total provision for doubtful debts	11	13
Note 8C - Other	1,126	-
Make Good DOTARS	1,126	-

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
NOTE 9 Non-Financial Assets		
Note 9A - Land and Buildings		
Land - at cost		
Land - at 30 June 2002 valuation (deprival)	-	8,197
Land - at 30 June 2005 valuation (fair value)	6,581	-
Total land	6,581	8,197
Buildings - at cost	-	11,476
Accumulated depreciation	-	(635)
	-	10,841
Buildings - at 30 June 2002 valuation (deprival)	-	42,201
Buildings - at 30 June 2005 valuation (fair value)	60,462	-
Accumulated depreciation	-	(3,368)
	60,462	38,833
Total buildings	60,462	49,674
Leasehold Improvements		
Building Leasehold improvements WIP	1,185	1,382
Total leasehold improvements	1,185	1,382
Total Land and Buildings (non-current)	68,228	59,253
Note 9B - Infrastructure, Plant & Equipment		
Infrastructure, plant and equipment - at cost	-	19,673
Accumulated depreciation	-	(3,973)
	-	15,700
Infrastructure, plant & equipment - at 30 June 2002 valuation (deprival)		36,482
Infrastructure, plant & equipment - at 30 June 2005 valuation (fair value)	66,521	-
Accumulated depreciation	-	(9,242)
	66,521	27,240
Plant and equipment - WIP	2,444	2,963
Equipment under finance lease (deprival)	-	1,486
Less: accumulated amortisation	-	(336)
	-	1,150
Total Infrastructure, plant and equipment (non-current)	68,965	47,053

The revaluations were in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1 and were completed by an independent valuer, Herron Todd White (HTW)

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 9C - Analysis of Property, Plant and Equipment

Table A - Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2004				
Gross book value	8,197	55,060	60,604	123,861
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	(4,003)	(13,551)	(17,554)
Opening Net book value	8,197	51,057	47,053	106,307
Additions				
By purchase	-	2,364	3,433	5,797
Net revaluation increment/(decrement)	(1,615)	5,080	7,369	10,834
Depreciation / amortisation written back on revaluation	-	6,288	19,588	25,876
Depreciation / amortisation expense	-	(2,369)	(7,176)	(9,545)
Recoverable amount write-downs				
Disposals				
From disposal of operations	-	-	(270)	(270)
Historical cost of disposals	-	-	(752)	(752)
Accum depn disposals	-	-	482	482
Other disposals	-	-	-	-
Write Offs				
Historical Cost of Write Offs	-	(659)	(1,427)	(2,086)
Accumulated depreciation on Write Offs	-	82	658	740
Transfers	-	148	(148)	-
As at 30 June 2005				
Gross Book Value	6,581	61,647	68,965	137,193
Accumulated depreciation / amortisation	-	-	-	-
Closing Net book value	6,581	61,647	68,965	137,193

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Table B - Assets at valuation

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 30 June 2005				
Gross value	6,581	61,647	68,965	137,193
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	-	-	-	-
Net book value	6,581	61,647	68,965	137,193
As at 30 June 2004				
Gross value	8,197	42,201	37,968	88,366
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	-	(3,368)	(9,578)	(12,946)
Net book value	8,197	38,833	28,390	75,420

Table C- Assets held under finance lease

	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 30 June 2005				
Gross value	-	-	-	-
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	-	-	-	-
Net book value	-	-	-	-
As at 30 June 2004				
Gross value	-	-	1,486	1,486
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	-	-	(336)	(336)
Net book value	-	-	1,150	1,150

Table D - Assets under construction

Item	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Gross value as at 30 June 2005	-	1,185	2,444	3,629
Gross value as at 30 June 2004	-	1,383	2,963	4,346

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
Note 9D - Intangibles		
Computer software		
Internally developed - in progress (non-current)	13	13
Accumulated amortisation	(9)	(6)
Total intangibles	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>

TABLE A - reconciliation of opening and closing balances of intangibles

Item	Computer Software
	\$'000
As at 1 July 2004	
Gross book value	13
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(6)
Net book value	7
Net revaluation increment/(decrement)	-
Depreciation/amortisation expense	(3)
Recoverable amount write-downs	-
As at 30 June 2005	
Gross book value	13
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(9)
Net book value	4

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 9E - Other Non-Financial Assets

Prepayments	338	306
Total other non-financial assets	338	306

Other non-financial assets are current assets.

NOTE 10 Interest Bearing Liabilities

Note 10A - Leases

Finance lease commitments

Payable:

Within one year	-	32
In one to five years	-	-
Minimum lease payments	-	32
Deduct: future finance charges	-	-

Net lease liability	-	32
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Lease liability is categorised as follows:

Current	-	32
Non-current	-	-

Net lease liability	-	32
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NOTE 11 Provisions

Note 11A - Employee Provisions

Salaries and wages	54	643
Leave	5,227	5,144
Superannuation	36	24
Separation & redundancies	5	-

Aggregate employee entitlement liability and related on-costs	5,322	5,811
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Employee provisions are categorised as follows:

Current	1,983	3,083
Non-current	3,338	2,728

Aggregate employee benefit liability and related oncosts	5,321	5,811
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Note 11B - Capital Use Charge Provision

Capital Use Charge	-	-
Balance owing 1 July 2004	-	12,545
Capital Use Charge provided for during the period	-	-
Capital Use Charge paid	-	12,545
Balance Owing 30 June 2005	-	-

Note 11C - Other Provisions

Christmas Island make good	312	248
DOTARS make good	1,126	-
FBT Provision	49	34
Other	52	18
Total Other Provisions	1,539	300

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
NOTE 12 Payables		
Note 12A - Supplier Payables		
Trade creditors	5,373	4,062
Operating lease payments	-	966
Total supplier payables	5,373	5,028
All suppliers payable are current		
<i>Trade creditors</i>		
Settlement is usually made net 30 days		
Note 12B - Other Payables		
Unearned Revenue	348	299
Total other payables	348	299
All other payables are current		

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

NOTE 13 Equity

Note 13A - Analysis of Equity

Item	Accumulated results		Asset revaluation reserve		Total Contributed Equity		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Opening Balance 1 July	62,454	66,977	26,698	26,698	9,755	9,755	98,907	103,430
Net surplus / deficit	(207)	(4,523)	-	-	-	-	(207)	(4,523)
Net revaluation increment / (decrement)	-	-	37,887	-	-	-	37,887	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	62,247	62,454	64,585	26,698	9,755	9,755	136,587	98,907

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000

Note 14A: Reconciliation of Operating Surplus to Net Cash from Operating Activities

Reconciliation of net surplus to net cash from operating activities

Net surplus (deficit)	(207)	(4,522)
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Non-cash items

Depreciation/amortisation	9,548	8,832
Take up of Assets for first time	(246)	
Assets received free of charge	-	(540)
Write down of non-financial assets	2,522	238
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	(373)	(332)

Changes in Assets and Liabilities

(Increase)/decrease in receivables	341	310
(Increase)/decrease in other financial assets	(32)	(2)
Increase/(decrease) in unearned revenue	49	(24)
Increase/(decrease) in employee liabilities	(489)	680
Increase/(decrease) in Christmas Island Provision	63	(334)
Increase/(decrease) in supplier liabilities	345	(671)
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	65	34

Net cash from / (used by) operating activities	11,586	3,669
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Note 14B: Reconciliation of Cash

Cash Balance Comprises:

Cash at bank	9,805	2,777
Cash on hand	100	37
Total cash	9,905	2,814

Balance of cash as at 30 June 2005 shown in the Statement of Cash Flows	9,905	2,814
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Director of National Parks Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

	2005	2004
	\$'000	\$'000
NOTE 15 Contingent Liabilities and Assets		
Contingent liabilities		
Claims for damages/costs ¹	<u>1</u>	<u>11,010</u>
Total contingent liabilities		
Contingent assets		
Legal claims	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net contingent liabilities	<u><u>1</u></u>	<u><u>11,010</u></u>

1. The amount represents an estimate of the Director of National Parks liability claim for compensation of loss.

Unquantifiable Contingencies

At 30 June 2005, the Director of National Parks had a number of outstanding legal claims for which it has denied liability and is defending the claims. It is not possible to estimate the amounts of any eventual payments which may be required in relation to these claims.

Each of the Jointly Managed Parks have made good provisions included in the 99 year leases. The amounts are indeterminate as they are contingent, however, the timing, method and cost of the work that will be required to be undertaken cannot be determined with any degree of accuracy.

NOTE 16 Director Remuneration

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

	2005	2004
\$220,000 to \$229,999	-	1
\$250,000 to \$259,999	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Total number of directors of Director of National Parks	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	\$	\$
Other remuneration received or due and receivable by directors of the authority	<u>258,309</u>	<u>220,007</u>
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by the Director of National Parks:	<u><u>258,309</u></u>	<u><u>220,007</u></u>

NOTE 17 Related Party Disclosures

Director of National Parks

The Director of the National Parks during the year was Mr Peter Cochrane.

The aggregate remuneration of the Director is disclosed in Note 16.

Loans to Director and Director related entities

There were no loans made to either the Director or entities related to the Director during 2004-05.

Other Transactions with Director or Director related entities

There were no other transactions with either the Director or entities related to the Director during 2004-05.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

NOTE 18 Remuneration of Officers

The number of officers who received or were due to receive total remuneration of \$100,000 or more:

	2005	2004
\$130,000 - \$139,999	1	1
\$160,000 - \$169,999	-	-
\$170,000 - \$179,999	1	1
\$190,000 - \$199,999	1	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	2005	2004
	\$	\$
The aggregate amount of total remuneration of officers shown above	<u>509,244</u>	<u>340,500</u>

There was no separation or redundancy / termination benefit payments during the year to officers shown above.

The officer remuneration includes all officers concerned with or taking part in the management of the National Parks during 2004-05 except the Director of National Parks. Details in relation to the Director of National Parks have been incorporated into Note 15:- *Director Remuneration*.

NOTE 19 Remuneration of Auditors

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Remuneration to the Auditor-General for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.	<u>65,000</u>	<u>59,000</u>
No other services were provided by the Auditor-General during the reporting period.		

NOTE 20 Average Staffing Levels

	2005	2004
The average staffing levels for the Director of National Parks during the year were:	<u>263</u>	<u>288</u>

Director of National Parks Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

NOTE 21 Financial Instruments

Note 21A - Interest Rate Risk

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate Maturing In						Non-Interest Bearing		Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	
				1 Year or less		1 to 5 Years		> 5 Years							
		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 %	2004 %		
Financial Assets															
Cash at Bank	8A	9,805	2,777	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,805	2,777	4.73	4.51
Cash on Hand	8A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	100	100	37	n/a	n/a
Receivables for goods & services	8B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128	525	128	525	n/a	n/a
Other receivables	8B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	63	180	63	n/a	n/a
Total		9,805	2,777	-	-	-	-	-	-	409	625	10,214	3,402		
Total Assets												149,168	110,377		

Financial Instrument	Notes	Floating Interest Rate		Fixed Interest Rate Maturing In						Non- Interest Bearing		Total		Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate	
				1 Year or less		1 to 5 Years		> 5 Years							
		2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 %	2004 %		
Financial Liabilities															
Finance Leases	10A	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	n/a	18%
Trade Creditors and accruals	12A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,373	5,028	5,373	5,028	n/a	n/a
Other payables	12B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	348	299	348	299	n/a	n/a
Total		-	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	5,721	5,327	5,721	5,359		
Total Liabilities												12,581	11,470		

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 21B - Net Fair Values of Financial Assets and Liabilities

		2005		2004	
		Total Carrying Amount	Aggregate Net Fair Value	Total Carrying Amount	Aggregate Net Fair Value
	Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets					
Cash at bank and on hand	8A	9,905	9,905	2,814	2,814
Receivables for goods & services	8B	117	117	512	512
Other receivables	8B	180	180	63	63
Total financial assets		10,202	10,202	3,389	3,389
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors and accruals	12A	5,373	5,373	5,028	5,028
Payables other	12B	348	348	299	299
Finance leases	10A	-	-	32	32
Total Financial Liabilities		5,721	5,721	5,359	5,359

Financial Assets

The net fair values of the cash and non-interest-bearing monetary financial assets approximate their carrying amounts.

Financial Liabilities

The net fair value of the finance lease is based on the discounted cash flows using an implicit interest rate of 21%.

The net fair values for trade creditors are approximated by their carrying amounts.

Note 21C - Credit Risk Exposure

The Director of National Park's maximum exposures to credit risk at reporting date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

The Director of National Park's has no significant exposures to any concentrations of credit risk.

All figures for credit risk referred to do not take into account the value of any collateral or other security.

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

NOTE 22 Reporting of Outcomes

Note 22A - Outcomes of the Director of National Parks

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

Outcome 1

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

Output

The Director of National Parks only has one output.

Conservation and appreciation of Commonwealth reserves.

Note 22B - Net Cost of Outcome Delivery

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Departmental Expenses	58,965	57,545	58,965	57,545
Total expenses	58,965	57,545	58,965	57,545
<i>Costs recovered from provision of goods and services to the non-government sector</i>				
Departmental	8,761	6,796	8,761	6,796
Total costs recovered	8,761	6,796	8,761	6,796
<i>Other external revenues</i>				
Departmental				
Sales of goods and services - to related entities	2,189	2,764	2,186	2,764
Interest	284	467	284	467
Revenue from sale of assets	635	680	635	680
Other	6,804	3,136	6,804	3,136
<i>Total Departmental</i>	9,912	7,047	9,912	7,047
Total Other external revenues	9,912	7,047	9,912	7,047
Net cost / (contribution) of outcome	40,292	43,702	40,292	43,702

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

Director of National Parks

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

Note 22C - Departmental Revenue and Expenses by Output Groups and Outputs

	Outcome 1		Total	
	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000	2005 \$'000	2004 \$'000
Departmental expenses				
Employees	21,334	22,567	21,334	22,567
Suppliers	22,394	25,373	22,394	25,373
Depreciation	9,548	8,832	9,548	8,832
Borrowing cost expense	-	5	-	5
Write-down of assets	5	238	5	238
Value of assets sold	2,784	530	2,784	530
Other Expenses	2,900	-	2,900	-
Total departmental expenses	58,965	57,545	58,965	57,545
Funded by:				
Revenues from Government agencies	40,085	39,179	40,085	39,179
Sale of goods and services	10,950	9,560	10,950	9,560
Interest	284	467	284	467
Revenue from sale of assets	635	680	635	680
Other non-taxation revenues	6,804	3,136	6,804	3,136
Total departmental revenues	58,758	53,022	58,758	53,022

The Director National parks outcomes and outputs are described at Note 22A.

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



Appendices



Appendix 1 Freedom of Information Statement

Appendix 2 Acronyms and shortened forms

Appendix 3 Glossary of technical terms

Appendix 4 Compliance index

Appendix 1: Freedom of Information Statement

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

The FOI Act extends to the Australian community the right to obtain access to information in the possession of the Australian Government.

Access is limited only by exemptions necessary for the protection of essential public interests and the private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom information is collected and held by departments and statutory authorities.

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

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

For information about the Director of National Park's functions and the organisation structure, see Figure 4 and the Corporate Overview section of this report.

Arrangements for outside participation in decisions, policy and administration

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

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

Categories of documents

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

Lists of available publications may be obtained by contacting the Department of the

Environment and Heritage Community Information Unit on 1800 803 772, or visiting the web site at www.deh.gov.au/parks/index.html.

Facilities for access

See the next section for details of access points at which members of the public may make enquiries on freedom of information, request freedom of information forms, submit formal freedom of information requests, or inspect documents to which access has been granted. The access points are open during business hours and staff are available to assist with enquiries and inspection of documents. Areas are set aside to enable members of the public to inspect documents.

Information about facilities for access by people with disabilities can be obtained from the Freedom of Information Officer.

Freedom of information procedures and initial contact points

Enquiries may be made in writing, by phone or in person at the various access points. Formal freedom of information requests should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Coordinator
Legal Section
Department of the Environment and Heritage
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6274 1578
Fax: (02) 6274 1587
Email: FOI_Contact_Officer@deh.gov.au

Special arrangements can be made in other states with regional offices of the Australian Archives in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Townsville, Perth, Adelaide and Hobart.

If difficulty arises in identifying the document or in providing access in the manner requested, an officer will contact the applicant with a view to resolving the difficulty. In consultation with applicants, documents will be made available by mail to the address specified by the applicant, at the official access point or at the information access office located within the regional office of the Australian Archives nearest to the applicant's normal place of residence.

The authorised decision maker under the FOI Act who may refuse, defer or grant access is the relevant Assistant Secretary.

Appendix 2: Acronyms and shortened forms

AAD	Australian Antarctic Division
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ANBG	Australian National Botanic Gardens
Migratory Species (Bonn) Convention	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 1979)
CAC Act	<i>Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997</i>
CAPAD	Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database
China–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (CAMBA)	Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the Protection of Migratory Birds and their Environment
CIRRP	Christmas Island Rainforest Rehabilitation Programme
CPBR	Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
FOI Act	<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>
GIS	Geographic information system
HIMI	Heard Island and McDonald Islands
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IMCRA	Interim Marine and Coastal Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	World Conservation Union
Japan–Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA)	Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Danger of Extinction and their Environment
KRA	Key result area
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WBACC	Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council
WBEL	Wreck Bay Enterprises Ltd
Wetlands (Ramsar) Convention	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971)
World Heritage Convention	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972)

Appendix 3: Glossary of technical terms

Benthic	Marine organisms that live on, in or near the ocean floor
Cetaceans	Whales, porpoises and dolphins
Cryptogams	Plants that produces spores, not seeds, in their sexual reproductive cycle eg ferns, mosses, algae
Demersal	Species or activities that are closely associated with the ocean floor
Endemic	(Of a taxonomic group) confined to a given region
Exclosure	An area enclosed by a barrier to prevent grazing or predation by animals
MoU Box area	An area within Australian waters covered by a Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia that includes Ashmore Reef and Cartier Island and is open to traditional Indonesian fishers
Pelagic	Species or activities that normally live or occur near the ocean surface or the water column
Riparian	Of, on, or relating to the banks of a natural course of water
Riverine	Relating to a river
Seamounts	Large cone-shaped remnants of extinct volcanoes rising from the ocean floor
Terrestrial	Relating to the land or land-dwelling

Appendix 4: Compliance index

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

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